



BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Laura Brooks-Payne
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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 28TH November 2024 at 7.30pm at Fanshaws Room, Brickendon Lane, Brickendon Liberty.

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

NOT PRESENT: Cllr Alistair Whitaker, Cllr Tim Hoskin

IN ATTENDANCE: District Cllr Tim Hoskin, Cllr Jonathan Kaye, 4 members of the Public, Clerk – Laura Brooks-Payne

- 1. To receive apologies for absence and approve:** Cllr Alistair Whitaker, Cllr Tim Hoskin
- 2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** None
- 3. To approve minutes of Parish Council meeting on Thursday 12th September 2024:**
Minutes unanimously approved.
- 4. To receive a report from District Cllr Tim Hoskin:**
Cllr Hoskin had sent an update as follows;
 - LCWIP – work has started checking out the main routes on the ground, this is the audit process where the viability of the bigger routes are checked out.
 - Litter bin rationalisation – the East/North Herts team are starting to implement this programme. This may involve the removal of public litter bins identified to be duplicates or poorly positioned. There has been a great deal of thought placed in this process and it should enable sensible savings to be made prior to the new waste collection contract starting in May
 - There is likely to be a further wave of UK Shared Prosperity Fund monies available next year. This is great news as we had feared that this year would be the last. We will endeavour to dedicate an amount of this (likely lesser amount) to environmental improvement of parish and town buildings.
 - The refresh of the District Plan is continuing with the evidence to support the arguments made about say improved building standards is being built up by the officers. This is a long process and is likely to take until 2027.
 - The new waste contract is set to start in May 2025. A communication plan is being designed that will be aimed at explaining and helping residents understand the changes with various social media and more traditional leafleting and a FAQ section on the East Herts website – more to follow.
 - I am continuing working with the officers to develop a new parking strategy for East Herts, this should be put up for approval early in the New Year

Standing orders suspended for public participation

5. Comments from members of the public:

A resident reported that there is a large branch overhanging to road. Cllr Roberts will liaise with the landowner.

Petanque Club requested a bag of road salt. This was agreed.

Standing orders reinstated from here

6. OPEN SPACES

6.1 To update on two new Defibrillator locations:

Cllr Roberts reported that he will seek an alternative electrician to install the Defib at Highfield.

6.2 To update on the purchase of the Village Green:

Cllr Roberts advised that the solicitors have made progress but is slow post budget.

6.3 To organise a working party to undertake some ditch clearing:

Cllr Roberts reported that by clearing the culvert on Cock Lane where the road regularly floods, the issue may be alleviated. The other problem location is adjacent to Bourne Orchard on Brickendon Lane. Cllr Roberts will post a message on the PC Whats App group to gather volunteers to do the work.

7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE

7.1 To receive the latest minutes:

Linda Ashley read out the minutes. See Addendum.

In addition, the Christmas tree for the village green had been delivered, lighting has been organised. Cllr Roberts reported that the fete made a profit of approx. £3500.

8. LOCAL CRIME

8.1 To receive a report on incidents of local crime:

The Clerk had circulated the reports for September and October prior to the meeting and read reports for both:

13th Theft of parcel from Brickendon Green
October – interference with a motor vehicle

Other News from the reports;

The new Policing Priorities for September to December 2024 have been decided for the East Herts Rural areas following the meetings held last month.

BUNTINGFORD – ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR – Norfolk Road Bike Pump Track.

Monday – Sunday between 15:00pm – 18:00pm

EAST HERTS RURAL – HARECOURSING – Wellpond Green and nearby rural areas.

Monday – Friday 17:00pm – 22:00pm

Saturday – Sunday 08:00am – 16:00pm

There has been a slight upward trend in car theft across the county. Please do report suspicious vehicles that may be seen driving around in your area. If you are able to record the MAKE, COLOUR and REGISTRATION number of the vehicle, or have relevant video doorbell footage of

any incidents in your area, that would be very helpful. Any information can be passed onto police via 101 or online.

