

FURNEUX PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 2 March 2017, at 8pm in the Furneux Pelham Village Hall.

Present: Cllr C Cantes, Cllr R Gale, Cllr H Smart and Cllr Mrs D White.

In attendance: F Forth, Parish Clerk, 2 members of the public and Cllr J Jones (EHC).

Prior to the meeting starting, Cllr Jeff Jones was given the opportunity to introduce himself. He is the Deputy Chairman of East Herts Council and standing in the forthcoming Herts County Council election for Buntingford. Due to proposed boundary changes, Furneux Pelham will be part of this ward.

17/12) Apologies

Apologies received and approved from Cllr S Bratt.

17/13) Declarations of interest

None.

17/14) Adoption of previous minutes

It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12 January 2017 as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

17/15) Matters arising

- a. Common land - Cllr H Smart reported that a meeting of interested parties took place 2 weeks ago. A summary of that meeting has been issued and the feedback received is being reviewed. In due course, a report will be made to the Parish Council. **Action: Cllr H Smart**
- b. Councillor vacancy - a replacement has still not been found to fill the current vacancy. Position to be re-advertised including a specification for the role and time involved. **Action: Clerk**
- c. Telecommunications - BT fault number to be added to the website shortly. **Action: Clerk**
- d. Parishioner feedback - see item 17/16
- e. New homes bonus - still to be progressed. **Action: Clerk**

17/16) Parishioner feedback

- a. 30 mile speed limit - response from Highways is that need to collect a large number of signatures and make a presentation to EHC to highlight the need to move the signs out further. Based on previous experience of trying to achieve a 20 mph limit by the school, which was unsuccessful, it was agreed to put this matter on hold for the time being.
- b. Replace sign where ford/river divides - Highways have stated that as the sign was not provided by them, they are not prepared to reinstate or provide a new sign. It was agreed to search for the previous sign and reinstate this. If not found, consideration will be given to purchasing a replacement sign. **Action: Chair**
- c. Litter and flytipping - still being progressed. As a reminder, the Chair stated that all residents should be making use of the online reporting facility to report litter and flytipping.
(Link: <http://www.eastherts.gov.uk/flytipping>)
- d. Branches past the sewerage works - branches have been dealt with.
- e. Coffee morning in the Village Hall - Cllr Mrs D White reported that this had been discussed at the last Village Hall meeting and is still being progressed.

17/17) Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting

The Chair stated that the action plan from last year's Annual Meeting had been good for focusing attention at the Parish Council on matters important locally. Following discussions, it was agreed that a similar format be used for the meeting in May with the inclusion of representation from the Village Hall to gather feedback in respect of the playground proposed at the rear of the Village Hall (see item 17/21). **Action: Cllr S Bratt and Cllr Mrs D White**
Meeting to be advertised in the Parish Magazine. **Action: Clerk**

17/18) Finance

- a. Update on current financial position
A statement of the budget to actual comparison as at 2 March, as circulated, was received. The financial position is on target to date. The Clerk reported that the position as shown is effectively the outturn. A further £200 of expenditure to be accounted for.
- b. Expenditure
It was RESOLVED to approve the following expenditure:
 - Village Hall, Hall hire £36.00
 - Clerk's expenses £12.60Cheque and supporting documentation duly signed.

The Clerk reported that Affinity Water had read the wrong meter again and a revised bill is being issued for £20.91, previously bill was for £61.86.

It was RESOLVED that the revised Affinity Water bill and the Clerk's salary for March (£174.14) be approved and cheques to be signed when due.

c. Donation to Stop Stansted Expansion

It was RESOLVED to continue to pay the minimum annual membership fee of £10.

d. Funding further repairs to Whitebarns Lane

The Chair provided an update regarding the adoption of Whitebarns Lane. His request for a specification for the £80,000 work required to bring the Lane up to standard before adoption has been refused by HCC. Following discussion, it was confirmed that should the emergency services not be able to drive up the Lane, any subsequent fatality would be their responsibility. The Chair will persist with Highways to obtain the specification for the works required.

Given the current state of the Lane, as an emergency measure, it was RESOLVED to ask Paul Turner to spend up to £200 to address this winter's issues.

e. Community taxi trial in conjunction with Albury Parish Council

Given that the Saturday bus service has ceased, Albury Parish Council have been funding a Saturday taxi service for 8 residents. As only 4 residents are making use of this service, a proposal is made that the remaining 4 seats are filled by Furneux Pelham residents which would cost the Parish Council £35 per week, minus return fares of £3 per person.

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED that Furneux Pelham would not participate in this scheme as considered too expensive long term and not for the benefit of the village as a whole.

f. Allotment fees

Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to retain the current fee structure of £35.00 for a full plot and £17.50 for a half plot. In addition, there is a 50% discount if an existing plot holder introduces a new one.

Cllr Mrs D White reported that there are still 9 plots vacant and these have, and are being, regularly advertised in the Parish Magazine and to neighbouring parishes.

17/19) Village Hall carpark

The Chair reported that it had become evident that a number of people were parking overnight in the carpark without a permit. With approval of the Parish Council, he will write to those concerned, suggesting that they purchase a permit if they wish to continue parking in the carpark.

17/20) Allotments

See update provided as part of item 17/18f)

17/21) Village Hall Committee

CLlr Mrs D White reported that a number of improvements were being proposed. New curtains have been approved and work in respect of the floor and toilets is being considered at the next meeting on Monday. In addition, the next meeting will consider developing the garden at the rear of the Village Hall into a community play area for all ages.

17/22) Correspondence

a. Planning applications

All planning applications received have been circulated.

b. Communications to Parish Clerk

The Clerk reported that the Pelham's history exhibition will be on at the Hertford Museum from 1st April to 17th June with free admission.

It was also highlighted that the Parish Councillor's disclosure of interest's forms should be available on the website and these will be added shortly.

c. Communications to or from Councillors

Feedback was received that the meeting to launch the draft Conservation Area Character Appraisal and Management Proposals report was well received.

The Chair reported that he'd contacted Highways regarding having the road swept past the Village Hall to Brewery Tap but was informed that it would only be undertaken if considered bad enough.

17/23) Residents comments

Minutes in the Parish Magazine

In response to a question raised about the minutes being published in the Parish Magazine, the Clerk confirmed that this would be undertaken again in future.

Draft minutes are published on the website and notified on the Facebook page.

17/24) Next meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council is on the 11th May 2017 in the Village Hall at 8pm, preceded by the Annual Parish Assembly and Annual Meeting at 7:30pm

The meeting ended at 9:10pm.