

# BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30pm at Fanshaws Room, Brickendon Lane, Brickendon Liberty

## ***Covid-19 Note – Meeting held via ZOOM due to the Covid-19 Pandemic***

**Present;** Cllr Tony Roberts (Chair), Cllr Julia Camp, Cllr Hannah O'Donnell, Cllr Philip Cosford, Cllr Whitaker

**In attendance;** Laura Brooks-Payne (Clerk), District Cllr Charlie Rowley, County Cllr Jonathan Kaye

- 1. To receive apologies for absence and approve:** none
- 2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** none
- 3. To approve minutes of the parish meeting on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021:**

Cllr Roberts reported that the PC had sent flowers to Martin Todds widow. Cllr Roberts has attempted to speak to Nicholls regarding the speeding lorries through the village. The lorries have now ceased to come through the village, albeit there will be occasions in the near future where this will happen again. Cllr Roberts has reported this back to concerned residents.

## **STANDING ORDERS SUSPENDED**

### **4. Matters for future consideration and public participation:**

Cllr Roberts welcomed Cllr Kaye and Cllr Rowley to the meeting and asked if they had any advice in regard to the PC potentially adopting certain verges in the village to create additional parking spaces. Cllr Kaye reported that he had not come across this before but to approach East Herts Council. Cllr Kaye suggested that the PC collate the relevant information to send it both to Cllr Kaye and Cllr Rowley so they can investigate this further. Cllr Roberts will do as advised. John Lambie advised the PC that in 1970 the PC put in applications to adopt all the verges in the parish. Most of these were refused but old paperwork, if available, may help.

Cllr Roberts also asked the Cllr Kaye and Cllr Rowley for advice in regard to a section of road off Brickendon Lane that used to run to Cuffley but now runs to the golf club. The road has become redundant as an official 'road' other than for property access, it hasn't been maintained for up to 20 years and is need of maintenance. It appears to be an unclassified 'C' road according to relevant maps. Cllr Kaye advised that the PC ought to log a fault on the Highways fault reporting system but will also pursue this with the Highways Officer on behalf of the PC. John Lambie advised the PC that Rights of Way Hertfordshire have listed the 'road' as a footpath so maintenance is only of a 'footpath' standard.

Cllr Cosford asked Cllr Kaye if there were any 20mph areas in East Herts. Cllr Kaye advised that there were and that the speed management strategy was to encourage 20mph in specific areas, but not everywhere. The specific roads are viewed and assessed on an individual basis. Cllr Cosford further suggested that residents could be consulted as to whether they think this strategy is a good idea for Brickendon and will investigate further.

Cllr Camp asked if Cllr Rowley or Cllr Kaye voted for charging East Herts residents for emptying of the Brown garden waste bins because fly tipping in rural areas will worsen. Cllr Kaye advised that the council have had to introduce this reluctantly to bring in much needed funds to the council circa. £400,000 a year. It was noted that 60-70% of councils throughout the UK have already introduced the charging scheme.

Brenda Lambie asked if parking enforcement officers are able to enforce parking on pavements which is an ongoing problem. It was agreed that enforcement in this area was very difficult and that they probably did not have the authority to do this.

## **STANDING ORDERS REINSTATED**

### **5. To receive Fanshaw's Room Committee latest report:**

Brenda Lambie reported:

Mitch at the Farmers Boy has been approached by the musicians who have asked if the fete is going ahead. It is too early to say at the moment and a committee will need to be formed.

A committee is needed going forward to organise the fete.

The Vice-Chair is resigning because she is moving home.

FRC thanked Robert Williams for obtaining the additional Covid Grant.

The Playground has been well used throughout the pandemic and it would be beneficial to purchase three more picnic tables.

The tennis courts are to be refurbished. Cllr Roberts and FRC have appointed a company to treat and clear the moss and replace the nets. A neighbour will provide power and water.

Brenda asked if the PC would consider putting up a new sign in the village hall car park to advise that the car park on the village green is for use for users of the village hall or short-term users of the playground.

Brenda asked if the salt bags being stored adjacent to the village hall in the small parking area could be moved to the tennis court area. Cllr Roberts advised that they will be taken there when the grass is less water-logged.

The online booking form for the village hall is working well.

The newsletter may be shorter than usual.

### **6. To receive a report on highways matters:** Nothing to report

### **7. To receive a report on incidents of local crime:**

Cllr Camp had received the latest report;

28/11/2020 Theft in dwelling (domestic related)

23/12/2020 Theft of a parcel from the front door

10/02/2021 Burglary in Brickendon Lane, entry gained through forced conservatory door. Mostly jewellery stolen.