Your local policing teams are continuing regular patrols in hotspot areas at key times. The new Herts Connected system that delivers Hertfordshire police's crime alerts has started to gather pace. Registered local residents can receive the latest crime or emergency updates and alerts, as well as information about policing events in your area. Local residents can get involved in helping to make their local area a safer place, tell us what police should be doing in their area, shape the initiatives that help to keep people and property safe, and tell us what matters are causing local communities harm.

As per our current policing priorities, the local Neighbourhood Policing Team based in Buntingford, have been patrolling hotspot areas for hare coursing and poaching. Various vehicles of interest have been noted and/or stopped, with suspected hare coursers currently under investigation, and a group of poachers recently caught and sanctioned.

There has been pro-active work related to fly tipping in the county, with various suspects identified. Officers from East Herts Environment Agency are currently investigating and looking to sanction and/or prosecute several offenders. You can report fly tips via their website: <https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/bins-waste-and-recycling/dumped-rubbish-fly-tipping-and-littering>

In the past month, officers have arrested members of three different criminal organisations in relation to vehicle thefts and burglaries in East Herts.

With the clocks going back and the nights drawing in earlier, there can be an upward trend in crimes such as shed break ins or theft from motor vehicles. Please always ensure doors and windows are always closed and locked, and do not leave any valuables on display.

We would be most grateful if you could continue to share the link below in any parish communications, and especially on social media, to encourage as many local residents as possible to sign up.

<https://www.hertsconnected.co.uk/>

Additional Crime Prevention Advice can be found via this link:

<https://www.herts.police.uk/cp/crime-prevention/>

8. PLANNING

9.1 To receive the latest planning report & discuss applications:

The Clerk had circulated the planning summary prior to the meeting. Two new applications had been received since the last meeting which will be commented on in due course.

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

It was noted that a new Enforcement matter has been identified in Wormley West End, which is now with the EH Enforcement team. It was also noted that the traveller site at the bottom of Fanshaws Lane is still going through the enforcement process, now awaiting an injunction.

9.3 To update on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP):

Cllr Roberts explained that the Golf Club are seeking planning permission for new dwellings via the district plan 'call for sites' route. The PC do not have any allocations for new housing and therefore due to the time/effort/resource requirement to create a NP it was agreed and approved that this will put on hold for the foreseeable future.

9. TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS

10.1 To discuss and report on any issues arising: None though it was noted that Mangrove has been resurfaced.

10. ENVIRONMENT

11.1 To report on the recent litter pick:

Cllr Roberts explained that the event was cancelled due to the strong winds and rain. It was agreed that this will be rearranged for the Spring.

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

Cllr Roberts reported that the company that he currently liaising with, that supply EV chargers, will be issuing a contract to the PC in due course for EV chargers for the Village Green car park.

11.3 To update on the Environmental Improvement Grant Scheme:

Cllr Amanda Whitaker reported that a meeting was held this week with Andrew Taylor from Herts County Council. Cllr Cosford attended with interested resident Lawrence Price. A plan will be put in place in due course which will attract some funding and voluntary help in the next financial year. This may include leaving some areas of the green not regularly cut to attract and increase wildflowers and insects: 'naturalisation'. It was noted that the funding will not cover new fencing around the perimeter of the green.

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

See item 11.3.

11.5 To update on possible erection of bird & bat boxes on trees on the village green:

Cllr Roberts explained that the recent report written by a resident has interesting projects within. The report will be circulated to Cllrs.

11. FINANCE

12.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts:

The Clerk had circulated the latest accounts prior to the meeting. These were unanimously approved.

12.2 To discuss and approve the budget & precept for 2025-2026:

The Clerk had circulated the proposed draft budget and precept document to Cllrs prior to the meeting. The Clerk had added Chairmans comments. Each Budget line was discussed. It was discussed that the fencing surrounding the green does require replacement during the next financial year. There is a surplus for the current financial year which will also be used towards the project but more funds will be required. It was unanimously agreed that quotes will be sought for the project in order to ascertain precept requirements. Approval of the precept amount will therefore be deferred to the January meeting.

12. Matters for future consideration: none

13. Confirmation of the dates of the next meeting:

The date of Thursday 23rd January 2025 was approved.

