



BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 28th March 2024 at 7.30pm at Fanshaws Room, Brickendon Lane, Brickendon Liberty.

PRESENT: Cllr Tony Roberts (Chair), Cllr Hannah O'Donnell, Cllr Amanda Whitaker, Cllr Philip Cosford

IN ATTENDANCE: 7 members of the Public and 2 community police officers (CPO)

- 1. To receive apologies for absence and approve:** Clerk (unwell), County Cllr Jonathan Kaye, District Cllr Tim Hoskin, Cllr Alistair Whitaker (unwell).
- 2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** none
- 3. To approve minutes of Parish Council meeting on Thursday 25th January 2024:**
approved
- 4. To receive a report from District Cllr Tim Hoskin:**
Cllr Hoskin was not present at the meeting but had provided the Clerk with a short report:
 - *The district plan refresh is gathering momentum and there will be a timetable available shortly detailing the involvement of parish and town councils along with residents.*
 - *The new waste contract is reaching a conclusion with the final commercial pricing round set to conclude in April. The contract is scheduled to start in May 2025 and will include a weekly food waste collection service with all other residual and recycling being collected on a rotational three weekly basis.*
 - *Real time air quality monitors have now been installed in Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Bishops Stortford allowing everyone to see the air quality in our town centres before deciding on travel plans*
 - *There will be a public consultation this summer on parking policies across the district looking at how to encourage active travel and help minimise congestion and so improve air quality*
 - *The first round of the hyper local environmental grants have been processed and Little Berkhamsted Parish Council was successful – well done Laura. The next round will be opening at the end of April and so if there are any appropriate applications for Brickendon then please submit accordingly.*
 - *There is a proposal for parishes to apply for litter pickers and litter bag holders from East Herts. These will be provided at cost and if there is any interest then please let me know.*
 - *The maypole/beacon is erected now on the green at Hertford Heath if Alistair wants to meet up me up there one day I can show him what we have.*

In addition it was discussed and agreed for Cllr Whitaker to investigate the Hyper local environmental grant and Cllr Roberts will pass information to Cllr Alistair Whitaker regarding the maypole/beacon that has been erected in Hertford Heath.

Standing orders suspended for public participation

5. Comments from members of the public:

A resident Jean requests that cars are not parked directly in front of the bus shelter. A resident advised that vehicles are parking on the verge on the road near to Bayford station. Local PCSO's have agreed to monitor the area.

5.1 Presentation from Clare Williams regarding provision of Bird & Bat Boxes on the village green:

Local resident Clare Williams presented a report to Cllrs.

Theo (a young parishioner taking part of the Dule of Edinburgh Scheme) has put together a report on the local area and how residents can encourage more birds into the area. It was agreed that this will be added to the website – Clare Williams to forward the report to Cllr Roberts.

Poppy (a young parishioner taking part of the Dule of Edinburgh Scheme) would like to run a 'make your own birdfeeder' session in the village hall. This was agreed and will be organised in due course.

Claire would like to assess the bats we have in the village over the summer months.

It was discussed and agreed that the PC will consider bird box placement in the Parish. This will be discussed further. Clare will send costings to Cllr Roberts for the PC to consider.

Standing orders reinstated from here

6. OPEN SPACES

6.1 To update on two new Defibrillator locations:

Cllr Roberts reported that he was anticipating that the new defibrillator for the Highfield Farm area will be installed in the next week depending on the availability of the Electrician. It was noted that a location has not yet been agreed for the installation at Wormley West End.

6.2 To update on the purchase of the Village Green:

Cllr Roberts reported that the PC have managed to secure donations from local Parishioners to enable the purchase and we are currently researching an appropriate solicitor with the relevant experience to appoint. Three companies have been approached, quotes are awaited.

6.3 To update on the litter Pick held last Sunday:

Cllr Roberts reported that the event had been a huge success, noting that it had been a year since the last litter pick took place. Approximately 25 people came to help including some new parishioners. Approximately 80-100 bags of litter were collected.

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

7.1 To receive the latest minutes:

Linda Ashley read out the latest minutes. See addendum.

8. LOCAL CRIME

8.1 To receive a report on incidents of local crime:

The Clerk had circulated the latest crime report. No crimes had been reported for the month of February within the Parish.

The attending CPO's did however advise that there is a rising trend of theft of motor vehicles. The vehicle of choice currently being the Ford Fiesta, they are no longer made and being stolen and sold for parts, Re the more modern cars using keyless entry, Parishioners are advised to put key fobs in a biscuit tin or a Faraday pouch for safety so the keys cannot be cloned outside the property. Number plate theft is also rising. It was agreed that this information will be added to the website.

9. PLANNING

9.1 To receive the latest planning report & discuss applications:

The Clerk had circulated the latest planning report prior to the meeting, this was briefly discussed.

9.2 To discuss recent applications, any new planning enforcements & progress on any outstanding:

The Clerk had circulated the latest planning report prior to the meeting, this was briefly discussed.

9.3 To update on the Neighbourhood plan:

Cllr Roberts advised that Cllrs had met to discuss the matter since the last meeting. A neutral decision was agreed pending further developments.

10. TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

10.1 To discuss and report on any issues arising:

Cllr Whitaker reported that there is some work planned on Brickendon Lane in the near future but currently, with no set dates. Some information had been provided by Herts Highways.

