

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Brickendon Liberty Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 26 March 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: 9 members of the public.
Plus Cllr W Ashley (EHC)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs Laybourn.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs Ashley Personal and Prejudicial Planning application 3/15/0236/PR - Monks Green

Cllr Mrs Ashley Personal and Prejudicial Planning appeal 3/14/1259/PR – Monks Green

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 22 January 2015 be accepted as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Wood End Farm – Wormley West End

Cllr Mrs Downes informed members that she had sent a further letter to the Enforcement Office, East Herts Council, requesting an update on this matter as dog training sessions from the premises were continuing to be witnessed.

A response was awaited.

(ii) Junction safety meeting with Highways and the Police

Cllr Mrs Downes confirmed that arrangements would be made to secure a meeting with the owners of number 10 and 10A Brickendon Green to discuss the matter informally.

(iii) Provision of dog litter bin

The Chairman informed members that arrangements would be made as soon as possible to re-site the dog bin at the edge of the Village Green near the Golf Club to a position opposite the Village Hall.

5. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Council Tax 2015/2016

A resident referred to the Council Tax demand for 2015/2016 and pointed out that the Band D equivalent for Brickendon at 34.9 was far in excess of that of Bayford at 18.9 and of the 50 parishes in East Herts Brickendon had the 14th highest Band D. The resident also questioned the high level of precept of Brickendon at £10,000.

The Clerk stated that the level of precept for 2015/2016 at £10,000 compared extremely favourably with the level of precept set in 1994 (21 years ago) at £8,500. The items contained in the budget were based on historical costs and were the minimum required to run the parish. With regard to the Band D equivalent the Clerk stated the tax base of the two parishes would need to be ascertained in order to make a meaningful comparison.

(ii) De-selection of Cllr William Ashley

Cllr W Ashley referred to his de-selection as a District Councillor, which, he stated, had been occasioned by him losing the support of the Conservative Ward Councillors. This did not preclude him from seeking election as an independent councillor. Cllr Ashley stated that he was deeply disappointed at the actions taken to de-select him from a Ward, which he had represented and served diligently for many years.

Mr Dennis Downes asked who was the prospective candidate and he was informed that this was a Mr A McNeece, who currently resided at Clementsbury.

Cllr Mrs Downes expressed on behalf of the Council her deep concern at the treatment of Cllr Ashley and she read out the contents of a prepared statement (see Appendix A).

(iii) Manhole cover

It was reported that there was a damaged manhole cover in the footway in Fanshaws Lane close to the Farmer's Boy Public House.

(iv) Access to the Golf Club

A question was raised as to whether the Golf Club had the right of way over the Village Green to access the new residential properties. The Chairman confirmed that a right of way existed.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council was awaiting the outcome of a dispute between the owner from whom the Parish Council holds a lease on the village green, including a triangular parcel of land near and including the pond, and the Brickendon Grange Golf Club who claim to have title to it.

(v) Parish Council achievements

A resident referred to the fact that, as this would be the last meeting of the Council before a new Council was elected in May, could the members of the public be given a resume of the Council's past activities and achievements.

Cllr Lambie read out the contents of the attached statement (see Appendix B) for members' and parishioners' information.

6. PLANNING

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

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

(i) Minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes be received. (See Appendix D)

(ii) Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2015

RESOLVED that the minutes be received. (See Appendix E)

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Flooding (brook northern end of Brickendon Lane)

Cllr Mrs Laybourn had prepared a report stating that the Environment Agency and Highways had met on 28 January 2015. Colin Street from the Environment Agency had advised that he would organise for gravel to be removed from the brook. He had confirmed that approximately 4 inches of gravel had been removed at the beginning of March. Unfortunately, at the time of Cllr Mrs Laybourn preparing her report, Highways had not responded to emails enquiring as to whether the other work regarding clearing the drains and the remedial work on the kerb heights had been scheduled. Again no other response had been received from Highways regarding progress or scheduling of other issues mentioned in the previous minutes.

Cllr Mrs Laybourn would be attending the Highways Liaison Meeting on 9 April and she would report back on this and other information.

(ii) Wormley West End

Cllr Mrs Downes reported that no action had been taken to replace the missing village road signs in Wormley West End, which had previously been reported via the highways fault reporting system. She reiterated her concern as to why reported items, even though not actioned, were removed from the website.

(iii) Back Lane

A reference was made to the absence of the sign indicating the right of way at the bottom of Fanshaw Lane (Back Lane) was a BOAT. Cllr Lambie confirmed that he would raise this matter with the Highways Authority.

9. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Lambie read out the contents of the attached report (see Appendix F).

Members congratulated Cllr Lambie on his diligence in this matter and for achieving what was felt would be a much needed highway's enhancement for the village.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/POLICE REPORT

In the absence of the Police, Mr Dennis Downes gave the following crime statistics covering the months of January, February and March 2015:

January

Barbed wire fence cut in Mangrove Lane.
Roofing material fly tipping in Pembridge Lane.
Vehicle stolen from Fanshaws Lane.

February

Theft from motor vehicle whilst parked in Broxbourne Woods.

March

Damage to pub sign – Wormley West End.
Theft of tools from locked van in Brickendon Green.

11. VILLAGE DEFIBRILLATOR

The Chairman informed the meeting that the defibrillator had been purchased and arrangements would be made for it to be sited in a locked box at the rear end of the Village Hall against the boarded fence. A plate would be affixed giving the names of persons to contact in the event that the equipment was required.

Cllr Mrs Downes expressed her concern that the equipment should not be in a locked container, but should be accessible to all the public. Whilst it was appreciated that there was a risk of the equipment being stolen, nevertheless, it was a risk worth taking to ensure that the equipment was accessible to the public at all times.

Members agreed to discuss this matter within the next few days to finalise the necessary arrangements.

12. VILLAGE GREEN

(i) Legal dispute on parcel of Village Green - update

The Chairman informed the meeting that the matter regarding the land dispute was still ongoing. The dispute concerned the ownership of a triangular parcel of land at the eastern edge of the Village Green near the pond, which, it was contended by the Golf Club, was in its ownership and not in the ownership of Mr Jensen. The Chairman stated that at a recent meeting with the Golf Club, the Parish Council had been offered an equivalent lease with the Golf Club should the disputed land prove to be in the ownership of the Golf Club.

(ii) Electrical Supply

The Chairman confirmed that he would be meeting with a representative of UK Power Network on Monday, 30 March 2015, with a view to finalising the arrangements for work to commence. The associated groundwork would commence once UK Power Network had concluded its contractual work.

Cllr Lambie stated that the financing of the work would not be a burden on the Council Tax Payer as the capital expenditure would be met from the Council's balances.

13. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Mr Tony Roberts read out the contents of the attached report (see Appendix G).

14. REVISION OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members had been circulated with a copy of the Model Financial Regulations as compiled by the National Association of Parish and Town Councils.

RESOLVED that the Financial Regulations be adopted.

15. MAGPAS

A letter had been received from the above organisation requesting the Parish Council to consider financially supporting Magpas, a medical charity providing emergency life saving care to critically ill and injured people.

Members agreed to refer the letter to the Fanshaws Room Committee for its consideration and to work in conjunction with the Committee to consider a response to the request.

16. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

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

(ii) Financial Statement

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

17. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Governance Reviews.

18. CONFIRMATION OF DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

It was confirmed that the next meetings which would be the Annual Meetings would be held on Thursday, 21 May 2015, in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

Prior to the closure of the meeting a resident expressed a vote of thanks to all the members of the Parish Council and congratulated the Council on its achievements during the last four year.

19. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting.

20. CLERK'S REMUNERATION

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