

FURNEUX PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 6 September 2018, at 8:00 pm in the Furneux Pelham Village Hall.

Present: Cllr S Bratt, Cllr R Gale, Cllr P Watmough and Cllr Mrs D White.

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

18/65) C Cantes

The Chair formally reported that C Cantes had passed away since the last meeting. He had been a Parish Councillor for 22 years, 14 of which had been as Chair, and he had made a significant contribution to the village. It was agreed that a tribute would be included in the next edition of the Parish Magazine to record the Parish Council's thanks for his service and contribution over many years. **Action: Cllr R Gale**

18/66) Apologies

None.

18/67) Declarations of interest

None.

18/68) Adoption of previous minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 5th July 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

Note - item 18/72 Flood project was dealt with at this point but minuted below.

18/69) Matters arising

- a. Car park update - the Chair reported that the abandoned landrover had been removed in July. The Clerk reported that quotes were being obtained for cutting the hedge.
- b. Allotment lease - see item 18/70 below
- c. Co-option of Parish Councillor - negotiations continuing with the potential candidates for co-option. **Action: Chair and Cllr P Watmough**
- d. Whitebarns Lane - the Chair reported that Clarion had still not responded to calls or letters. The proposed letter for residents of Whitebarns Lane would be delivered in the coming weeks which suggests that they sign a letter of complaint or write themselves to Clarion. The action that a resident can take will depend on whether they are a tenant or property owner.
- e. Playground - see item 18/71 below.

- f. Mary Wheatley Trust - the Chair reported that M Watson's terms of office as a Trustee, nominated by the Parish Council, ends in November. Filling the resultant vacancy will need to be considered at the next meeting. **Action: Chair**
- g. Flood project - see item 18/72 below
- h. GDPR awareness checklist - the Clerk will re-issue the checklist to all Cllrs for signing. **Action: Clerk**
- i. Footpath on development opposite the Brewery Tap - the Chair reminded those present that a safe access down the bank was supposed to be in place within 6 months of first occupation. Currently, there is no sign of the footpath. The Clerk to raise with East Herts Council Planning enforcement. **Action: Clerk**
- j. School parking - email regarding volunteers being sought has been circulated.

18/70) Allotment lease

The Clerk reported that the allotment lease is due to expire in September 2019. The rent was reviewed last year and remains at £100 per annum. Whilst the lease copy held is not complete, it was identified that the Parish Council can serve notice on Major Barclay Farms to renew the lease for a further 7 years less one day 4 months before the current lease expires, on similar terms and conditions. This means the notice would need to be served in May 2019 and the rent would remain at £100 per annum until September 2020. The current lease wording indicates that the lease may not be renewable in 2026 and the Clerk will follow this up with Major Barclay Farms. The key questions were:

- do the Parish Council want to continue with the allotments? There is no financial reason not to do so considering that, on an annual basis, a small profit is made; and
- who will take on responsibility for the allotments once Cllr Mrs D White steps down, bearing in mind that it does not have to be a Cllr but could be another plot holder.

Following discussion, it was agreed that this will be considered at the next Allotment Annual General Meeting in March 2019. It is a statutory requirement to provide an allotment therefore the Parish Council would be minded to renew the lease. The Clerk was asked to identify what the Parish Council would have to do at the allotment if it were to be handed back.

Action: Clerk

18/71) Playground

Both the Chair and Cllr P Watmough highlighted that there was not a lot to report since the last meeting. It was still key to identify if there was a need for the playground. The suggestion to invite parishioners to the Village Hall once Saturday/Sunday to discuss this was agreed.

Action: Chair and Cllr P Watmough

18/72) Flood project

The Chair welcomed Gareth Codd and Andy Naish from the Environment Agency, highlighting that they had been available for an informal chat prior to the meeting.

