

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Brickendon Liberty Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 27 March 2014, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

*Cllr Mrs L Ashley

Cllr Mrs A Downes (Vice Chairman)

*Cllr K Kotting (Chairman)

*Cllr Mrs M Laybourn

*Cllr J C Lambie

* denotes present.

In attendance: 6 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Downes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 23 January 2014 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Annual Litter Pick

The Chairman stated that the annual litter pick had been a very successful event with 21 volunteers giving up their time to take part.

(ii) Motorcross Vehicles

Members stated that the problem of motorcross vehicles using the public rights of way was still a continuing problem. However, it was encouraging to learn that the Police had been successful in apprehending a number of people.

(iii) Wrongly sited nameplate – Wormley West End

Cllr Lambie informed members that the sign had now been repositioned within the parish of Brickendon.

5. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Theft of oil

Concerns were expressed regarding the thefts of oil from residential properties in the parish. The Chairman stated that Mr Dennis Downes had liaised fully with the Police on this matter informing them when incidents had occurred.

A resident referred to an alarm device which could be fitted to the tanks which gave off an audible sound inside the properties when the level of oil in the tank dropped rapidly. The Chairman requested details in order for an informative article to be inserted in the next issue of the newsletter.

(ii) Brickendon Grange Golf Club

Reference was made to the very recent planning permission granted in respect of the above. A question was raised as to what steps the Parish Council would now be considering, as there was still the question of access and concerns were expressed that this would be across the village green.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council had anticipated this problem when renegotiating the terms of the lease on the village green. The legality of the situation would need to be considered, as the possibility of accessing over the village green was not a planning matter but a legal one. On the basis of the new lease the Parish Council might be able to encourage Brickendon Grange Golf Club to route all heavy plant and construction traffic to the site via the rear or main entrance to the Golf Club. Members did not want to be confrontational in this matter and overtures would be made to the Club to seek an early meeting to discuss this matter and to hopefully arrive at an amicable solution.

(iii) Paradise Park

Members were informed that on 1 April 2014 the Park would have been in existence for 30 years. It was noted that the admission fee at that time had been £1.50.

With regard to the new car parking in Pembridge Lane, Paul Dean, the Enforcement Officer, had visited the site and he was happy with the proposals, as was the Hertfordshire Rights of Way team. The object was to provide a permanent footpath along Pembridge Lane to assist members of the public.

(iv) Brookfield Farm

A question was raised as to whether any planning application had been forthcoming as huge lorries had been noticed ingressing the site.

(v) Bob's Logs

In response to a question regarding the above site, Cllr Lambie stated that Mr Eagan, Hertfordshire County Council, had visited the site and he had given the occupier three months to arrange for all the litter/rubble to be removed, otherwise enforcement action would be taken against the occupier.

The Environment Agency was also not happy with the current situation and would also be monitoring the progress in this matter.

6. PLANNING

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached document (see Appendix A) be noted and the decisions ratified.

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2014 be noted. (Appendix B)

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Mrs Laybourn stated that she had been chasing the Hertfordshire County Council with regard to the cleaning of the signs and she had been informed that operatives had cleaned some of the signs in the area, but only mandatory signs. There was no programme of cleansing of any of the other signs at present. With regard to any missing signs a check of the inventory would be made and replacements, if found necessary, would be provided in the next financial year. It was remarked that most of the signs in Cock Lane were missing on the stretch of road from White Stubbs Lane to the Broxbourne Borough sign.

With regard to the collapsed highway in Mangrove Lane in the vicinity of Ducketts Cottage, the work was scheduled to go ahead in the next financial year.

9. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Lambie tabled the attached report (see Appendix C).

