

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held at 7.30pm on 25th May 2017 in the Parish Hall, Fanshaw's Room, Brickendon.

Present; Cllr John Lambie (chairman), Cllr Leslie Kotting,(vice chairman) Cllr Tony Roberts, Cllr Lynn Whitnall

In attendance: Laura Brooks-Payne (Parish Clerk), Charlotte Snowdon, and 11 members of the public.

1. **Opening of the meeting by the Chairman;** Cllr Lambie explained the format of the two meetings for the evening.
2. **Apologies for Absence;** Cllr Julia Camp, approved.
3. **To approve minutes of Annual Parish meeting 2016;** approved.
4. **To discuss matters arising from the Annual Parish Meeting 2016;** There will be a noticeboard instead of a nameplate to be erected in Wormley West End. The public seat on the green is now in situ. Some pothole repairs are now completed. Defibrillator is now in situ outside the village hall. The draft neighbourhood plan is now ready.
5. **Parish Council Review of the Year;** see attached report by Councillor John Lambie.
6. **Update on the local plan by the District Councillor;** Charlotte Snowdon reported that the district plan is now rubber stamped but we are yet to discover how we are to accommodate extra housing. The Mercury Newspaper indicated that there was no adversity to the plan but this was not the case, however a public consultation had been held. Brickendon is now classed as 'Category 2' village. Charlotte noted that it is extremely important for BLPC to have a Neighbourhood Plan in place that works alongside the District Plan.
7. **Questions from the Public;**
 - A. *What is being done about the potholes in the roads in the parish?* BLPC continuously report them to Highways. They will be done eventually, it is a matter of waiting.
 - B. *What can we do about the felling of trees in Sweetings wood?* Residents living adjacent to the wood affected, reported that there has been a licence issued by the forestry commission to the owner of the woodland to thin out the trees. The Freedom Camping Club has given authorisation, without any local consultation, allowing the owner to erect 3 eco-dwellings for Glamping. The effects of both these decisions negatively affects the residents of adjacent properties in Fanshaws Lane, Brickendon. Action: Investigate conditions and terms of licence – clerk/councillors.
 - C. *Can we investigate the possible issuing of parking permits to Fanshaws Lane residents and erecting prohibiting parking except by permit, thus containing overflow parking by visitors to the wood?* Action: agenda for July PC meeting.
 - D. *Do the archery club have the correct permissions for using Broxbourne woods?* Resident living adjacent to the woods reported that the club has recently started to use the woods and pays the landowner to do so. This affects local residents

because it is situated in the middle of residential housing. Residents have written to EHDC who have responded and are looking into the issue.

E. *Can the PC do anything about the placing of dog waste bags in the normal public waste bins?* Action: appropriate stickers are available online, PC to purchase them for each bin, 10no.

F. *Can we put a speed hump on the road on Fanshaws Lane by the green?* A resident made a suggestion. Action: agenda for July PC meeting.

G. *What can we do about the puddling of rainwater on the road in Bayford?* Cllr Lambie explained that we have reported this many times and spoken to Bayford PC as it is their area. Bayford PC are dealing with it and there is little that BLPC can do because it falls outside our parish.

H. *A resident reported that the golf club has erected an unauthorised sign on the village green.* Cllr Lambie & Cllr Kotting to investigate and meet with the golf club owners.

I. *Can we investigate the health and safety situation with The Bushcraft Company operating in Hoddesdon Woods?* A resident reported that the outdoor adventure company now have a public health licence through Environmental Health at EHDC for 56 movable structures and associated facilities. Residents and the PC are very concerned with the amount of traffic this will bring to the area in light that Mangrove Lane is only a single lane traffic road in most parts. Action: Cllr Lambie to write to responsible councillors, politicians and Environmental health explaining the dangers.

8. Close of the meeting by the Chair at 8.05pm.

Laura Brooks-Payne

Clerk

6th June 2017

BLPC Chairs annual review

My Chairmanship has continued for two years from 2015/16 to date due to my re-election in May 2016.

