

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Brickendon Liberty Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 31 March 2016, at 7.30 pm in the Fanshaws Room, Brickendon.

*Cllr Mrs J Camp

*Cllr L J Kotting (Vice Chairman)

*Cllr J Lambie (Chairman)

Cllr A C Roberts

*Cllr Mrs L Whitnall

* denotes present.

In attendance: 5 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Roberts.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mrs Camp Personal and prejudicial Planning application 3/16/052/FUL

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 28 January 2016 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

(i) Nameplate – Wormley West End

Cllr Kotting informed members that he had spoken to former Councillor Mrs Anne Downes with regard to the positioning of the two signs for Wormley West End, which it was suggested be located as follows:

- A position between White Stubs Lane and the junction of West End Road.
- On the verge near the Broxbourne sign (near the power lines).

The Chairman stated that he would forward proposals for the design of the signs to all members and he would liaise with former Councillor Mrs Laybourn with regard to cutting back the hedge to facilitate the signs.

(ii) Defibrillator Training

Cllr Mrs Whitnall informed members that arrangements were being formulated with regard to the training sessions with a suggestion that they be held either on Thursday, 5 April, or Thursday, 19 April. The sessions would last about 2 hours and would be limited to between 12 to 15 people.

Members favoured Thursday, 19 April, in preference to 5 April, although it was mentioned that a Saturday morning would be a possibility. Cllr Mrs Whitnall agreed to liaise with Mrs Brenda Lambie with regard to the availability of the village hall.

(iii) Public seat on the Village Green

The Chairman informed members that the seat had been purchased and was in his possession. The concrete base had been laid on the village green ready for the installation of the seat, which he envisaged would take place within the next seven days.

(iv) Planning

The Clerk stated that the two planning applications (3/15/2166 and 3/15/2189) should have been included on the planning notification supplied to members. The Clerk also confirmed that the actual planning decisions issued by East Herts were now being forwarded to all members thus ensuring that they were made fully aware of the reasons for either refusals or approvals.

(v) Clean for the Queen

The Chairman stated that a litter pick of the parish had been scheduled to take place on Sunday, 10 April 2016, commencing at 10.00 am in the Farmer's Boy car park.

A suggestion was made that in order to advertise the event that suitably placed display notices be positioned alongside the village green. Cllr Mrs Whitnall agreed to arrange production (A3 portrait). The Chairman confirmed that he would arrange for the notices to be erected and he would contact Cllr Mrs Charlotte Snowdon to obtain the necessary litter picking equipment.

5. PARISHIONERS' COMMENTS

(i) Blocked drain – Holy Cross Chapel

It was reported that no action had been taken to unblock the drain. This matter had been reported to Cllr Mrs Charlotte Snowdon (EHC) who it was believed had contacted County Cllr Mrs Janette Taylor with a view to resolving the issue.

(ii) Overgrown hedge – Brickendon Lane

A request was made for an approach to be made to Mr Cobb with a view to cutting back overgrown hedges on his land.

(iii) Pothole – Brickendon Lane

It was agreed to speak to the owner of Hacketts with regard to a large pothole situated outside his property.

(iv) Brickendon FP5

Mr John Barnes gave members an overview of the problems which had been encountered on FP5 where a new barbed wire fence had been placed along the footpath which had constituted a hazard to walkers.

Members were informed that this matter had now been satisfactorily concluded and the wire had been removed.

6. PLANNING

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

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

(i) Minutes of meeting held on 11 February 2016

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

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(i) Undulating highway surface

No response had been received from the Highways Locality Officer (HCC) with reference to the Parish Council's concerns regarding the undulations in the road surface in the vicinity of Bourne Orchard.

(ii) Speed limit – Paradise Wildlife Park

To note that a letter had been forwarded to the Hertfordshire County Council in support of Paradise Wildlife Park's request for safer public access to its leisure complex and zoo and a reduction in the present 60 mph speed limit down to 40 mph.

Cllr Mrs Whitnall stated that Paradise Wildlife Park had agreed, at the request of the County Council, to undertake a traffic survey in support of its application at its own expense.

9. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

- The Chairman confirmed that an application had been submitted to Groundwork Hertfordshire for a grant of £1,000 in respect of the Parish Paths Partnership agreement.

- With regard to the path to the station, the Chairman was pleased to report that the official opening had taken place on 18 March 2016. However, there was a little more work to be undertaken at the Brickendon end of the path to address the slippery surface. Responsibility for the cost of carrying out the work was yet to be determined. Cllr Mrs Camp wished it placed on record gratitude to Mrs Brenda Lambie for providing the refreshments and to Cllr Mrs Whitnall for providing the transport on the day of the event.
- It was reported that the gate from Bourne Orchard to Monks Green had been broken. The Chairman agreed to inspect.
- The Chairman stated that there were 28 public rights of way in the parish and he was looking to the public to report on any work which was felt necessary to be undertaken.
- The Chairman stated that he had been privately advised by the Golf Club that, because the Club had purchased more expensive machinery, it was now not able to continue to cut the grass on the village green. Consequently, an approach had been made to John O'Connor (contractors to East Herts) to provide a quotation. However, subsequently, it had transpired that the Golf Club had had a meeting at which it had been decided that, in order to continue to maintain a good relationship with the Parish Council, it would purchase a piece of equipment which would be suitable thus enabling the current arrangements to continue.
- The Chairman agreed to contact Countryside Management to ascertain whether arrangements could be made to clear the village pond. In addition, he would follow up on a suggestion that a life buoy be provided for the safety of the public.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH/POLICE REPORT

In the absence of the Police no Police report was available.

It was mentioned that there was still no Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator for Brickendon Parish or a Neighbourhood Watch representative for Wormley West End despite a notice having been placed in the newsletter. Mrs Brenda Lambie stated that she would contact former Councillor Mrs Michele Laybourn with a view to seeking a volunteer. Cllr Mrs Camp stated that she would discuss the matter with Sgt Duncan Wallace.

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

In the absence of Cllr Roberts it was agreed to refer his matter to the next meeting.

12. THE PENSIONS REGULATOR (WORKPLACE PENSION)

The Chairman confirmed that a formal letter had been issued to the Clerk in connection with the Workplace Pension scheme and, whilst the Clerk did not qualify for automatic enrolment, he did have the option to join the scheme.

The Clerk confirmed that he would be formally responding to inform the Parish Council that he did not wish to join the scheme.

13. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

(i) Payment of Accounts

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

(ii) Financial Statement

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

14. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

- Neighbourhood Plan.

15. CONFIRMATION OF DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The next meetings (the Annual Parish meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting) would be held on Thursday, 26 May 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.