

FURNEUX PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 8 March 2018, at 8:05 pm in the Furneux Pelham Village Hall.

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

In attendance: F Forth, Parish Clerk and 3 members of the public.

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting had been postponed a week due to the bad weather in the preceding week.

18/15) Apologies

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr C Cantes and Cllr P Watmough.

18/16) Declarations of interest

None.

18/17) Adoption of previous minutes

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 11 January 2018 as a true and accurate record. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

Note - the Chair highlighted that the references in the Minutes to Circle Anglia Housing should have been Clarion Housing Group. This is in relation to the Whitebarns Lane item.

18/18) Matters arising

- a. Car park update - the Clerk reported that she'd spoken to East Herts Council (EHC) to identify the process in relation to abandoned cars. Essentially, need to provide the licence plate number. If EHC identify that the car is taxed, nothing further can be done. If not taxed, EHC need permission from the landowner to investigate which the Parish Council would give. Then, if find the owner, nothing further happens. If the owner cannot be found, the Parish Council can get the car removed but would be liable for the charge, around £50-£60. Agreed that the process should be initiated for the current abandoned car in the car park. **Action: Clerk**
- b. Allotment lease - not applicable until September 2018
- c. Whitebarns Lane - see item 18/19 below.
- d. Playground - see item 18/20 below.
- e. Road sweeper - on behalf of Cllr C Cantes, the Clerk reminded those present that this had been followed up and the response circulated on 30th January. In essence, it is difficult to sweep where there is no kerb,

particularly when the road surface is in poor condition. A road sweeper did spend a couple of hours along The Wash but little improvement was noticeable.

In response to questions from the Chair, the Clerk confirmed that:

- nothing further had been heard in relation to the New Homes Bonus; and
- at this stage, no further action was required in relation to the forthcoming General Data Protection Regulations. The Clerk would be attending training on the 21st March and would know more after that.

18/19) Whitebarns Lane

The Chair provided an update. Since the last meeting, he had written to the Chief Executive of Clarion Housing Group, clarifying the position for him and requesting that the matter is investigated, and resultant action identified. No response has been received from this letter. Agreed that this letter would be circulated to all Cllrs and the Clerk.

Action: Chair

In addition, following a Freedom of Information request by a resident to East Herts Council, the following response was received:

“Thank you for your request for information, this has now been processed and the information that we hold is enclosed. I can confirm that on the 18th of March 2002 the property at Whitebarns Lane was sold to Stort Valley housing association with all freehold and leasehold responsibilities. This would include maintaining the property. Stort Valley was part of the Circle Housing group and Circle Housing have merged with Clarion who will currently have all freehold and leasehold responsibilities for the land and property at Whitebarns Lane. If you have any queries or complaint about the processing of your request please do not hesitate to contact me”

The latest information was discussed, together with the implications of the recent planning application at The Spinney. In respect of the planning application, the Parish Council has a limited role and the expectation is that the planning officers will ensure that it satisfies the planning requirements when making their decision.

Whilst recognising that this is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, it was agreed to continue to support the residents of Whitebarns Lane and to pursue a response from the Clarion Housing Group.

Action: Chair

18/20) Playground

On behalf of Cllr P Watmough, the Clerk reported that the playground project is regularly promoted, and a letter went out to the Furneux Pelham school and pre-school community seeking willing volunteers.

The Clerk also reported that she'd spoken to the Parish Council's insurers. There would be no additional insurance cost associated with the playground as the standard cover automatically includes playground equipment up to the value of £40,000.

The Chair reported that investigations of using some of the playground organisations that offer to assist with finding funding highlighted that these organisations expect to do so on the basis of receiving commission.

Agreed that need to establish the proposed committee first.

Action: Chair and Cllr P Watmough

18/21) Finance

a. Update on current financial position

A statement of the budget to actual comparison as at a 1st March, 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).

b. Expenditure

RESOLVED to approve the following expenditure:

Village Hall, Hall hire	£36.00
Clerk's expenses	£63.26

Cheque and supporting documentation duly signed.

c. Standing order for Clerk's salary

RESOLVED to approve the standing order for the Clerk's salary for April 2018 to March 2019, at £158.75 per month. Any national pay award to be paid by cheque in March 2019.

d. 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.

e. Car park fees

RESOLVED to maintain the car park fee at £50.

18/22) Allotments

CLlr Mrs D White stated that no new plots had been taken. The current position is 7 occupied plots and 9 vacant plots. The bills for the fees would be distributed before the meeting in April.

18/23) Village Hall Committee

CLlr Mrs D White reported that the Committee funds were healthy and new Committee members are sought.

18/24) Annual Parish Assembly

Following discussion, it was agreed to continue with the format adopted at the last few Assemblies, with the proposed playground to be promoted.

