

Furneux Pelham Parish Council Meeting

09/07/2015
20:00
Village Hall

Note taker: Clerk

Councillors: H Smart, C Cantes
D White, S Bratt, R Gale

Agenda

1) Apologies

2) Adoption of Previous Minutes

3) Matters Arising

Follow up from the Chair on action items in May minutes

4) Finance

Report by Clerk re process of setting up new Councillor Cheque signatories

5) Co-Option of Parish Councillors

Councillors to provide feedback re filling the remaining vacancy on the Council, and to decide next steps

6) Appointment of new Clerk

Clerk to propose candidate

7) Car Park

1) Council to decide fees for overnight parking for the 2015/16 year

2) Council to decide if additional lighting is required

7) Correspondence

Minutes

1) Apologies

Apologies were received from H Smart

2) Adoption of previous Minutes

The Minutes from the May meeting were adopted unanimously.

3) Matters Arising

- S Bratt confirmed that A Brunner was willing to continue working on the Pallets issue. As yet, S Bratt had been unable to meet with H Smart to facilitate the hand over of the working file. **Action S Bratt.**
- D Pigg has advised C Cantes that M Watson can continue as a Trustee of the Mary Wheatley Trust although he is no longer a Councillor. The Council asked the clerk to verify the terms of the Trust with Malcolm Ewan. **Action Clerk**
- C Cantes has spoken to C Hadley with regards to the Parish footpath map. The map is out of date and C Hadley has now forwarded the web link to D White so that a current copy can be downloaded directly.

4) Finance

The clerk explained the process necessary to enable each Councillor to have cheque signatory powers over the Parish Council Bank Account. Personal Details forms were given out, and the Clerk requested that these should be returned to the Clerk as soon as possible, with two verifications of identity (passport, utility bill). The clerk undertook to return the passports as quickly as possible. **Action Councillors.**

5) Co-option of Parish Councillor

S Bratt and D White agreed to follow up on two potential candidates, and if successful, encourage them to contact the Chairman and /or the Clerk. **Action S Bratt/ D White**

6) Appointment of New Clerk

R Gale introduced Fiona Forth to the Council (present in audience) He pointed out that she had done an exemplary job of preparing and submitting the Parish accounts for external audit for the last two years, so already had a good working knowledge of the Councils affairs. Her background is financial, and she has worked as a government auditor.

The Council unanimously agreed to her appointment, effective August 1. C Cantes proposed that the Council should revert to paying the clerk for their services, and it was agreed that she should be employed on the payscale appropriate for her experience and expertise .

7) Car Park

- For 2015/16, the Council unanimously agreed to keep the charge for overnight parking in the Car Park at £50/year. Clerk to prepare and deliver Invoices as in previous years. **Action Clerk**
- The Council agreed to donate a maximum of £150 to the village Hall Committee so that the exterior lights could be upgraded at the same time as planned internal electrical work is being carried out. C Cantes offered a spare LED spotlight as part of this initiative, if the Village Hall Committee wished to use it. **Action D White**

8) Correspondence

- The Council reviewed the Village Hierarchy Study carried out by EHDC planning dept. It was identified that there were several errors in the data recorded for Furneux Pelham, and C Cantes undertook to respond to EHDC with corrections.
- S Bratt raised the issue of the new Transparency code, and whether the Council was compliant with the Acts provisions. The clerk advised that HAPTC could help Councils with the steps that needed to be taken, and that there was funding available. The Council may need to set up a separate web site. **Action F Forth to investigate further with HAPTC and advise accordingly.**
- S Bratt wondered if the Council could take a more pro-active role in speeding up the introduction of faster broadband to the village. The clerk advised that there was already a significant initiative underway by the North Herts Rural Broadband Organisation. **Action Clerk to provide details to S Bratt**
- D White advised that some work was needed to improve access to the allotments, and that some of the hedges were getting very overgrown. **Action D White** to discuss directly with E Barclay, and also to ask him what the rent will be for the next 3 year term. The council also authorised D White to spend up to £50 for paid help to clear the overgrown plots ahead of covering with plastic sheet.

D White also asked that dog owners be especially vigilant about clearing up dog faeces on the paths to the allotments. The Parish council supported this, and asks all villagers to ensure that their dogs do not foul any of the pavements in the village.

The meeting ended at 21:10

The next meeting is on September 3.