

# Furneux Pelham Parish Council Meeting

11/09/2014  
20:00  
Village Hall

Note taker: Clerk

Councillors: D Pigg, H Smart, C Cantes  
M Watson, J Birch, D White

## Agenda

- 1) Apologies
- 2) Adoption of Previous Minutes
- 3) Community Policing Update by Amanda Higham
- 3) Matters Arising Follow up from the Chair on action items in July minutes
- 4) Finance Update on current Financial position-clerk
- 5) Allotments Progress update from Janet Birch/Debbie White
- 6) Highways Chairman to comment on latest situation re EHDC work on local roads. (Item carried over from July Meeting)
- 7) Correspondence

# Minutes

## 1) Apologies

Apologies were received from M Watson

## 2) Adoption of Previous Minutes

The Minutes from the July meeting were adopted unanimously.

## 3) Community Policing - Report by Amanda Higham

The clerk pre-empted this agenda item by referring to an Email he had sent to Amanda at the end of July concerning the manner in which Agricultural vehicles were being driven on Parish roads . The Email appeared to come from the Parish Council, whereas it had been intended to represent the concerns of some villagers and of the clerk in his personal capacity. The clerk apologised to both the police and the Parish Council for the apparent misrepresentation.

Amanda summarised the crime situation over the last year. July had been particularly bad for Shed break-ins, and there was concern that thefts of oil would increase in the coming autumn months. The police are planning to increase the number of random stops , and to increase general visibility in the area in an effort to combat this threat, following some success with this policy earlier in the year. She also repeated the advice that all sheds should be properly secured and all tools marked with UV ink. The police are also planning to increase their useage of the OWL network crime warning system in order to speed up response times. The Chairman thanked Amanda for her efforts, and for the efforts of the 4 PCs and 6 PCOs that operate in the Buntingford area.

## 4) Matters Arising from the July Meeting

- H Smart advised that he had not yet met with A Brunner concerning the alleged pollution/ documents issue from the Pallets Wood yard
- The Clerk advised that he had received only one quote (since withdrawn) for the refurbishment of the Bus Shelter outside the Brewery Tap. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested in the work, then they should inform the Clerk.
- The Chairman advised that Greene King have received 2 written bids for the land adjacent to the Village Hall Car Park. In the circumstances it was therefore unlikely that GK will be able or willing to donate the land for use as a village playground.
- Overhanging hedges are still a problem on some village roads. The clerk will post a further notice in St Mary's Review outlining the process whereby villagers can action pruning work with EHDC which is then billed back to the landowner.
- The clerk advised that the Environment Agency had been in touch with him concerning plans to dredge the river Ash between the Brewery Tap and the Sewage works. This work should start in October and will help speed the flow of water away from the Brewery development.

## 5) Finance

The clerk presented the Council's expenditure since the beginning of the 2014 financial year. The Council is fully solvent with a cash balance of £14500 as at the beginning of September.

The clerk advised that the number of village Hall car park permits granted this year did not seem to match with the number of cars regularly parked overnight in the car park. It was agreed that the Clerk should post polite notices on those vehicles which appear not to have a permit, requesting payment.

## 6) Allotments

- The Chairman offered to loan his cultivator to the Association if they needed to cultivate the untended plots for weed control purposes.
- J Birch has still to contact Veolia re the leak outside the Hall to verify that it is not from the Allotment water supply.
- J Birch will also follow up with Veolia re the lack of any Water Bill for the allotments since the supply was initiated.

## 7) Highways

The Chairman read a report from his meeting with Highways earlier in the Year. It is noted that some of the worst stretches of road in the village have now been resurfaced. Work on the stretch from the East End cross roads past Clay Chimneys House will be considered within the 2015 works budget.

## 8) Correspondence

- The Chairman allowed C Clarkson (in the audience ) to address the Parish Council regarding his request that the Council should finance their use of the Village hall for Community First Response training in the village. The Council agreed to finance a maximum of 12 sessions at £15 /session, with payment direct to the Village Hall Committee.
- H Smart advised the council of the efforts of a charity walk by Tim Bonner (and others) to raise money for the installation of 2 Defibrillators in the village, one fixed and one mobile. Tim's efforts have raised over £2600, and he would like to involve the Parish Council in determining the correct position in the village for the fixed unit, plus financial support if the funds raised did not cover the full cost. The Council agreed to donate up to £500, as it was felt that this was a very worthwhile cause that would benefit the whole village. Rob Moss (in the audience) agreed to explore the possibility of siting a unit on the wall of the school, as well as seeing whether the school could act as the purchaser, if this would result in the most legally tax efficient route for procurement
- The Council have received a complaint that the Shredder at the Pallets Yard has been moved outside, increasing the noise pollution for the whole village. H Smart agreed to include this issue in his discussions with A Brunner, and also to investigate making a Freedom of Information request to EHDC regarding the actions that they have taken to enforce the legal operation of the Wood Yard, given the large number of complaints made over the past few years.

- It was noted that the vacant village hall sign had been replaced by a picture of Darth Vader. H Smart agreed to follow up on the status of the replacement sign with Matt Mason (Sign since replaced)
- The Council agreed to donate £100 to the Citizens Advice Bureau and £100 to Herts Air Ambulance .

The Meeting closed at 21:30. The next meeting is on November 6th