18/25) Correspondence

a. Planning applications

The Clerk reported that it had been a busy couple of months in relation to planning applications. Since the last meeting:

- an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the application to erect 5 dwellings on land at Barleycroft End has been submitted - appealing the lack of decision by East Herts Council;
- 6 decisions had been made - permission granted; and
- 9 applications had been considered.

Details of all applications are on the Parish Council website and those since the last meeting are detailed in Appendix A.

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

Following discussion, it was agreed that the following Parish Council comment would be added in relation to application 3/18/0321/OUT, outline permission for 5 residential dwellings and removal of the Wood Chip Processing Facility:

“The Parish Council does not wish to comment on the proposed dwellings but does wish to say that removal of the wood chip processing facility would be a welcome outcome for the village.”

b. Communications to Parish Clerk

The Clerk referred to the following matters:

- Community Morning - a thank you for sponsoring this event had been received;
- flood risk work - update that options are still being investigated, with the public consultation now being expected in May;
- annual return and external audit - return has not changed that much although does now include an exemption certificate which is returned to PKF Littlejohn, the external auditor. The deadline is the 11th June which is easily achievable; and
- Website - a reminder that community notices are posted on there, the latest being in relation to road closures, the GP extended access survey and the crime statistics. In addition, the "Welcome Pack" is now available on the website.

c. Communications to or from Councillors

The Chair highlighted that he'd been in touch with the resident seeking to purchase a WW1 silhouette for the village.

18/26) Residents comments

A resident referred to the last meeting where it had been reported that an article submitted to the parish magazine had been rejected by the editors. Following the Parish Council meeting, a magazine meeting had been convened to discuss the matter. It was identified that the article in question had been submitted with no heading, no name, no details of which village or a method to communicate back with the contributor. Therefore, due to these factors, the article was not published.

18/27) Next meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council is on the 10th May 2018 in the Village Hall at 8pm, preceded by the Annual Parish Assembly at 7:30pm.

The meeting ended at 9:15pm.

APPENDIX A

Planning appeal: 3/17/0059/OUT Outline planning application for the erection of 5 dwellings on Land off Barleycroft End

Application number	Proposal	Action
<u>3/18/0336/FUL</u>	Erection of 2 5 bedroom detached dwellings and garages at The Spinney, Whitebarns	Application considered
<u>3/18/0321/OUT</u>	Outline permission for 5 Residential Dwellings and removal of Wood Chip Processing Facility - all matters reserved except for scale and access.	Application considered
<u>3/18/0318/HH</u>	Amendments to planning application ref: 3/17/2718/HH - single storey mono pitched front extension to include new storm porch; replacement of existing roof tiles to match extension and erection of timber boarding to first floor of front of property. Amendments as follows: retain existing plain clay roof tiles to existing house; retain existing rendered finish to external front elevation; construct altered new covered storm porch; roof tiles to new storm porch and mono pitched extension to front elevation to match existing; rendered facade to extension to match existing; install new timber framed window to enlarged opening to front elevation of house to match existing at Perry Mill House, The Causeway.	Application considered
<u>3/18/0118/SDDPN</u>	Change of use from B8 (storage and distribution) to residential (C3) to create 3 dwellings at East End Farm, East End.	Application considered
<u>3/18/0074/HH</u>	First floor side extension, part two storey rear extension and front porch; demolition of garage and erection of replacement; amendments include addition of 1 window to front elevation of first floor extension and alteration of porch roof at 4 The Street.	Application considered twice
<u>3/18/0070/OUT</u>	Outline application for 1 dwelling - all matters reserved except scale and access at Adj to Hollybush, The Street.	Application considered
<u>3/18/0046/HH</u>	Part single/part two storey rear/side extensions at 1 and 2 Brick Cottages, The Street.	Application considered Permission granted
<u>3/17/2970/LBC</u>	Replacement window to rear elevation - kitchen, install secondary glazing to all windows; replacement of central heating system with new balanced flue to first floor rear elevation at Bowyers Cottage, The Street.	Permission granted

Application number	Proposal	Action
<u>3/17/2851/FUL</u>	Erection of a teaching canopy in the Early Years department to cover an existing outdoor teaching area; existing ground grass converted to artificial grass for all weather access at Furneux Pelham JMI School.	Permission granted
<u>3/17/2806/HH</u>	Front enclosed porch at 8 The Old Common, Barleycroft End.	Permission granted
<u>3/17/2718/HH</u>	Single storey mono pitched front extension to include new storm porch; replacement of existing roof tiles to match extension and erection of timber boarding to first floor of front of property at Perrymill House, The Causeway.	Application considered Permission granted
<u>3/17/2662/FUL</u>	Proposed 5 bedroom detached house with double garage and new access at land adjacent to The Spinney, Whitebarns.	Permission granted