

FURNEUX PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 7 September 2017, at 8:00 pm in the Furneux Pelham Village Hall.

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

In attendance: F Forth, Parish Clerk and 6 members of the public.

17/53) Apologies

Apologies received and approved from Cllr R Gale.

17/54) Co-option of Parish Councillor

The Chair welcomed Paul Watmough to the meeting. Paul briefly outlined his background, following which he was duly co-opted as a Parish Councillor and signed his acceptance of office.

17/55) Declarations of interest

None.

17/56) Adoption of previous minutes

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6 July 2017 as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

17/57) Matters arising

- a. Common land - Cllr H Smart reminded those present that a site meeting had taken place some time ago and agreement on the way forward had been agreed by all parties' bar 1. The majority view was that there was no contention over the current status quo, with no major issues identified. The Cllr H Smart, on behalf of the Parish Council, will continue to facilitate action should the need arise and he was thanked for his efforts.
- b. Car park update - Cllr C Cantes reported that he had continued the audit of car park users and identified 4/5 cars that do not purchase a permit. The request for purchasing permits is being sent to existing permit holders now and this will be used to notify non-payers that a permit is required. The refreshed poster for the car park is outstanding but will be put up soon. **Action: Cllr C Cantes & Clerk**
- c. Planning applications - the Clerk confirmed that the website was up to date with all applications and decisions.
- d. Whitebarns Lane - see item 17/58 below.

- e. £800 footpath grant - the Clerk confirmed that the bank account had been credited with the £800 grant. Cllr Mrs D White reported that arranging the contractor for the work is in progress.

Action: Cllr Mrs D White

17/58) Whitebarns Lane

Cllr C Cantes reported on the current position. It had been believed that the Barclays estate owned the strip of land in question but this was disproved, with clear evidence, in a meeting with them. Ted Barclay suggested that the land was owned by the church. In addition, Cllr C Cantes reminded those present that the Parish Council had agreed to undertake basic repair work to the potholes but that this was not a Parish Council responsibility, as it was being done to support residents affected.

The Chair investigated the suggestion that the church owned the land and, 180 years ago, it did but the lane, and the land either side (Whitebarns Close), went to Rayments. After World War II, the land was acquired by Braughing Rural District Council and subsequently transferred to East Herts Council (EHC) in 1974, inclusive of the garages and sub-station.

EHC then transferred the council housing to Circle Housing and discussions with the latter have highlighted that it has a contract in place with EHC stating that EHC are required to maintain the access road in perpetuity i.e. a contractual obligation. This contract has not yet been seen therefore not confirmed. Even if confirmed, it is not certain that the Parish Council would be able to ensure that this contractual obligation is enforced. It may be possible for a tenant to pursue this.

For the way forward, it was agreed that if the documentation can be obtained from Circle Housing, a professional view to be sought on the next steps. It was confirmed that Cllr G McAndrew (HCC) is willing to support the Parish Council in this dispute when required.

Cllr H Smart reported that he had discussed the pothole filling with Paul Turner but he is currently busy. In addition, consideration needs to be given to any potential liability due to this work.

Action: Chair, Cllr C Cantes & Cllr H Smart

17/59) Playground

At the last meeting, it was agreed to investigate using the back half of the car park for a playground. Initial enquiries by the Chair had identified that there were a number of organisations to seek grants from. In addition, there was the option for the Parish Council to take this forward or to see a separate charity established to do this. Regardless of this, significant support from the village would be required therefore the first step will be to identify who is prepared to get involved.

As a result, the next meeting will devote a significant proportion of time to discussing the playground. In order to get residents involved, this fact will be promoted via an advert on the website and in St Mary's Review, and flyers distributed via the school and pre-school. If people wish to register their interest in being involved, they can contact the Clerk. **Action: Chair**

17/60) Welcome pack

The Clerk highlighted that a 'welcome pack' had been prepared by Linda Gale, with contributions from a number of people. The intention is that this information will also be added to the website.

Following discussion, it was agreed that it would not be 'branded' as a Parish Council pack as acknowledged that the Parish Council were simply being supportive of the initiative.

Thanks were expressed to Linda Gale for her efforts in preparing the pack.

