

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

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

*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: 9 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Laybourn.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs Ashley	Personal and Prejudicial	Planning applications 3/14/1381 and 3.14/1633
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3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 September 2014 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Dog Litter Bins

The Chairman had been supplied with a current brochure from Wybone on the types and prices of dog bins. The Clerk had been in contact with East Herts Council and he had been informed that the Council could supply a dog bin to the Parish Council on a rechargeable basis. However, the bins provided were of a standard design and cost in the region of £480 (excluding installation).

The Chairman stated that he would consider the various types of bins on offer and discuss the options with members before placing an order.

(ii) Play Inspection Report

Cllr Mrs Downes had circulated to all members a copy of the quarterly inspection report undertaken by Timberplay, the contents of which were noted.

A reference was made to the earlier inspection report undertaken by the Inspection Company on behalf of East Herts Council in which reference had been made to the condition of the wooden tree seat. Cllr Lambie stated that, following an inspection, it had been discovered that the seat had rotted and that it needed to be removed from the play area.

5. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Fanshaws Lane

Concerns were expressed regarding the indiscriminate parking of vehicles in front of the green which, it was stated, could be addressed by the provision of properly marked out parking spaces.

An approach to Riversmead Housing Association was requested.

(ii) Path to the Station

Concerns were expressed that the verges at the Village Green end of the road to the station were now lower than the surface of the road. This had occurred by vehicles, both cars and heavy lorries, being forced onto the verges as a result of excess speed.

Cllr Lambie stated that once the new path to the station had been constructed, this matter would be addressed as the path would be provided to highway standards. Discussions were also underway to provide posts the entire length of the new paths.

(iii) Blocked Drain

It was reported that the drain situated north east of the church in the vicinity of Rose Cottage was still blocked and that flooding occurred at this location during inclement weather.

(iv) Planning application 3/14/1827/FP – Erection of an anaerobic digester plant at Clements Farm

Information was sought as to what action the Parish Council would be taking in respect of the above application.

Cllr Lambie read out for the benefit of members of the public the letter of objection which had already been forwarded to the Director of Development Control. A request had been made that this application be referred to the Planning Management Committee for a decision and not taken under delegated powers.

(v) Brickendon Grange Golf Club

A request was made for an update of the Parish Council's meeting with the Golf Club in respect of the impending commencement of work following permission being granted for residential development on land to the rear of the Green.

The Chairman confirmed that a meeting had taken place and the Directors had agreed to investigate alternative means of accessing the development other than over the track to the rear of the Golf Club. The Chairman stressed that the meeting had been extremely amicable and the Golf Club did not wish to be antagonistic to the village, but wished to work with the village on this matter.

(vi) Wood End Farm – Wormley West End

A request was made for information on the usage, in planning terms, of the above premises, as it had been noticed in recent months that dog training was being undertaken with increased vehicular movements onto the site.

With regard to land opposite Tylers Cottage, Wormley West End, members were informed that the land was being used by motorbikes to access footpaths in the area without the landowner's permission. Mr Dennis Downes agreed to speak to the Police on this matter and, in the meantime, he requested that an approach be made to the Rights of Way, Hertfordshire County Council, to replace the kissing gate which it was felt would make access by motorbikes less easy.

6. PLANNING

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

Note: Cllr Mrs Ashley declared her interest in applications 3/14/1381 and 3/14/1633.

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes be received (see Appendix B).

(ii) Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes be received (see Appendix C).

Mrs Lambie confirmed that the sum of £3,690 in respect of the refurbishment of the tennis courts had been paid over to the Parish Council.

8. HIGHWAYS

(i) General

Cllr Mrs Laybourn had been in discussion with Rosemary Chatindo, Highways Locality Officer, on the following issues, which might be funded from the 2015/2016 budget:

- Movement of 'Be Careful' sign on the road into Brickendon from Bayford owing to the fact that it was causing an obstruction.
- Lowering of the kerb on the junction of White Stubbs Lane and Pembridge Lane.
- Safety at the junction of Brickendon Lane/Fanshaws Lane and the Farmer's Boy.

(ii) Junction safety meeting with Highways and the Police

Members referred to the safety issues at this location and to the fact that a safety mirror had now been erected opposite the junction to help address the issues. However, concerns were expressed that the sight lines to the south were being compromised on exiting Fanshaws Lane by the parking of a vehicle outside number 10 Brickendon Lane, which it was stated was an infringement of the Highway Code.

It was agreed that a meeting with the Highways Authority and the Police be convened in order to discuss this matter to ascertain what safety measures could be taken to alleviate the traffic hazard.

9. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Lambie had circulated the attached report (see Appendix D) for members' information.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/POLICE REPORT

Mr Downes informed the meeting that the Police had not sent him the crime statistics, therefore no information was available.