During the previous year, 2015, I was pleased to welcome a new District Councillor in the Hertford Heath Ward, Ms Charlotte Snowden (Charley), who has been supporting Brickendon Liberty Parish Council in our dealings with East Herts District Council.

Sadly, and with no prior warning, John Ingham, Clerk to Brickendon Liberty and five other parishes, died of pancreatic cancer in July 2016. John had served our parish for 40 years and both he and his wife Jo are greatly missed from parish events.

For the next three months I also took on the position of Parish Clerk, with much help and expertise from fellow Councillors.

An extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on the 2nd of September appointed a Recruitment Committee of three councillors who held interviews and subsequently appointed Mrs Laura Brooks-Payne as Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer in November 2016.

Laura's probation period is now completed, during which she has enrolled on the CiLCA course that will eventually enable the council to take on wider responsibilities, and has helped her to successfully get to grips with the post.

Amongst the items dealt with in the May 2016 Parish Council Annual Meeting were two concepts that I proposed for the future:

A Seniors Champion, a parish resident, who would raise issues and arrange support for the elderly and infirm of the parish under the auspices of the parish council.

A Parish Ranger, a parishioner, who would report to the parish council on the state of the 'fabric' of the parish so that damage could be reported to the relevant authorities and so that the parish council's works could be planned.

Although neither of these 'posts' have been filled, awareness of the situations was heightened, and two new parish notice boards were ordered, a parishioner had, last autumn, donated two stout park benches and two robust litter bins which are to be installed in Wormley West End and on Brickendon Green in the next few weeks.

Last summer contractors completed the Brickendon end of the station footpath that had been an initiative of the Parish Plan published in 2008. Unfortunately road accidents during last winter have damaged several of the distinctive wooden posts that to date have not been repaired by Hertfordshire County Council Highways contractors. The 30mph signs, missing for 2 years from Pembridge Lane have, however, now been replaced.

I am grateful to Mr Lawrence Othen-Price for coming forward to organise the renovation of the Brickendon Village pond and its surrounds this coming autumn.

The adoption of their District Plan by East Herts District Council means that the Brickendon Liberty Neighbourhood Plan can be brought to a final draft by Councillor Tony Roberts and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, with a view to submission this autumn.

I share the strongly held concerns of residents in the Mangrove Lane, Highfield and Monks Green areas of the parish that the company Bushcraft has substantially expanded their camping sites in Brambles wood (renamed by them for commercial reasons as 'Hatfield Wood'), from 5 to 7 camps this year to accommodate a maximum capacity of 700 children and staff sleeping overnight between March and October. The logistics required to support such an exercise is bound to stretch resources

such as the single track lanes of Mangrove and Monks Green now carrying convoys of busses, far in excess of their capacity, that restrict resident farmers immediate access to their fields; also the supply of water, sewage disposal, trampled woodland and wildlife. It has all led to a container compound being erected and approved by East Herts Council in spite of it being both in woodland and in the greenbelt.

I and my colleagues do not support the venture or the disruption of the quality of life of our parishes' residents that it is causing.

Sweetings Wood near Fanshaws Lane is another local example of an owner utilising Brickendon woods for commercial gain at the risk of the disturbance of adjacent residents.

Finally as my term as Chair draws to a close, the 3 month closure of Brickendon Lane for major highway repairs is over and the lane has reopened, so we can now more easily visit Hertford directly from Brickendon Village!

My resignation of the position of Chairman of BLPC at this meeting is not brought about by health or any other pressures, but because it is vital that your parish council is organised and manned by the cream of the younger active members of the parish who can drive the best deals for Brickendon Liberty in the challenges facing society today.

I will continue as a parish councillor until my elected term expires in 2019.

Thank you to all the councillors, committee members, and most of all Brickendon Liberties residents for your support during the past turbulent years while I have been Chairman.

John Lambie
Ch. BLPC