

FURNEUX PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 10 January 2019, at 8:00 pm in the Furneux Pelham Village Hall.

Present: Cllr S Bratt, Cllr H Smart, Cllr P Watmough and Cllr Mrs D White.

In attendance: F Forth, Parish Clerk and 4 members of the public, including EHC Ward Cllr G Williamson.

19/1) Apologies

None.

19/2) Declarations of interest

None.

19/3) Adoption of previous minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st November 2018 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

19/4) Report on outstanding matters

- a. Co-option of Parish Councillor - conversations are continuing with a potential candidate for co-option. **Action: Chair and Cllr P Watmough**
The Clerk commented that it would still be possible to co-opt at the March meeting but that advertising for the May election would be starting around that time. The Clerk also stated she was attending a course on the election in February and would feedback salient points at the March meeting.
- b. Whitebarns Lane - see item 19/5 below.
- c. Playground - see item 19/6 below.

19/5) Whitebarns Lane

The Chair clarified that the latest position. It had been thought that Clarion owned the lane but the conveyance, when sold by EHC, clearly shows that Clarion effectively only owns the Whitebarns estate and not that part of the lane leading to the estate.

[Thanks for EHC Ward Cllr G Williamson for obtaining this.]

Whitebarns Lane leading to the estate was never adopted by Highways. It is only classed as a footpath and hence not maintained as a road. A number of scenarios were considered for obtaining details of ownership. Three further investigations were agreed, though it was pointed out that even if an owner is found, there would be no onus on that person to undertake repairs to make it fit for vehicles.

Action: Chair (Braughing Rural District archives and Land Registry) and Ward Cllr G Williamson (EHC archives)

19/6) Playground

The Chair reported that a meeting was held in the Village Hall to gauge support from residents to pursue this project. 2 residents turned up, who are willing to get involved, as well as encouraging comments on Facebook. Following discussion, it was agreed to pursue this project, with a canvass/survey to be undertaken to confirm that there is a need for the playground.

Action: Chair and Cllr P Watmough

19/7) Salvation Army request

The Clerk stated that the Salvation Army had emailed asking if the Parish Council would be interested in siting a clothing recycling bank on its land. According to the email, there would be no cost to the Parish Council and income of, around, £100 per tonne. Following discussion, RESOLVED to pursue siting a clothing bank in the car park.

19/8) Finance

a. Update on current financial position

A statement of the budget to actual comparison as at 10th January, as circulated, was received. The Clerk highlighted that the Section 137 expenditure limit for 2019/20 was £3,507.84.

b. Expenditure

RESOLVED to approve the following expenditure:

Village Hall, Hall hire £62.00

Cheque and supporting documentation duly signed.

c. Approval of budget for 2019/20 and determination of the precept

d. Forward Financial Plan 2019/20 to 2023/24

These items had been seen at the previous meeting, with the only update being to incorporate the pay award for the Clerk, which proposes increasing the precept from £3,500 to £4,000. The Clerk also highlighted that, following advice from EHC, the New Homes Bonus had been excluded. EHC Ward Cllr G Williamson confirmed that the scheme is being scaled back nationally and is expected to disappear. The advice is to not include in revenue budgets, but it may be accessible for special projects.

Following discussion, RESOLVED to determine the precept at £4,000 for 2019/20 and accept the budget with the precept at that level, as circulated, for 2019/20.

In addition, RESOLVED to approve the forward financial plan on the basis of the precept being set at £4,000 for 2019/20 to 2023/24 period.

Vote: 3 for and 2 against

e. Donation to Pelhams Preschool

The Clerk had circulated the request for a donation from Pelhams Preschool and detailed the list of items on the agenda for which the donation was sought. The Chair was able to offer some insight into financial pressures being faced by the Preschool. Following discussion, RESOLVED to approve a donation of £250 towards the purchase of items listed by Pelhams Preschool, payable on sight of the invoices. It was also agreed that:

- a resident would donate a laminator that was no longer used; and
- the Preschool would be asked if a request had also been made to Stocking Pelham and Brent Pelham Parish Councils as children attend from these areas.

19/9) Allotments

Cllr Mrs D White reported that the Allotment AGM would be in March where confirmation would be sought that the Parish Council should continue with the allotment, given the lease renewal this year.

