

FURNEUX PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 2 November 2017, at 8:00 pm in the Furneux Pelham Village Hall.

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

In attendance: F Forth, Parish Clerk and 4 members of the public.

17/69) Apologies

None.

17/70) Declarations of interest

None.

17/71) Adoption of previous minutes

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 7 September 2017 as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

17/72) Matters arising

- a. Car park update - Cllr C Cantes reported that he had placed the information supplied by the Clerk on car windscreens with no success. The notice will be revamped to include an additional comment asking for the Parish Council to be notified of cars being parked without permits. The Clerk stated that those who normally pay for permits have paid for the forthcoming year. **Action: Cllr C Cantes**
- b. Allotment:
 - Cllr Mrs D White reported that an estimate had been obtained for the work which will be discussed further as part of finance - see item 17/75c) below;
 - Cllr R Gale reported that volunteers had been sought to clear the footpath but when those didn't eventuate, East Herts Council (EHC) employed contractors to undertake the work. This was completed 2 weeks ago and has been done well;
 - The Clerk stated that the Farm Secretary had written to confirm that Ted Barclay has agreed that the rent should remain at the same level for the remaining 2 years of the lease - £100 per annum. Following discussion, it was agreed that the renewal of the lease is to be started a year before expiry and include seeking a further 7 year lease. **Action: Clerk September 2018**
- c. Whitebarns Lane - see item 17/73 below.

- d. Playground - see item 17/74 below.
- e. Flood risk meeting - the Clerk reminded those present that the Environment Agency is undertaking a project to alleviate the flood risk in the village. A meeting with residents to discuss options in mid-late October was supposed to have occurred. This wasn't possible, as the outline designs of options were not ready, therefore this meeting will now take place in early 2018. Details regarding the project are available on the website.
- f. Parish Magazine advert - advertising the fault reporting was discussed with Cllr G McAndrew (HCC) and he agreed to do this as part of his report in the magazine for the Parish Council.

17/73) Whitebarns Lane

Cllr C Cantes highlighted that progress is being made by the Chair. Cllr H Smart stated that the 'emergency' pothole maintenance had been completed and the bill for this is awaited from Paul Turner who was thanked for doing this work. Note - this is not a Parish Council responsibility but undertaken to support residents affected.

The Chair referred to the last meeting when a helpful response from Circle Anglia Housing had been reported, namely that EHC had a contractual obligation to maintain the access road in perpetuity. Subsequent to that meeting, obtaining further information/documentary evidence from Circle had proved impossible.

As a result, the Chair made contact with EHC and the person spoken to indicated that it was unlikely that the houses would have been transferred without the road. Further discussion highlighted confusion over the road being discussed and therefore the legal team at EHC will investigate this. If the legal team agree that it was not transferred and confirm the obligation, then a survey will be undertaken to identify work required.

If identified that it was transferred to Circle, then documentary evidence of the relevant clause in the transfer contract will be provided.

In addition, it was reported that a Freedom of Information request has been lodged with EHC on this matter.

An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Action: Chair, Cllr C Cantes & Cllr H Smart

17/74) Playground

The Chair recapped the position to date in terms of developing a playground and reported that positive feedback from advertising this on Facebook had been received. In addition, since the last meeting, the Chair, Cllr C Cantes and the Clerk had met with a playground equipment company representative to discuss the feasibility of placing a playground in the bottom end of the car park.

The representative indicated that the proposed site was acceptable but that the Village Hall side would be easier given that the old sewerage plant was under the car park. Cllr R Gale reported that it was unlikely that there were any voids remaining. When the large tree was removed, anything identified was back-filled but if go down 60/70 cm, the pipes will be found.

The following points were discussed:

- Confirmation that the car park was owned by the Parish Council;
- Implications of the site being a flood plain - initial discussions with the Environment Agency indicated that, potentially, little impact but any regulations in place would be complied with; and
- Other sites had been suggested on Facebook:
 - Old Brewery site - still with Grange Builders and a nature reserve as per section 106 agreement;
 - Football field - owned by Greene King plus concerns about air quality given location to the pallet site;

Key factor against these alternatives is that the Parish Council does not own these sites.

It was agreed that a Playground Committee be established to scope the project, supported by the Parish Council. Membership of this committee to be residents with representation from the Parish Council - agreed as the Chair - and the Parish Council to cover administration and insurance costs. To establish this Committee, Cllr P Watmough to canvass parents at the school and advertising to be placed in the Parish Magazine, on the website site and Facebook. The impact on the Parish Council's insurance to be identified.

Action: Cllr P Watmough, Chair and Clerk

Once a Committee in place, a special meeting to be organised to scope the project. Based on feedback from the playground equipment company representative seen, expected cost is around £10,000.

