

BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 27th September 2018 at 7.30pm at Fanshaws Room, Brickendon Lane, Brickendon Liberty

Present; Cllr Lynn Whitnall (chair), Cllr Leslie Kotting,(vice chair), Cllr Julia Camp, Cllr John Lambie, Cllr Tony Roberts

In attendance: 8 members of the public. County Councillor Johnathan Kaye.

- 1. To receive apologies for absence and approve;** - Cllr Kotting advised that due to work commitments Cllr Whitnall would be at the meeting later and started proceedings.
- 2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation;** Cllr Kotting declared an interest in the development of land on Fanshaws Lane.
- 3. To approve minutes of the parish council meeting on Thursday 19th July 2018;** Minutes were unanimously approved. Cllr Kotting signed. The clerk reported that she had spoken to the churchwarden who wishes to progress the installation of a tourist sign for the church, this is ongoing. Cllr Lambie reported that repairs to the playground are now complete. Cllr Lambie reported that dangerous branches on the turkey willow on the green were removed prior to the fete and this was approved by East Herts District Council (EHDC) by phone. Clerk has since received a letter advising that prior consent was not obtained.

ACTION – Clerk will write to the arboriculture officer and advise that permission had been sought to remove dangerous branches before the fete.

- 4. Matters for future consideration and public participation;** Clerk reported items for next agenda; Meeting dates for 2019 and budget.

A resident had asked via Cllr Lambie how the PC were going to organise the parking for firework night. The event was a success last year bringing hundreds of vehicles into the village. Cllr Lambie suggested that the PC traffic cones should be used and free parking permitted on the village green, with donations being given to a chosen charity. Charities including Air Ambulance and Isabel Hospice, both local charities were debated. The Isabel Hospice were chosen last year and it was agreed to give the donations to them again. Cllr Roberts suggested that the parking be made orderly and with the use of ushers, in order to fit more cars onto the green. The Farmers Boy Public House (FBPH) organise the event.

ACTION – Clerk to write to FBPH to obtain their written agreement to organise labour for organising parking, to confirm that any damage to ground or equipment will be repaired and that charity buckets will be in place for donations to a local charity.

A resident advised that the FBPH had not approached her to utilise the field that she keeps livestock on to let the fireworks off from. Cllrs suggested that the resident had a conversation with the landlord of the FBPH.

A resident reported a leak at Bourne Orchard stile. This is ring marked in blue so it was assumed that Affinity water were already aware.

Cllr Whitnall had received a phone call from a resident who was concerned about speed up the hill on Brickendon Lane and through the village. She asked if the 30mph sign could be moved further back. She also enquired as to whether the village map had been updated. The resident also thanked villagers for their help and support recently.

ACTION – Cllr Camp to email Highways to ask if there can be an additional 'repeater' 30mph sign further down the hill.

A resident asked if anything more can be done about the potholes on the roads. Cllr Lambie advised that he had spoken to a surveyor working in Fanshaws Lane who explained that while potholes will be patched imminently from this year's budget it is likely that the Lane would not be resurfaced until next year's budget.

5. To receive the Neighbourhood watch and local crime report; clerk reported that the three PC postcodes had received no reported crime in the month of July 2018 which was the latest report. Cllr Lambie advised all to monitor the regular 'OWL' notifications that come through by email. Recent events included a successful knife amnesty held locally.

6. To report on the update of arrangements for the 'Parish Day' at Paradise Wildlife Park; It was noted at the last meeting that there is a conflict of interest for the PC to organise this and therefore this item will feature on the next agenda for the Fanshaw's Room Committee meeting.

7. PLANNING

7.1 Current planning report; Cllr Kotting went through the current applications. Cllr Roberts reported that he had been alerted by members of the parish that work was on going at Long Leys for the conversion of a barn without the appropriate planning permissions in place. He had had contact with the relevant planning officer who had visited the site twice and is taking the appropriate action. Cllr Roberts read out the officer's email reply to the public members present. There was concern amongst cllr's that a hedge had been removed to allow access and egress.

ACTION: Cllr Roberts will reply to the officer about the concerns in reference to the hedge removal together with the PC's observations in respect of the points made in the EHDC email dated 27/11/18.

8. To receive the minutes from the last Fanshaw's Room Committee meeting; Linda Ashley reported that there had not been a meeting held since the fete and thanked everyone for their help with the fete. Linda reported that the seniors and children's Christmas lunches are being held on 6th December 2018. It was also reported that there had been a leak in the Fanshaws room toilet recently which Brenda Lambie had dealt with immediately. The PC agreed to pay for the cost of the work. Cllr Roberts thanked FRC for their hard work. Cllrs agreed that the fete had been the 'best yet'.

9. TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

Cllr Camp reported that roadworks are due to take place on White Stubbs Lane on 28 & 29th October. The speed indicator device (SID) has now been installed as you enter the village from the Hertford direction.

9.1 To report on progress on repairs to the un-adopted road on the village green; Cllr Kotting reported that the golf club has yet to reinstate the soil and grass verges along this stretch. They did promise to make good the area after building works had finished.

ACTION – Clerk to email Brickendon Grange Golf Club once again to ask when this will be carried out.

10. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)

Cllr Roberts reported that he attended a meeting with the NP officer at EHDC in August having already submitted a draft NP for Brickendon Liberty. Overall it was noted that content of the NP should be limited to land use issues. The NP needs improvement on policies and format. It was suggested that the PC viewed the new 2018 road map document to ensure that the PC were in line with its content. The officer suggested that Cllr Roberts discuss with fellow Cllrs to ensure that they wished to continue with the NP. It was noted that Brickendon Liberty parish have no allocation for planning development. Cllr Kaye suggested that the PC liaise with Hertford Heath (HH) and Great Amwell (GA) PC's, HH having just completed their NP and GA having decided not to do one.

ACTION – Cllr Roberts will liaise with the two mentioned parishes for advice and may organise a specific meeting to discuss in more depth.

11. ENVIRONMENT

11.1 To receive an update on the issues at Sweetings Wood: Cllr Kotting reported that there are still three glamping pods in the woods presumably being used per the licence issued by EHDC.

11.2 To receive an update on activities by the Bushcraft Company in Brambles Wood: Cllr Lambie thanked and praised the Mangrove Lane Residents Group for their hard work in pursuing the issues surrounding the use of the land and for their successful outcome. No appeal has been received by EHDC to date for continued use of the site and therefore the Bushcraft company will have to leave the site by 8th October 2018.

11.3 To consider the possibility of an official tree survey to be made in the Autumn of 2018; Cllr Lambie reported that this was now unnecessary as the contractor recently employed to remove branches from the Turkey Oaks surveyed the other trees on the site and necessary precautions are being taken. It was noted too that the Goat Willow has an infection and the PC has permission for it to be felled. A quotation had been sought, £300 to fell and leave logs for the residents to take and use or £400 to include removal of all logs. It was agreed by Cllrs to leave the logs for residents provided that they were small enough to be transported and if they were not all utilised the remaining logs could be left as a wildlife habitat.

ACTION – Cllr Lambie will organise the removal of the tree.

11.4 To update on the siting of a bench & information board in Brambles Wood to commemorate WW11; Clerk reported that she had been in contact with William Ashley. William had an estimation of cost to be in the region of £1250 to include the bench, information board and installation. He was happy for this to be sited on his own land adjacent to the footpath and bridleway. Cllr Kaye offered to help with half of the cost from his locality budget which was welcomed by Cllrs. It was agreed that two more quotes be obtained. The PC agreed to pay the other half of the cost.

ACTION – Clerk to email William Ashley to ask him to obtain three definitive quotes. Clerk will then pass onto Cllr Kaye for his agreement.

11.5 To update on the progress for additional parking in the village: Cllr Roberts reported that he had begun the complex process of registering the verges in the village to become PC owned land before we can look at additional car parking in these areas. Cllr Roberts is continuing with the process.

11.6 To discuss the planting of a new tree on the village green to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Queen Victoria's birth: Cllr Kotting reported that the recent excessive dry weather had caused soil shrinkage exposing a circular metal spiked railing around a historical tree planting site on the village green. Thanks were offered to Alistair and Peter Whittaker for removing the dangerous spikes. It was discussed that a new tree sapling would be planted in the spring.

ACTION – Cllr Lambie will research the cost of a tree.

11.7 To discuss renovation of Village Sign; Brenda Lambie had kindly obtained a quotation from the original company to refurbish the existing wooden sign. The cost of this would be £1180. The company had also suggested that if we wanted to choose a new more durable sign, the PC could choose a new sign made from polycarbonate. The two options were debated but it was agreed that a more traditional look of a wooden sign would be more appropriate and Cllrs agreed to this 4:1. It was approved to refurbish the existing sign.

ACTION: Cllr Lambie will arrange the refurbishment of the sign.

11.8 To discuss security of the Village Green; Cllr Lambie reported that the locks on some of the fencing surrounding the village green had been recently compromised. Cllr Lambie and Cllr Kotting had identified areas of the village green that were not fenced and could potentially be compromised further. Cllr Lambie had obtained one quotation for this work to be carried out to secure the entire village green but it was noted that the PC should get two additional quotations for the work.

ACTION – Cllr Lambie to obtain two additional quotations.

11.9 To update on the removal of the post box; Cllr Roberts advised that he had spoken to the technical manager for street furniture at Royal Mail and as a consequence the planning application to reinstate the Edward V11 post box with a different more modern type had been put on hold. Having Spoken to the Royal Mail, Cllr Roberts was informed that the PC could replace the brick-built enclosure Edward V11 post box but that it would not be put back into service. Royal Mail would however look to obtain another heritage post mounted type box which would then be put into service. Cllrs agreed that this would be the best option. The PC have the option of keeping the original Edward V11 post box, Cllrs agreed to this.

ACTION; Cllr Roberts will report back to Royal Mail.

11.10 To discuss holding a litter pick; Cllr Lambie suggested a date of 18th November 2018 for the litter pick, Cllrs agreed.

ACTION: Clerk to design posters to advertise the event, add the event to the website and organise the litter picking equipment via Dist. Cllr Charlotte Snowden.

12. FINANCE

12.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts; Clerk had circulated the accounts prior to the meeting, they were unanimously approved.

13. To receive correspondence; Clerk advised that she had been on an election Course at HAPTC recently as there are upcoming elections in May 2019. She had obtained posters and information to recruit new councillors and will circulate these.

14. To receive announcements (for information only); Cllrs had been made aware of issues surrounding extensive development at Dalmonds Wood.

15. Confirmation of the date of the next meeting of the Council: 22nd November 2018 was agreed

16. To close the meeting: The meeting was closed by Cllr Kotting at 9.55pm.

Laura Brooks-Payne
Clerk,
2nd October 2018