The following points were made from the update and questions answered:

- flood project was investigating options in relation to the old brewery site in Violets Lane;
- of the 3 options that had been considered, only 1 option was viable which involves moving the course of the river and results in the project being costly;
- the projected cost of the viable option is £600,000. Only £100,000 of Government funding is available, based on the number of homes that would be protected, therefore the funding shortfall of £500,000 makes it unfeasible to pursue. However, it will be revisited when the Environment Agency's current 6 year programme of flood resistance projects ends in 2 years' time;
Note - £100,000 has been spent on undertaking the investigations to date and it is only 10 properties really at risk.
- focus of the project, therefore, changed to work with the community to raise awareness of the flood risk and to provide advice and guidance on flood resistance to become resilient;
- resilience looks at being better prepared to reduce the impact of a flood. For example, slotting flood barriers in front of doors and windows, having non-return valves on plumbing work;
- flood protection items to invest in depends on the source of the flood: river; surface water or sewer and guidance will be provided to help home owners to develop a "flood plan";
- additional help would be provided to those identified as vulnerable people;
- there is a flood warning service but working locally would be better. For example, if there is a blockage at the bridge, be aware of the impact of it; and

- it is acknowledged that the flood risk below the bridge is minimal.

The Chair thanked Gareth and Andy for the update. He also reminded those present that the Parish Council has no formal role in this project but had enabled the engagement with the community. Regular communications will continue from the Environment Agency and these will be highlighted on the Parish Council website.

18/73) London Stansted Airport

The Clerk highlighted that the Stansted Airport had launched a consultation in respect of its Noise Action Plan 2019-2023. Following discussion, it was agreed that there was nothing that the Parish Council could do therefore no further action to be taken.

18/74) Update from East Herts Council (EHC)

The Clerk had circulated the update provided the EHC Ward Cllr G Williamson which covered the following matters:

- the East Herts District Plan will be adopted on the 11th September 2018 and cover the period up to 2033. In broad terms, there is no change for Furneux Pelham;
- community grant funding is available for projects that address EHC's health and wellbeing priorities, with 20th October being the deadline for applications;
- canvas is underway to ensure the electoral roll is correct;
- the Southern Country Park has earned a prestigious flag; and
- there is now a 15p charge for all customers using the RingGo pay by phone option in all EHC's chargeable car parks.

The Clerk highlighted that this would be a regular feature. Cllr G Williamson to be thanked for the update.

18/75) Free grit

The Clerk reported that free grit is available from Herts County Council (HCC) to enable areas of the public highway, roads and pavements that benefit the community to be gritted locally. The volume available is either a 1 tonne hippo-style grab bag or 34 20 kg bags, and this is in addition to the roadside hoppers which will continue to be filled by HCC. Following discussion, it was agreed that no additional grit would be obtained.

18/76) Finance

a. Update on current financial position

A statement of the budget to actual comparison as at 6th September, as circulated, was received. The Clerk highlighted that the New Homes Bonus had been paid, amounting to £1,847, and the covering letter had highlighted that subsequent years may still be subject to change. The potential Bonus for the next two years of £1,651 and £1,041 was noted. The Clerk also highlighted that due to the timing of the water bills, the Allotment costs were over budget.

Finally, the Clerk reported that the initial 2019/20 budget and an updated forward financial plan will be on the agenda for the next meeting. Cllrs were asked to notify the Clerk if there were any additional items that should be included.

b. Expenditure

RESOLVED to approve the following expenditure:

Major Barclays Farms, Allotment rent	£100.00
Village Hall, Hall hire	£54.00
CDA for Herts, Membership	£35.00
Express Picture Framing, Website	£21.00

Cheques and supporting documentation duly signed.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Mrs D White had been reimbursed for the cost of the weed killer for the allotments of £16 (£40 approved at the May 2018 meeting) and the latest water bill, amounting to £36.43, had been paid by direct debit to Affinity for Business. These items were noted.

Finally, the Clerk highlighted that an urgent payment was required for locks for the allotment gates, amounting to £16.94 and payable to Cllr Mrs D White. This was noted.

18/77) Allotments

Cllr Mrs D White reported that produce had been going missing from the allotments recently and it was clear that it was not animal related activity. Consequently, it had been decided that the gates needed to be locked.