17/61) Finance

a. Update on current financial position

A statement of the budget to actual comparison as at 7 September, as circulated, was received. The financial position is on target to date.

In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that the car park income for the current year has not yet been collected. Collection is being linked with the work undertaken by Cllr C Cantes. (See item 17/57b))

b. Expenditure

RESOLVED to approve the following expenditure:

Major Barclay Farms, Allotment rent	£100.00
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Cheque and supporting documentation duly signed.

Following a question, the Clerk is to identify the when the break clause in the lease agreement with Major Barclay Farm is due. **Action: Clerk**

- c. Donation to the Village Community morning
Feedback from the Cllr Mrs D White and the Chair highlighted that the morning is successful and funding itself therefore no donation from the Parish Council is required. In addition, the Chair highlighted that the age ranged from 88 years to 2 years at the last morning.
- d. Reimbursement of costs associated with the welcome pack
As the actual costs associated with the welcome pack were currently unknown, agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.
- e. External audit and approval of audited annual return
The Clerk reported that the external audit was completed in August and an unqualified audit opinion was issued. No matters arising report produced as none identified. The audited annual return was noted and is available on the website.

In addition, the Clerk reminded those present that this was the last audit as the Parish Council is now required to comply simply with the Transparency Code.

17/62) Allotments

Cllr Mrs White reported that there had been no change to the number of plot holders. As mentioned earlier, sourcing a contractor to undertake the work to improve the access path down the side of the church, using the funding received of £800, was still in progress.

Following discussion, it was highlighted that it would be helpful if the path could be widened slightly to maintain accessibility. In addition, the sides of the path are considerably overgrown and it would be helpful to have this dealt with as well. As this is a public right of way, the matter needs to be raised with Herts County Council's Countryside Access Officer. **Action: Clerk**

17/63) Village Hall Committee

Cllr Mrs D White drew attention to how good the Hall was looking. The floor has been re-done and the flushing system has been installed in the men's toilet, as well as lino flooring. A fundraiser is being held on the 28th October - scarecrow competition and fancy dress at 3-5pm, with £2 entry fee.

The Chair thanked the Village Hall Management Committee for their work as the village has a vibrant Village Hall.

17/64) Flood risk Barleycroft End

The Clerk outlined that the Environment Agency is undertaking work to alleviate the flood risk at Violets Lane, previously referred to as Barleycroft End. Investigations are underway for a range of permanent options with the intention of discussing these with residents in mid to late October at the Village Hall. Once an option is agreed upon, funding will then need to be sourced. A briefing and map have been provided by the Agency and this will be added to the website.

17/65) Meeting dates

The Clerk reported that the meeting dates for next year had been set and the website has been updated with this information. The dates are:

- Thursday 11th January 2018
- Thursday 1st March 2018
- Thursday 10th May 2018 - start at 7:30pm with Annual Parish Assembly
- Thursday 5th July 2018
- Thursday 6th September 2018
- Thursday 1st November 2018.

17/66) 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;
- 3/17/1657/FUL - application refused for demolition of chicken barns and erection of 3 new dwellings on land at East End Farm, East End;
- 3/17/0632/FUL - appeal lodged for refusal of planning permission for the demolition of existing buildings, erection of a replacement dwelling and outbuilding and new entrance driveway at Dingley Dell, The Street; and
- 3/17/1914/LBC - proposed installation of external flue for condensing boiler and 'pod-point' charging unit to south elevation at 2 The Old Brewery, Violets Lane - all Councillors present had no comments on this application.

b. Communications to Parish Clerk

The Clerk referred to the following matters:

- Aon has decided to end its involvement in the Local Councils market but the Parish Council's current policy will remain in place.

A renewal invitation will be provided by BHIB Ltd and this broker has already been in touch; and

- Police crime statistics - 1 vehicle crime in June and no crimes in July.

c. Communications to or from Councillors

Cllr C Cantes asked that a reminder be given on how to report potholes [link: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/faultreporting/>] as any resident can do this. It was agreed to place an advert in the Parish Magazine and suggested that when you report a fault, recruit others to report as well as more reports tends to lead to quicker action. **Action: Clerk**

17/67) Residents comments

None.

17/68) Next meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council is on the 2nd November 2017 in the Village Hall at 8pm

The meeting ended at 9:02pm.