19/10) Village Hall Committee

Cllr Mrs D White stated that there had been a small attendance at the Carols on the Sunday before Christmas. Bookings are good.

19/11) Update from East Herts Council (EHC)

EHC Ward Cllr G Williamson was present and provided an update on the following matters:

Lottery - EHC are launching a lottery at the end of month. This will operate in the same manner as most lotteries and enable good causes, which need to register, in the district to be supported, for example village halls. 50% of ticket sales relating to a cause will go to that cause with 10% into a general pot. EHC are paying for the set-up costs.

Staff changes - Liz Watts, Chief Executive, is leaving after the May elections. Kevin Steptoe, Head of Planning, will be moving to head up the Harlow Gilston project for 2 years. Sarah Saunders will be the interim Head of Planning and a number of Planning Officers have been appointed.

Pallet yard - prior to the meeting, it had been clarified that EHC considered that there were no longer any issues at this site as the operator is believed to be operating within the consents in place. During the discussion on this matter, the following points were made:

- the amount of plastic waste being produced and distributed by wind to the west is a significant nuisance to householders in Lower East End;
- within EHC's Planning Enforcement Officers recent presentation, a statement that there is no statutory duty to enforce planning decisions;
- an injunction was being prepared then suddenly stopped. It is accepted that until the courts are involved, no action can be taken but there is a financial cost and no funding currently available;
- the operator has apparently been fined elsewhere and the fine of £100,000 was paid; and
- when the site was visited in relation to the recent planning application for 5 houses, the site was considered compliant.

It was agreed that a further meeting between Cllrs and EHC's Planning Enforcement team was urgently required to review these longstanding concerns.

EHC Ward Cllr G Williamson offered to move this forward within EHC.

19/12) Correspondence

a. Planning applications

Since the last meeting, 4 applications considered, 4 permissions granted, and 1 application refused permission.

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

b. Communications to Parish Clerk

The Clerk referred to the following matters:

- the Annual Meeting in May has been moved from the 9th to 16th May as the existing Parish Council resigns on the 7th May, following the election, and the earliest any meeting could be is the 13th May;
- Citizen's Advice, at the end of November, were looking for volunteers. If this remains the case, information will be added to the website; and
- The NHS Care Commissioning Group have issued "winter messages" - essentially about keeping well over winter - as these will be added to the website.

c. Communications to or from Councillors

Cllr R Gale highlighted that a side effect of the work being undertaken by Gigaclear was the damage being done to verges. It was noticeable that some residents have installed large stones/bollards on their verges and suggestion made that a reminder should be issued that the resident is potentially liable if a car owner damages themselves on these obstructions.

Action: Clerk

19/13) Residents comments

Cllr G Williamson (EHC) was thanked for attending.

19/14) Next meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council is on the 7th March 2019 in the Village Hall at 8pm.

The meeting ended at 9:30 pm.

APPENDIX A

Planning activity since the previous meeting:

Application number	Proposal	Action
<u>3/18/2806/HH</u>	Construction of first floor side extension and front porch at 4 The Street.	Application considered
<u>3/18/2634/HH</u>	Demolition of conservatory and rear extension; erection of part two storey and single storey rear extensions; alterations to flank windows at 1 and 2 Brick Cottages, The Street.	Application considered
<u>3/18/2438/HH</u>	Part demolition of single storey front extension, erection of two single storey extensions with pitched roof at front at Tinkers Barn, The Street.	Application considered
<u>3/18/2354/FUL</u>	Construction of new vehicular access to 8 Acre Field from Ginns Road at 8 Acre Field, Ginns Road, East End.	Permission granted
<u>3/18/2319/HH</u>	Detached store/carport at The Spinney, Whitebarns.	Permission granted
<u>3/18/2269/HH</u>	New residential dwelling at land between Bowyers Cottage and St Mary's Church, The Street.	Application considered Permission refused
<u>3/18/2080/HH</u>	Infill of the existing covered porch area at Frog Hollow, East End.	Permission granted
<u>3/18/1479/FUL</u>	Construction of a 3 bedroom house at land adj to Wych Elm Cottage, Barleycroft End.	Permission granted
<u>3/18/1398/HH</u>	Two storey side and rear extensions, single storey side and rear extension, link extension and replacement porch and alterations to fenestration at The Old School House, The Street.	Permission granted