17/75) Finance

a. Update on current financial position

A statement of the budget to actual comparison as at 2 November, as circulated, was received. The financial position is on target to date as the two expenditure items highlighted as overspending are due to timing differences - litter picking and grass cutting and allotments (water). In terms of the allotment water, the Clerk highlighted that a complaint had been submitted to Affinity Water for the continuing bill errors. A response has not yet been received.

b. Expenditure

RESOLVED to approve the following expenditure:

Fred Knight, litter pick & grass cutting	£74.75
Express Picture Framing, website	£21.00
Village Hall, hall hire	£36.00
Clerk's expenses	£55.05

Cheque and supporting documentation duly signed.

c. VAT associated with the footpath grant work

Cllr Mrs D White highlighted that the estimate for the footpath work was for £800 + VAT. However, the Parish Council has only received a grant of £800. Discussion highlighted that the grant bid was submitted prior to obtaining quotes. It was agreed to check whether the quote could be VAT inclusive. Failing that, the Parish Council agreed to fund the VAT element of £160.

d. Initial Forward Financial Plan 2018/19 to 2022/23

The Clerk highlighted the following points in respect of the circulated initial Forward Financial Plan:

- shows the precept remaining at £3,000 for the next financial year, with the resultant impact on the balance;
- whilst no inflationary adjustments have been made, some expenditure items have been increased due to current spending patterns;
- whilst it is expected that additional new homes bonus will be received due to Calvert Close, the value of this is currently unknown and therefore not included; and
- an adjustment will be required to reflect the playground discussion earlier.

Following discussion, it was agreed to accept the initial forward financial plan.

e. Reimbursement of costs associated with the welcome pack

Costs associated with the welcome pack were identified as:

- £20 to Linda Gale for the wallets used, based on 4 packs at £4.99; and
- £50 to the Clerk for the printing and paper costs.

It was agreed to reimburse these costs and payments to be approved at the next meeting.

Linda reported that 1 pack had been issued already.

17/76) Allotments

Cllr Mrs D White reported that there had been no new plot holders and a half plot is being vacated. In total, this means $9\frac{1}{2}$ plots occupied and 9 full plots vacant. The vacancies have been advertised within the village and neighbouring villages. It was agreed that Cllr P Watmough would see whether the school were in a position yet to take on a plot free of charge.

17/77) Village Hall Committee

Cllr Mrs D White reported that the Halloween event had been well attended and a smaller number of scarecrows in that competition. The Village Hall is in a healthy self-funding position with regular bookings. The Toddler Group has now stopped and there is a meeting regarding this on Monday as stopped without notice. Consideration will be given to donating the play equipment to Pelhams Pre-school.

17/78) Correspondence

a. Planning applications

The Clerk reported on the following applications:

- 3/17/0059/OUT - outline planning application for the erection of 5 dwellings on land at Barleycroft End - still no decision;
- 3/17/2099/VAR- proposed variation of planning consent condition regarding a footpath for plots 1 and 5 at Calvert Close;
- 3/17/2247/HH - proposed two storey and single storey side extension at Hillside;
- 3/17/2180/FUL - proposed erection of stables etc (retrospective) at East End Farm;
- 3/17/2305/HH - proposed erection of detached garage at South View, Violets Lane;
- 3/17/2369/FUL - proposed new dwelling at land adjacent to Hillside;

- 3/17/2426/FUL - proposed change of use to provide a Dog Training Facility at Greenbury Paddocks;
- 3/17/1914/LBC - application refused to install an external flue and 'pod-point' charging unit at 3 The Old Brewery; and
- 3/17/2469/LBC - proposed installation of external flue at 3 The Old Brewery.

Cllrs had provided no comments on the applications above as part of the consultation process.

b. Communications to Parish Clerk

The Clerk referred to the following matters:

- Police crime statistics - no crimes in September;
- Herts County Council has issued its transport data report which highlights a 1.7% growth in traffic in 2016;
- New Data Protection Bill coming which enhances requirements in place from the Data Protection Act 1998;
- Consultation in progress to change the disqualification criteria for Cllrs; and
- UK Power Network has initiated its campaign "Be Winter Ready" and the details of this will be added to the website.

c. Communications to or from Councillors

Cllr C Cantes reflected that a road sweeper had been seen in a neighbouring area but none had been seen within Furneux Pelham. It was agreed that this would be pursued with Highways. **Action: Cllr C Cantes**
 The Chair reported that a resident had asked about the latest broadband position and he had contacted one of the BT Openreach Directors. The response will be circulated once received.
 Cllr H Smart reported that because of a lack of players and funds for pitch maintenance, Furneux Pelham Cricket Club had been wound up.

17/79) Residents comments

A resident queried whether all the play equipment for the Toddler Group would be given away or whether some would be retained, as the welcome pack will continue to contain a leaflet regarding this group. Agreed that this was to be pursued by the resident with the Village Hall Management Committee.

17/80) Next meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council is on the 11th January 2018 in the Village Hall at 8pm

The meeting ended at 9:20pm.