A reference was made to the funding grant of £9,000 from East Herts Council which now could be prejudiced by reason of the project not commencing until after the closing date for claiming the grant (ie 22 July 2014). An enquiry had been made as to whether the grant was still available or whether a fresh application for funding would have to be submitted.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/POLICE REPORT/ NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

(i) Police Report

Cllr Lambie tabled the following report issued to him by the Police:

- 7.1.14 – Burglary (dwelling) with intent to steal – shed in Brickendon Lane (nothing taken).
- 7.1.14 – Burglary (other) – steal/attempt to steal – motorcross bike stolen in White Stubbs Lane.
- 8.1.14 – Theft of motor vehicle – plant vehicle stolen, but recovered in Pambridge Lane.
- 8.1.14 – Damage or destroy £5,000 or less – damage to fence linked to A6/14/11.
- 15.1.14 – Theft from the person of another – handbag – Bencroft Woods.
- 20.1.14 – Assault occasioning ABH – Wormley West End.
- 20.1.14 – Theft of motor vehicle – digger from woods, Wormley West End.
- 1.2.14 – Assault – Common – without injury – domestic related.
- 7.2.14 – Drive with alcohol level above limit – Wormley West End.

(ii) Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman stated that the meeting held on 27 February had been very successful. However, the Plan would not be put into its final draft until the end of the consultation period of the East Herts District Plan. This was to enable the Committee to establish that the aims and objectives of the proposed Neighbourhood Plan did not conflict with the policies of the new District Plan.

The Chairman reminded members that a meeting with officers and members of the District Council to discuss the East Herts District Plan would be held on 3 April at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room in company with parishioners from Bayford and Little Berkhamsted.. This would be a question and answer session.

11. LEASE – BRICKENDON GREEN

The Clerk tabled for members' information the engrossed lease for signature by the Parish Council.

Members agreed to study the contents and, if satisfied with the contents, RESOLVED that the Chairman be authorised to sign the document.

12. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

Members had been circulated with a copy of the current Standing Orders which had been approved by the Parish Council at its meeting held on 22 March 2012.

The Clerk referred to the changes to the NALC model Standing Orders 2013 (19 page document) which detailed all the changes to the previous document and which the Parish Council would need to consider in reviewing its own Standing Orders. Under the circumstances, the Clerk suggested that it might be worth considering adopting the NALC model Standing Orders (amended to suit the Parish Council).

Members concurred with the above and requested the Clerk to obtain the necessary documentation to be emailed to all members.

13. PROPOSED NOTICE BOARDS – HIGHFIELD FARM/CLEMENTSBURY

The Chairman stated that the costs of purchasing the notice boards had come in higher than anticipated. An email had been received from the Clementsbury Association which stated that the members were not in favour of having any notice board situated near Clementsbury. Cllr Lambie had visited the site and taken photographs which suggested that any notice board situated near the postbox would not interfere in anyway with the sight lines and, therefore, there was no reason why such a notice board could not be provided.

However, both the Clementsbury and the Highfield Farm sites would be discussed by members at an informal meeting whereupon a decision would taken on how to progress this matter.

14. CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL

The Chairman informed members that a meeting had taken place with Mr John Bosworth, Consultant, East Herts Council, with regard to the Council's decision to review the Conservation Area of Brickendon. A number of minor changes were discussed and a full report would be produced and forwarded to the Parish Council for its consideration.

15. LAIS 1356 ACCESS TO LOCAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

Local Councils had been made aware that the Government had established a framework which would support public use of social media and filming at local Council meetings. NALC had issued a Policy Consultation document and was seeking the views of Local Councils to help formulate its response to Government.

The Parish Council had submitted its comments.

16. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as set out on the attached schedule (see Appendix D) be duly authorised for payment.

(ii) Financial Statement

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached statement (see Appendix E) be received.

17. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Vehicular activated signs – defer to Neighbourhood Plan remit.
- East Herts District Plan Preferred Options Consultation documents.
- Governance Review (September 2014 meeting).

18. CONFIRMATION OF DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was confirmed that the next meetings would be held on Thursday, 15 May 2014. They would be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.