14. To confirm meeting dates for 2025 – 23rd January, 27th March, 22nd May, 24th July, 25th September, 27th November: Dates approved.

15. To close the meeting: Cllr Roberts closed the meeting at

Laura Brooks-Payne - Parish Clerk

ADDENDUM

Meeting opened at 7.04pm

Present: Linda Ashley, Brenda Lambie, Jean Retallick, Alison Blakey, Robert Williams, Tony Roberts, Lawrence Price.

Apologies for absence: None

Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising

Minutes approved.

Matters arising

None

Treasurers Report

Robert reported that as of the end of September FR had £12,946.88 and £9,856.26 making a total of £22,803.14, minus £10,000 for the purchase of the Village Green and £1000 for donations to this year's charities.

Hall report

Brenda reported that at present there are no maintenance issues.

There are a few parties and training days booked.

The cycling season is coming to an end and will restart in April/May next year. The cycling group may change the day of their hall booking.

Tony asked what the income is from the hall rentals. Robert did not know exactly without checking but the income is good and covers all costs.

The rental fee is £10 for residents and £15 for non-residents.

Payments are now mainly cash or direct bank payments.

Fete

Tony reported that the organisation leading up to the event was straight forward and the fete went well, especially as the Cadets were not in attendance this year.

The feedback was good as was the weather and atmosphere.

The food tent used two dumpy bags for rubbish which although initially seemed a good idea turned out not to be as all the rubbish had then to be put into black bin bags to be removed from the site. Next year the rubbish will be put directly into the bin bags.

Lawrence said that unfortunately the Birds of Prey had to cancel the night before. This was disappointing but unavoidable.

Linda noted that there was a problem with the car park vouchers not being filled in correctly. In future those in charge of parking need to be sure they fill in the whole ticket.

Some people were hoping to see wildlife boxes for sale. Perhaps next year either Dave, the outside woodworker or Hertfordshire Zoo can supply.

Robert said the takings for the fete were over £7000 but this is without deductions. The car park takings were down on last year, the raffle and teas were up.

Linda asked if the Fete Committee will do it again next year. Tony would not commit, at the moment.

Christmas Events

The children's Christmas Party will be held on 7th December at Hertfordshire Zoo.

Brenda has sent last year's list of eligible children to Becky. Becky and Amanda will buy the gifts for the children and co-ordinate with Hertfordshire Zoo. Linda will contact Amanda.

Brenda has advertised the event in the Parish Magazine. Linda will put it on the Village WhatsApp and remind parents to submit the names of any eligible children who are new to the village by 23rd

November.

John Lambie will be Father Christmas.

The older residents.

Rachel has offered to host the lunch at the Farmers Boy. She has offered to supply the food and Fanshaw's Room will pay for the drinks. This is the same as last year.

It will be held on Thursday 12th December.

Eligible older residents who can't attend will be given a hamper, which Hannah will organise.

Tony will ask Hannah if she will be able to supply and put up the Christmas tree on the village green. It was decided it should go in the same place as last year as it is central and close to electricity supply.

Future of Fanshaw's Room Committee

Since Covid there has been a large annual summer event with music, food and bar that has been free to residents. Unfortunately this can't continue unless more money can be raised for the village.

Lawrence suggested having a social working group to co-ordinate future events and create new types of events that may bring in funds.

AOB

Lawrence reported from the Environmental Group.

He has been coordinating with Andrew Taylor from Herts County Council.

There are a number of jobs that need to be done around the village, replacing fencing, bulb planting, reseeding, and creating wildflower areas.

The Countryside Management Team can help carry out the heavy jobs.

Funding is only available for biodiversity projects.

PC has set aside £2000 per annum for the next five years for non biodiversity repairs, maintaining Parish assets.

Lawrence is waiting for Andrew to confirm when the CMT will be available.

The bench on the Little Green will need funding.

Tony has replaced the tennis court notice board.

The tennis courts will need to be advertised in the early spring.

David Oates is looking into an electronic booking system.

Jean says the hedge around the tennis court needs to be cut back again.

Next Meeting will be on 16th January 2025 at 7.00pm.

Meeting closed at 7.28pm