23/02/2021 Damage to summer house in Brickendon Grange, side window forced open but nothing stolen.

Cllr Camp and John Lambie attended the online Rural Police meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

It was noted that a catalytic convertor was stolen 2 days ago from a car parked in Fanshaws Lane.

### **8. To receive any further information on the possible Neighbourhood Plan (NP):**

Cllr Roberts has been in touch with a NP advisor, Alison Eardley, to ascertain whether the PC should resurrect the work already done on the NP in the light that the East Herts District Plan has no future housing development planned for the Parish of Brickendon. The PC could engage the service to review whether the parish should go forward with an NP. The cost would be circa £1300. This was discussed at length by Cllrs, it was decided that the review should go ahead.

**9. PLANNING – To receive a report and discuss recent applications:** The Clerk had circulated the planning report. There is one outstanding application that the Cllrs will need to look at. It was noted that the Farmers Boy Public House had received a refusal on the retrospective application for the outdoor seating area.

Cllr Rowley suggested that if the PC were not satisfied with the time it was taking for East Herts enforcement to reply to questions on specific enforcement applications the PC could forward to him to seek further information. Clerk will forward the information to Cllr Rowley.

## **10. TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS**

### **10.1 To discuss the PC contributing towards ongoing maintenance to the un-adopted road on the village green:**

Cllr Roberts and Cllr Camp visited the site this week. Cllr Whitaker carried out some reparation work on the road last year. It was discussed that the Golf Club and the houses affected could possibly jointly assist in maintaining the road with the PC. It was noted that the PC do not own the road and that it may set a precedent for the PC to maintain other unmade roads in the parish. The issue was discussed at length. It was agreed that the PC does not wish to get involved in maintenance of private roads. In the event that the PC considers that the road surface requires reparation work prior to the fete taking place, they will undertake such repairs.

### **10.2 To report on ongoing roadworks:**

Cllr Camp reported that Pembridge lane is closed until 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021. From 6-9<sup>th</sup> April Pembridge Lane and Woodhouse Lane will be closed between 9.30am until 3.30pm for work being undertaken by BT.

**10.3 To assess if grass alongside station footpath needs attention:** It was agreed that we should wait a month until the growth is longer.

## **11. ENVIRONMENT**

### **11.1 To update on the PC registering for ownership of Brickendon lane village verges:**

Discussed in item 4.

**11.2 To update on progress relating to extending the path to the station:** No further information, Cllr Whitaker and Roberts will obtain quotations.

### **11.3 To update on the renovation of the Telephone box:**

Cllr O'Donnell will meet the electrician when lockdown has ended. Cllr Roberts noted it is rather dirty and could benefit from a power wash and will endeavour to carry this out.

**11.4 To update on unauthorised parking on the village green:** Cllr Roberts advised that the parking is still problematic. Cllr Camp reported that Highways have stated that a physical barrier could not be placed in the location because the pavement is too narrow (less than 2 metres). It was discussed that the Locality Budget could be used, but a consultation would be needed which would probably result in objections. There are no signs on the railings so additional signs will be purchased. The Clerk suggested small cards could be written in conjunction with the local Police that can be left on car windows and will forward an example to Cllrs. It was discussed that a barrier could be installed across the village hall car park entrance, but this would deter local people utilising the car park to visit the playground. It was discussed that the local PCSO could be helpful and Cllr Camp will contact him to discuss the matter.

**11.5 To update on the refurbishment of the play equipment on the village green:** Cllr Camp and Cllr Roberts have spoken to users while at the play area who were overly happy with the equipment, and the openness of the environment. It was noted that the play area could benefit from equipment for much younger children, an additional 'normal' swing and additional picnic benches. A smaller seesaw would also benefit. Cllr Roberts will put a proposal together for additional equipment and circulate.

**11.6 To discuss upcoming Litter pick on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2021:** A reminder of the date. Meeting place is the Village Hall car Park at 10am.

## **12. FINANCE**

**12.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts:** The Clerk had circulated the latest accounts. These were unanimously approved. It was noted that the PC and FRC are currently in a very good position financially, so a full refurb of the Tennis Court is possible. It was discussed that the pavilion could also be refurbished and further discussion will be had on this.

**13. Confirmation of date of the next meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7.30pm (including the Annual Parish Meeting):** Approved and noted.

**14. To receive correspondence:** none

**15. To close the meeting:** The Chair closed the meeting at 9.57pm

Laura Brooks-Payne  
Parish Clerk  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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