

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Brickendon Liberty Annual Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 15 May 2014, in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon, following the close of the Annual Parish Meeting.

*Cllr Mrs L Ashley

*Cllr Mrs M Laybourn

*Cllr Mrs A Downes (Vice Chairman)

*Cllr J C Lambie

*Cllr K Kotting (Chairman)

* denotes present.

In attendance: 8 members of the public.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr Kotting be duly elected to serve as Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing civic year.

2. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Chairman duly signed his declaration of acceptance of office form.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Cllr Mrs Downes be duly elected to service as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing civic year.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2014

'Matters Arising', Minute (iii) wrongly stated nameplate "Wormley West End" – Delete "within the parish of Brickendon" and insert "on the border of Broxbourne".

Having given effect to the above amendment, it was RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

7. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Annual Litter Pick

Members felt that consideration should be given in the future to providing for the safety of the volunteers. The speed of vehicles on the rural roads in the parish constituted a safety hazard. A suggestion was made that safety signs be provided which would give advance warning to motorists. It was also felt that notices should be erected in strategic locations giving advance notice of the event which might also result in more volunteers coming forward. Use of the website would also be a useful aid.

(ii) Highways

Members were informed that, despite requests to Herts County Council to clean the village signs and nameplates, no action had been forthcoming. However, Mr Hugh Dunlop had taken upon himself to clean all the signs in the village including the cleansing of the telephone box.

Members expressed their gratitude to Mr Dunlop for his public spiritedness.

8. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Annual Litter Picking

A request was made for greater publicity to be given to the event in order to attract more volunteers. It was not that people did not want to help, but a jogging of memories would be productive.

Cllr Mrs Downes stated that they were very fortunate in Wormley West End in that a local resident and his wife regularly cleared litter. The Borough of Broxbourne was also pro-active in litter clearance and it was felt that East Herts should be prompted to do likewise which in turn would reduce the burden currently undertaken by local residents.

(ii) Speeding vehicles

Concerns were expressed regarding the speed of traffic on the restricted roads in the parish, namely Brickendon Lane and Pembridge Lane with a request that the Police be asked to pay periodic visits to the parish between the hours of 8.00 am and 9.00 am.

(iii) Farmer's Boy Public House

Concerns were expressed concerning the appearance of the building, the lack of grass cutting, the damaged fencing panels and the stacked empty beer barrels with a request that the owners be approached with a view to addressing these issues.

Cllr Lambie agreed to contact the owners.

(iv) Etteridge Farm

A resident referred to the excessive number of large lorries accessing the above premises with part of the farm being used for the storage of gas cylinders.

(v) Facebook

Mrs Lambie informed members that Brickendon Liberty now had a Facebook account.

(vi) Building work opposite the Farmer's Boy Public House

A parishioner drew attention to the work being undertaken and to the damage which had been caused to the area fronting the notice board from vehicles parking on the verge. In order to protect the area, and after the suggestion of various options, it was agreed that wooden posts be erected.

(vii) Access to the Village Green

A resident enquired whether there had been discussions with the Golf Club regarding the use of the access during the construction of the houses, the subject of the recent planning permission. The Chairman stated that he would be shortly arranging to meet with the Golf Club in order to discuss this matter. The Parish Council could not stop access because the Golf Club had a right of way. The only thing that could be stopped was the over-use of the access way by heavy lorries.

(viii) Neighbourhood Plan

Mr Dennis Downes read out the contents of the attached document (see Appendix A).

9. PLANNING

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached schedule (see Appendix B) be received and the decisions taken be duly ratified.

10. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

(i) Minutes of the Fanshaws Room Management Committee AGM 16 April 2014

(ii) Minutes of the Fanshaws Room Management Committee following (i) above

RESOLVED that the minutes of the above meetings be received. (See Appendix C)

11. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Mrs Leybourn stated that there had been no highways matters reported to her by parishioners. A number of potholes around the parish had been identified for remedial work and the planned highways improvements for the parish were awaited.

12. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

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

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/POLICE REPORT

In the absence of the Police, Mr Dennis Downes gave the following crime statistics which had been supplied to him by PCSO Neal Major. The period covered the month of April 2014. No figures were available for March.

12 April	Theft from a residential property.
15 April	Theft of a spare wheel.
20 April	Theft from a garage.
28 April	Attempted theft from a shed – nothing taken.

Mr Downes further stated that, in view of the increase in the thefts of domestic oil, he had agreed to compile an article for the newsletter giving general advice on what precautions could be taken to minimise the risk.

14. CLOSURE OF THE FARMER'S BOY PUBLIC HOUSE

Members were informed that Enterprise Inns (owners) were actively looking for a tenant to take over the public house. In the meantime it was generally felt that in order that the building remained a pub the Parish Council could apply to East Herts Council for it to be registered as a Community Asset. If so registered the freeholders would not be permitted to sell the building until it had been offered to the Parish Council who would be allowed 6 months in which to raise the asking price. Members were informed that the current Draft District Plan favoured the retention of public houses in village locations and a change of use to (say) residential only would be a reason for refusal of any planning application.

Members agreed that an application be submitted to East Herts Council for registration

15. PROPOSED NOTICE BOARDS – HIGHFIELD/CLEMENTSBURY

The Chairman informed members that the siting of a parish notice board in Mangrove Lane near the Highfield Farm development had been agreed and the notice board should be in place before the next meeting. The proposal for a similar board in Brickendon Lane near Clementsbury was still under consideration as some valid objections had been raised regarding its siting.

16. ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO THE VILLAGE GREEN

The Clerk was requested to ascertain whether it would be possible to provide an additional electricity supply to the village green which would greatly assist on such occasions as the fete and similar events. There was an existing lamp column situated on the green and it was felt that there might be a means whereby the Council could tap into the supply for the column to provide an electric socket extension.

17. EAST HERTS DRAFT DISTRICT PLAN

It was reported that in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Watch Steering Committee a formal submission had been made by the Parish Council to the consultation document.

It was mentioned that Brickendon was a Group 3 village which was very positive and which meant that only limited development would be allowed consistent with the policy on development in the Rural Area beyond the Green Belt. The general feeling was that the document had been well produced and its content and presentation was of a high standard.

18. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

The Clerk informed members that he had not downloaded the NALC model Standing Orders. However, he tabled for members' information a copy of Chard Town Council's Standing Orders which had been revised incorporating the new recommendations. It was agreed that this document be compared with the Council's current Standing Orders and a recommendation for adoption by the Parish Council be considered at the next meeting.

(ii) FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS 2013/2014, ANNUAL RETURN AND AUDITOR'S REPORT

Members had been circulated with a copy of the above documents.

With regard to the final accounts questions were raised on the following items to which the Clerk gave an explanation:

Grass cutting on the village green
Maintenance of the village green
Professional fees
Chairman's allowance

RESOLVED: (i) that the final accounts and Annual Return be approved and
(ii) that the contents of the Auditor's Report be noted and the recommendations be acted upon by the Clerk.

20. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(ii) Payment of Accounts

RESOLVED that the accounts as set out in the attached statement (see Appendix E) be duly authorised for payment.

(ii) Financial Statement

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

21. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Governance Review – September 2014 meeting.
- E-communication.
- Review of Standing Orders

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 24 July 2014, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.