

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Brickendon Liberty Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 22 January 2015, 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: 5 members of the public.
Plus PC Dean Watson.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs Ashley

Clements Farm

Non-pecuniary

Cllr Mrs Ashley

Monks Green

Pecuniary

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 27 NOVEMBER 2014

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 27 November 2014 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Fanshaws Lane

The Chairman confirmed that a letter had been forwarded to Riversmead Housing Association regarding the indiscriminate parking of vehicles in front of the Green. A response (dated 10 December 2014) had been received stating that the Association was unable to help on this occasion due to the lack of funds. A further letter had been forwarded to the Association requesting a site meeting to discuss the matter and to explore whether there was anything that could be done economically to improve the situation. A response was awaited.

(ii) Blocked drain in the vicinity of Rose Cottage

It was reported that no action had been taken to clear the blocked drain.

(iii) Wood End Farm – Wormley West End

Cllr Mrs Downes reported that the matter regarding the use of the premises had been drawn to the attention of the District Council and the Enforcement Officer would now be dealing with the matter.

(iv) Junction safety meeting with Highways and the Police

Cllr Mrs Downes stated that the meeting, as previously suggested, had not taken place, as she felt that it would be more diplomatic for an informal chat to take place with the owners of numbers 10 and 10A prior to an official meeting. Members were supportive of Cllr Mrs Downes' initiative which they felt to be the preferred option.

Cllr Mrs Downes agreed to action.

5. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Police Report

PC Watson gave a report on the crime statistics since November 2014, viz:

- Burglary in Brickendon.
- Damage to a garden fence in Brickendon.
- Flytipping still a problem. This was now a "crime in action" and should be reported via the 999 call to the Police.
- Attempted theft of a bee hive.
- Drink driving offence in Pembridge Lane.
- Window of a car smashed in Brickendon.
- Jogger bitten by a dog.
- Kissing gate on Broxbourne Common damaged.
- Use of footpaths by off-road vehicles still prevalent. Section 59 notices served on two people last week.
- Had the Parish Council thought anymore of becoming involved in the "smiley face campaign"? Ten volunteers were required to set up the scheme. Police would give the necessary instructions. Whilst the volunteers had no legal standing the information gleaned would be fed to the Police.
- Request for date of the village fete – informed first Sunday in September.

Matters raised by members:

- Regarding the double yellow lines at the station, it was asked if these were enforceable. Response: As a result of decriminalisation East Herts Council was now responsible for enforcement.
- Footpath opposite Tylers Cottage, Wormley West End, to the rear of the Woodman and Olive Public House, was being used by off-road vehicles.

(ii) Brickendon Grange Golf Club – Residential Development

A resident enquired whether the proposed residential development would be going ahead. The Chairman confirmed that planning permission for the erection of two dwellings had been secured on appeal.

(iii) Back Lane

A concern was raised with regard to the right of way at the bottom of Fanshaws Lane (Back Lane) which had no sign indicating its status. Members confirmed that the right of way was a BOAT and the upkeep rested with the Hertfordshire County Council.

6. PLANNING

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

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

Members were informed that the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 28 January 2015.

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Mrs Laybourn informed members that she had been in discussion with both Highways and the Environment Agency with regard to the flooding at the northern end of Brickendon Lane. She was pleased to report that work would commence on 28 January 2015 to dig out the silt from the brook and to raise the kerb height. Repairs to the kerbs on the other side of the road (western) would also be carried out. Video evidence of the recent flooding at this location had been supplied to the authorities.

Cllr Mrs Downes referred to the loss of village road signs in Wormley West End, which she had previously reported via the Highways Fault reporting system. No action had been carried out to replace the missing signs. Of concern was the fact that the report had been taken off the website, which would suggest that the matter had been concluded which was not the case.

Cllr Mrs Laybourn registered details of the report reference number in order for her to take up this matter.

9. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Lambie reported that the County Council was now in a position to go out to tender for the work of providing the path to the station, the total cost of which was estimated to be in the region of £65,000 with all the money promised. The County Council had been made aware of the urgency to commence the work as the deadline for drawing down the grant of £8,000 from East Herts Council was mid-June 2015.

Cllr Lambie stated that a problem might arise if Highways set a higher standard and insisted that kerbing was provided which would substantially increase the cost. Whilst kerbing would give a safer edge to the road nevertheless rustic posts, which had been envisaged by members, were preferable

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/POLICE REPORT

Mr Dennis Downes stated that he would like to arrange an open evening in the Spring with representatives of the Police, the Fire Brigade and Age Concern. The object of the meeting, which would take place in the Village Hall, would be to persuade people to be more pro-active with regard to safety in their homes. Mr Downes would liaise with PC Watson regarding a suitable date.

Members were fully supportive of the suggestion and they requested that details, when finalised, be placed on the parish website.

11. VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

Members revisited the discussion which had taken place at the last meeting and they were now of the opinion that a more suitable location for the equipment would be on the Village Green and ideally it should be housed in a waterproof heated cabinet. Once the new electrical supply had been provided for the Village Green, then a suitable box should be positioned near the connection point. Being situated on the Village Green, members felt that there was less likelihood of the equipment being vandalised.

Members also felt that the equipment should be purchased now and the cost met from the Council's balances. The Chairman agreed to action.

12. VILLAGE GREEN

(i) Land Registry – Brickendon Green

Members had been circulated with an email received from the Council's Solicitor stating that he was co-operating with the Solicitor acting for the Wallace family and seeking discussions with the Land Registry in furtherance of settling the Village Green land dispute. The Clerk confirmed that the Solicitor had been instructed that the Parish Council did not wish to become involved in any litigation in this matter and was only interested in protecting its leasehold interest in the Village Green. The Council was happy for the situation to be resolved between the two parties (ie the Wallace family and the Brickendon Grange Golf Club).

(ii) Electricity Supply

The Chairman confirmed that an application had been submitted to UK Power Network to provide an electricity supply to the Village Green immediately opposite the Village Hall. The Chairman was hopeful that the work could be undertaken for a sum not exceeding £2,000.

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

RESOLVED that the contents of the attached report be received. (See Appendix B)

14. PROVISION OF DOG LITTER BINS

The Chairman stated that he had researched the costs involved in purchasing new bins which were very expensive.

Members were not supportive of purchasing additional dog bins and they agreed that the bin situated at the edge of the Village Green near the Golf Club be re-sited to a position opposite the Village Hall.

Cllr Mrs Laybourn referred to the excess of litter in the car parks in Broxbourne Woods and she asked that enquires be made as to whether bins could be provided.

15. PRECEPT 2015/2016

RESOLVED that the precept for the financial year 2015/2016 be confirmed at £10,000.

16. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

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

(ii) Financial Statement

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

17. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Clerk's remuneration.
- Review of Financial Regulations.
- Governance Review (July meeting).

18. CONFIRMATION OF DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was confirmed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 26 March 2015, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

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