18/78) Village Hall Committee

Cllr Mrs D White stated that the Village Hall had benefitted from the Summer Fayre that had been held. The next event was on the 27th October for Halloween. The next Committee meeting will be on the 17th September when the Christmas events will be planned.

18/79) Meeting dates

The Clerk stated that the meeting dates for the next calendar year would be:

- Thursday 10th January 2019;
- Thursday 7th March 2019;
- Thursday 9th May 2019 - the annual meeting;
- Thursday 4th July 2019;
- Thursday 5th September 2019; and
- Thursday 7th November 2019.

All meetings would start at 8 pm apart from the May meeting which would start at 7:30 pm with the Annual Parish Assembly first. It was also highlighted that 2019 was an election year.

The Clerk agreed to circulate the dates. **Action: Clerk**

18/80) Correspondence

a. Planning applications

The Clerk apologised that planning information had not been circulated promptly recently, highlighting there are 3 applications past the deadline but, as no decision, comments could be submitted: at Ashbourn, adjacent to Wych Elm Cottage and a variation in respect of the plot adjacent to Hillside. In addition, there is a new application relating to Patient End House.

Since the last meeting, 1 application withdrawn, 3 permissions granted and 3 applications considered. Also, the planning appeals in respect of erecting 5 dwellings on land at Barleycroft End and demolishing chicken barns to erect 3 dwellings have been dismissed.

Details of all applications are on the Parish Council website (the latest ones once technical issues addressed) and those since the last meeting are detailed in Appendix A.

b. Communications to Parish Clerk

The Clerk referred to the following matters:

- Parish Councils can apply to the Stansted Airport Community Trust for funding for commemorative events to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. A resident, via the Chair, has asked for a bid of £250 to be made to get art supplies for the school children to make a poppy, or something similar, which will be placed around the beacon;

Note - it was previously agreed that the Parish Council would assist this resident with events being organised.

- whilst not intending to be sexist, the EHC newsletter today is offering a free 12-week weight loss programme for men only - more details at www.shapeuherts.com; and
- an East Herts Town & Parish Council network event is proposed for the morning of the 30th November, open to Cllrs if anyone is interested.

c. Communications to or from Councillors

The Chair reported that 18 months to 2 years ago, EHC had agreed to engage barristers to seek an injunction in respect of the incursion into the field by the Pallet Yard, in breach of planning permission held. Cllr G Williamson (EHC) has reported to the Chair that, as there is less activity on the site, this will no longer be done. A meeting is being arranged to discuss this EHC.

18/81) Residents comments

Resident neighbouring the Village Hall carpark highlighted that the hedge needed trimming and is happy for the height to be reduced significantly. The Clerk is already in the process of arranging quotes for this work.

18/82) Next meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council is on the 1st November 2018 in the Village Hall at 8pm.

The meeting ended at 9:10 pm.

APPENDIX A

Planning activity since the previous meeting:

Application number	Proposal	Action
<u>3/18/0070/OUT</u>	Outline application for 1no. dwelling - all matters reserved except scale and Access at Adj. To Hollybush The Street	Application withdrawn
<u>3/18/1647/HH</u>	Single storey front extensions to create porch and bin store to front elevation at Ashbourn, The Street	Application considered
<u>3/18/1044/FUL</u>	Demolition of detached garage; construction of new dwelling at Land West Of Hillside The Street	Permission granted
<u>3/18/1046/HH</u>	Proposed two storey side extension; block up side window and door openings and create 2 first floor and 2 ground floor side window openings at Hillside, The Street	Permission granted
<u>3/18/1479/FUL</u>	Construction of 3 bedroom house at Land Adjacent To Wych Elm Cottage, Barleycroft End	Application considered
<u>3/18/1521/VAR</u>	Variation of Conditions 2 and 4 of LPA's approval ref: 3/17/2369/FUL - New Dwelling - relocation of site access/ drive at Plot Adj To Hillside The Street	Application considered
<u>3/18/0964/HH</u>	Extension to detached garage and part conversion to habitable area at Patient End House, Patient End	Permission granted