It was reported that the plastic Neighbourhood Watch signs in Wormley West End had been stolen along with the speed restriction signs. These matters would be reported to the Police.

Cllr Mrs Downes stated that following the provision by the Police of 'No fly tipping/CCTV in the area' notices there had been an improvement in the situation and Neal Major was thanked for his pro-active efforts. Mr Downes stated that flytipping was now a crime and, as such, would appear on future Police crime statistic reports.

11. BACK LANE – UNSOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Members had been circulated with a copy of an e-mail from a resident of Brickendon expressing concern regarding the unsocial behaviour occurring in Back Lane. There was a lot of rubbish present on the Lane and evidence of possible drug use taking place. This information had been passed onto the Police for their attention.

Both the Chairman and Mr Downes agreed to speak to the resident on this matter.

12. VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

The Chairman reminded members that an in principle agreement had been taken by the Parish Council to provide a defibrillator and that quotations would now be sought for the most appropriate item of equipment to be purchased.

With regard to the siting, a number of locations were discussed with the bus stop being the most favoured.

The Chairman stated that this matter would now be progressed.

13. VILLAGE GREEN

(i) Village Green - Fencing contract and maintenance

To note that a repair to the broken panels had been undertaken and new fencing had been provided adjacent to the back entrance to the Golf Club.

(ii) Land Registry – Brickendon Green and purchase

The Clerk informed members that he had received by e-mail this evening correspondence from the Council's Solicitor with regard to a register of caution against title issued by the Land Registry. A response would need to be made on or before 9 December 2014. The Chairman agreed to discuss this matter with fellow Councillors in advance of the deadline.

(iii) Verges map

The Chairman referred members to plans of the Village Green, which had been forwarded to the Parish Council by the Hertfordshire County Council. The plans set out the extent of the land maintained as public highway and also indicated the extent of the Common Land, which extended to the verges on either side of the public highway. On the question of ownership of the verge land, it was felt that an approach to the Land Registry would be required to establish this information.

(iv) Electrical supply

The Chairman informed members that he had approached a contractor, who was recognised by Network Power, to submit a quotation for undertaking to provide an electrical supply to the Village Green. The quotation sought was to provide the supply by 'moling' under the highway linking into the supply to the village hall.

Members felt that an additional quotation should be sought to take a supply directly from the electricity cable to establish a new metered supply point.

The Chairman agreed to action.

14. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - UPDATE

Mr Downes informed members that there was no updated report on this matter. However, the Plan was about 80% to 85% complete.

15. PARISH COUNCIL RECRUITMENT

The Chairman referred to the forthcoming Parish Council elections on 7 May 2015 and he had been given to understand that two members of the Council would not be seeking re-election. It was important that a wide coverage of the election was given through the Parish magazine and other social media in order to encourage new people to come forward to serve, thus ensuring evidence of a vibrant democracy.

16. CALENDAR OF MEETINGS - 2015

RESOLVED that the following dates be confirmed:

22 January 2015	23 July 2015
26 March 2015	24 September 2015
21 May 2015 (Annual Meetings)	26 November 2015

17. GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Clerk referred to earlier correspondence received from the District Council, which confirmed that the District Council could take decisions on electoral arrangements and would be under a duty to carry out a review if it received a valid petition signed by at least 10% of the electorate.

Members felt that it would be inappropriate to decide upon the issue so close to the elections in May 2015 and that this matter should be referred to the new Council for a decision. Suggest 23 July 2015 meeting.

18. VEHICULAR ACTIVATED SIGNS

The Clerk informed members that no decision had been taken on whether to proceed with further investigation in respect of this matter.

Members expressed a desire to pursue the provision of vehicular activated signs for both Brickendon and Wormley West End.

19. LAIS 1368 TRANSPARENCY CODE

Members had been circulated with details of the above which came into force on 7 November 2014 having replaced the earlier code published in May 2014. Importantly for Local Councils was the fact that those with a turnover below £25,000 would need to have in place a Transparency Code, which would act as a substitute for routine external audit. This would be mandatory and Local Councils could not 'opt out'. However, the finalised details on the Code affecting Local Councils was awaited before implementation.

20. PRECEPT 2015/2016

Members had been circulated with the attached draft budget (see Appendix E) for consideration. The Clerk stated that at this point in time, it was an information document with the final precept being confirmed at the January 2015 meeting.

The Clerk requested members to inform him of any amendments (inclusions/deletions) in advance of the meeting in order for him to compile a final version for members' approval.

21. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

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

(ii) Financial Statement

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

22. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Precept 2015/2016.
- Governance Review (July 2015).

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.