

FURNEUX PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the annual meeting held on Thursday, 11 May 2017, at 7:55pm in the Furneux Pelham Village Hall.

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

In attendance: F Forth, Parish Clerk and 5 members of the public.

17/25) Report from the Parish Council

Cllr C Cantes, as Chairman for the preceding year, summarised the key points from the last year. (Full report filed in the Minute Book) Cllr C Cantes stated he had no desire to be nominated again as Chairman and resigned. He was thanked for his service.

17/26) Chairman

RESOLVED that Cllr S Bratt be duly elected to the office of Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing civic year. Cllr S Bratt duly signed his declaration of office.

17/27) Vice Chairman

RESOLVED that Cllr C Cantes be duly elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the ensuing civic year.

17/28) Apologies

Apologies received and approved from Cllr H Smart who temporarily left at 8pm to attend another meeting in the village.

17/29) Declarations of interest

None.

17/30) Adoption of previous minutes

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 19 May 2016 as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 2 March 2017 as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

17/31) Matters arising

- a. Common land - Cllr C Cantes provided an update. Cllr H Smart's documentation of the meeting held of all interested parties is still being worked on to incorporate feedback received. Difficulty encountered in trying to produce a document that suits all parties involved. **Action: Cllr H Smart**
- b. Councillor vacancy - no progress has been made to fill the vacancy. **Action: All**
- c. Telecommunications - BT fault number has been added to the website as part of useful links and numbers.
- d. Parishioner feedback - the sign where the ford/river divides is there somewhere buried in the nettles. It either needs to be found and reinstalled or a new sign commissioned. The Chairman agreed to look for the old sign. **Action: Chairman**
- e. New homes bonus - the Clerk reported, based on information provided by East Herts Council, that the bonus is based on the council tax raised on each new property. The bonus was originally for 6 years but this is being reduced down to 4 years in 2018/19. 25% of the overall grant received is paid to the Parish Council. The bonus becomes payable in the year following the new property being added to the council tax database.
- f. Car park - a permit is required to park overnight and an audit of car park users is in progress. This will continue until the next meeting when an update will be provided. **Action: Cllr C Cantes**

17/32) Parishioner feedback

The Chairman invited feedback from residents' present and the following points were made:

- Playground - suggestion made that money from the new houses being built could be used. Cllr Mrs D White highlighted that the Village Hall Management Committee were investigating using part of the garden for a playground that would be suitable for all ages, or possibly the bottom end of the car park. It was noted that parking could be an issue for the Village Hall if a big function was held and the playground is sited at the bottom end of the car park;
- Speeding - an issue up and down The Street. It was confirmed that it has been raised by the School Governors as well. Consideration could be given to monitoring via a plain clothes police officer or by use of vehicle activated signs;

- Broadband;
- Whitebarns Lane - the issues and action taken was outlined by a concerned resident. Cllr C Cantes reiterated the points made in his report for last year as this is a long standing issue. Suggestion made that it is better to write individual letters as opposed to all signing one. Further work is being undertaken by both residents and Cllr C Cantes regarding the legal status and ownership.

Note - Cllr H Smart returned during this item, at 8:35pm.

17/33) Councillor responsibilities

RESOLVED that Councillor responsibilities would remain unchanged. These are as follows:

- Cllr S Bratt Business/Broadband/ Waste Directives
- Cllr C Cantes Highways
- Cllr R Gale Footpaths
- Cllr H Smart Planning applications/Common land
- Cllr Mrs D White Village Hall/Allotments

17/34) Finance

a. Annual Governance Statement

Statement is section 1 of the annual return which was circulated prior to the meeting. Content of the statement considered and approved.

b. Accounting Statement

Accounting statement is section 2 of the annual return which summarises the detailed income and expenditure account. Content of both version of accounts considered and approved.

c. Annual Internal Audit Report

Internal audit report is section 3 of the annual return. The Clerk highlighted that the review did not identify any matters. Content of the report noted.

d. Compliance with the Transparency Code

The Clerk confirmed that the requirements of the Transparency Code had been complied with, as demonstrated by the documentation circulated with the agenda.

e. Update on current financial position

A statement of the budget to actual comparison as at 11 May, as circulated, was received. The financial position is on target to date.

f. Expenditure

RESOLVED to approve the following expenditure:

HAPTC, subscription	£300.35
Fred Knight, litter picking & grass cutting	£66.75
AON, insurance renewal	£306.14
Clerk's salary, April	£158.75
Clerk's expenses	£57.75

Cheques and supporting documentation duly signed.

RESOLVED to approve the expenses for the Annual Parish Assembly & Internal Audit to a maximum limit of £60.00.

g. Standing Order for Clerk's salary

RESOLVED to approve a Standing Order for the Clerk's salary for the remainder of the year for £158.75 per month.

h. Car park fees

RESOLVED to maintain the car park fee at £50.

17/35) Allotments

Cllr Mrs White provided an update. There are 6 full plots and 3 half plots currently vacant. It was agreed that funds could be claimed, up to £50, for weed killer to maintain the path. In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that the rent for the allotment is not due until 1st October. Following a suggestion, it was agreed that a note regarding the allotments would be included in a reception package for the residents of the new houses being built.

17/36) Village Hall Committee

Cllr Mrs D White reported that new curtains were in place. Further improvement works are planned, for example to re-sand and re-surface the floor. A 'meet and greet' session had been held on the 8th May which had gone well. It is intended that this will be self-run in future, with sessions taking place every other month. A donation request to be made to the Parish Council in due course for the hall hire.

17/37) Correspondence

a. Planning applications

No planning applications had been received. Given notices in the village, the lack of notification to be investigated. **Action: Clerk**

b. Communications to Parish Clerk

The Clerk referred to the annual cycle ride being organised on the 3rd September in aid of the troops at Carver Barracks. Details are on the website.

c. Communications to or from Councillors

Cllr R Gale reported that an application had been made for a grant to re-surface the path to the allotments from the 3P scheme. It is currently not known whether the application has been successful.

Cllr C Cantes provided an update regarding the pallet yard. Currently has been put up for sale to test the market. If proves unsaleable as a business, it potentially becomes possible for housing to be built, logically 8 3-5 bedroomed homes.

17/38) Residents comments

Planning application for Dingley Dell

Applicant and architect were present and had expected the planning application to be discussed. The Clerk to investigate. **Action: Clerk**

17/39) Next meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council is on the 6th July 2017 in the Village Hall at 8pm

The meeting ended at 9:14pm.