11. ENVIRONMENT

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

Cllr Roberts advised that he has identified a lot of the parish verges and what status they are in terms of them being common land, owned, or public land. Cllr Roberts is liaising

with Cllr Kaye. Should the PC end up taking ownership of the verges, the PC will be responsible for their maintenance.

11.2 To update on progress on fencing surrounding the Village green & green on Fanshaws Lane:

Cllr Roberts reported that new Fencing around Fanshaws Lane Green had now been installed. Cllrs had previously discussed and agreed that although the perimeter fencing surrounding the village green does need replacing it was costly to do this in one go. The PC will allocate £2000 per annum within the precept to replace the fencing. It was agreed that a survey will take place to ascertain areas of greatest need.

11.3 To update on installing Electric car charger points in the Parish:

Cllr Roberts updated again that, from a supply point of view, rural areas such as our parish are low priority for instal. Resident Richard Greaves, has started to investigate alternative companies who are willing to put in charging points in rural areas. Cllr Roberts will follow this up.

11.4 To update on the Environmental Improvement Grant Scheme:

Cllr Roberts advised that as residents Lawrence Price and Julie Greaves have agreed to manage the naturalisation project (see item 11.3), it was considered that this grant scheme may well be an opportunity for some funding and that a meeting should be arranged for discussion in conjunction with item 11.3.

11.5 To update on the potential "naturalisation" of areas on the village green:

Lawrence Price and Julie Greaves have agreed to manage this so we should set up a meeting with them to discuss this and the Environment Grant Scheme above.

11.6 To update on celebration for D day 80 in June 2024 & beacon purchase:

Cllr Roberts reported that Cllr Alistair Whitaker is managing the beacon production along with AT Bone and already has the pole. Dry weather is awaited to instal the concrete base. The exact location to be determined after a site inspection.

12. FINANCE

12.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts:

The clerk had circulated the last accounts summary prior to the meeting. These were approved.

13. Matters for future consideration: none

14. Confirmation of the dates of the meetings: Annual parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council on Thursday 23rd May 2024 at 7pm. (one meeting will follow the other).

It was agreed and approved to change the September meeting to Thursday 12th September 2024.

15. To close the meeting:

Cllr Roberts closed the meeting at 8.35pm

(notes taken by Cllr O'Donnell in the Clerks absence)

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ADDENDUM

Fanshaws Room Committee meeting held in Fanshaws Room Thursday 29th February 2024

Meeting opened at 7.05pm

Present: Linda Ashley, Brenda Lambie, Tony Roberts, Jean Retallick, Alison Blakey

Apologies for absence: Lawrence Price

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes approved.

Matters arising

*Alison has ordered the Marquee from BK Marquees for the village social on the 8th June.
Robert has paid the £200 deposit.*

The Green

The Parish Council has been given first refusal to buy the Village Green from the present owner Mr Jenson. Tony is negotiating with Mr Jenson's land agent. If successful Tony is hoping that the Parish Council and Fanshaws Room will each be able donate £10,000 each towards the purchase with the remainder being raised by village residents. There are other options but they would be more complicated and more time consuming. It is hoped that if a sale can be negotiated it could be completed within the next few months. Fanshaws Room Committee has agreed that this would be affordable and a huge benefit to the village now and in the future.

Treasurers Report

As of 29th February Fanshaws Room bank balance was £22,204

Robert has been in touch with National Westminster Bank regarding bank access for Lawrence and Alison. The bank informed Robert that they had not sent out the paperwork for this to be completed and that Robert will have to start the process again.

Hall report

Bookings for the hall are more or less at pre-pandemic levels just now. There is still a regular Tuesday morning Pilates booking and the cycle clubs are currently getting dates in the diary. North Road CC have just paid £660 for their season starting on Tuesday 7 May, with two Sunday sessions before that. There is also an election booking on 2 May for which we will receive £450. Brenda has re-designed the income/expenditure list for the coming year to incorporate space for Bank Transfers which have now taken over from cheques. Fortunately some still pay with cash which means the cleaner can be paid in cash and Brenda can purchase necessary cleaning items and loo rolls.

There is an intermittent roof leak in the ladies cloakroom which should be looked at by a roofer and mended during the summer. There are no other maintenance issues that Brenda is currently aware of.

FETE

Tony reported on behalf of the fete committee.

Marcus is booked and Lawrence is hoping to also book last year's band.

Birds of Prey, the Dog Show and St John's ambulance are all in place. The food and bar will be the same as last year.

Alison will start sending out the donation letter.

Brenda has spoken to Fiona about the Bayford School stall. Tony has not heard from her but will try to speak to her soon.

There are no issues of concern

Village Events

The lighting of The Beacon to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of D-day on 6th June.

Tony reported that there will be a permanent concrete foundation for the Beacon into which will sit the removable telegraph pole with a metal basket on top for the Beacon.

As the concrete block will be permanent Brenda suggested putting it near to the village sign on the side of the green away from any trees and playing children.

This will need to be installed in the early spring to allow the concrete to cure and make a safe base for the beacon.

Village Social on 8th June

Tony will ask the Pizza company, the village BBQ team and the village bar team if they would be willing to work again at this year's event.

Lawrence will be asked to source a band for the evening

Tables, chairs, matting and dance floor have been ordered with the marquee.

AOB

None

Next Meeting will be on 18th April and will include the AGM

Meeting closed at 8pm