

# FURNEUX PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes** of the meeting held on Thursday, 9 January 2020, at 8:04 pm in the Furneux Pelham Village Hall.

**Present:** Cllr S Bratt, Cllr R Gale, Cllr Mrs T Langlois, Cllr H Smart and Cllr P Watmough.

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

Prior to the meeting starting, the Chair wished everyone a Happy New Year. He also welcomed PCSO Leon de Bruyn from Herts Police (ref 20/13) and David Ginn from the Hertfordshire Stages Rally (ref 20/14)

In addition, the Chair stated that it was possible that the meeting could be recorded with or without the knowledge of those present.

## **20/1) Apologies**

Following discussion, it was confirmed that no apologies were received from Cllr J Sinclair so his absence was not approved.

## **20/2) Declarations of interest**

None.

## **20/3) Chair's announcements**

Following a request from the Chair, Cllr H Smart referred to the recent conduct displayed by a Cllr towards the Parish Council and the Clerk. Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllr H Smart, in liaison with the Chair and Clerk, would formally respond to the inaccurate, false and inappropriate comments made.

## **20/4) Adoption of previous minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be signed by the Chair.

## **20/5) Report on outstanding matters**

The Clerk reported that most outstanding matters had been detailed as specific items on the agenda.

Cllr Mrs T Langlois provided the following update on social prescribing:

- a good service and mixed generation evident at the Little Hadham coffee morning;
- suggested that Furneux Pelhams' Community Morning be added to the list; and
- suggested that East Herts Council "oldies" fish and chip supper is supported.

The suggestions were agreed.

The Chair provided a brief update on the work being undertaken by a resident in relation to the pallet yard.

### **20/6) Whitebarns Lane**

The Chair reported that a recent email from Cllr G Williamson (EHC) had provided some more clarity on the ownership of part of the Lane, though not the specific stretch between the school and the entrance to Whitebarns Close. In addition, attendance at a recent legal course at HAPTC had highlighted that Herts County Council (HCC) may be liable under the Highways Act 1988. As HCC had maintained the lane in the past, then, under the Act, ceasing to do so required the approval of the Parish Council.

These points will be followed up in the free legal advice session that the Chair and Clerk are attending at HAPTC.

### **20/7) Magazine**

The Clerk reported that the first edition of the magazine - January 2020 - had been issued. She thanked the Chair, Chair's son and Linda Gale for their time and efforts in helping to get the magazine to the printers on time - getting article contributions, advertising and helping with the layout. In addition, Linda was thanked for getting the magazine distributed.

The Clerk outlined that the magazine will be fully funded for the year from advertising revenue therefore it is likely that no contribution will be required from either Parish Council. Stocking Pelham Parish Council were supportive and had offered £300 towards the cost.

St Mary's had also generously offered a contribution of £250 towards the magazine. However, it was agreed that the church had a greater need, with the work required to the roof, so the church would be asked to donate this money towards that project instead.

Finally, the Clerk reminded those present of the deadline for articles etc for the next magazine edition (15<sup>th</sup> of the month to [pelhamscommag@gmail.com](mailto:pelhamscommag@gmail.com)) and to use this email account if anyone would like to offer assistance to the team.

#### **20/8) Spruce up the village**

Progress on the project was discussed. Further offers of help to clean village signs with a pressure washer have been made but it was noted that it was difficult to get the signs clean due to the surface degradation of them. Cllr B Gale reported that he had submitted a request to Highways for the replacement of missing signs.

#### **20/9) Dog poo bins**

In the absence of Cllr J Sinclair, as well as no report being made available, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **20/10) Highways - traffic speed**

The Chair reported that a meeting had been arranged by Cllr G McAndrew (HCC), involving Highways, Little Hadham, Albury and Furneux Pelham, to discuss a range of traffic related issues. Following discussion, the specific points noted were:

- Barley Croft End may be suitable for a survey covering the volume and speed of traffic;
- installation of a SID (Speed Indicator Device) would cost £6,300 but this may not be appropriate for Barley Croft End;
- white lining on the roads will be replaced when the weather improves;
- Police Commissioner has a source of funding for SID's which can be applied for; and
- need to demonstrate that a reduced speed is in the interests of safety and to prevent an accident.

It was agreed that the Cllr G McAndrew (HCC) should be notified that the Parish Council were interested in the traffic survey and that residents supported a SID.

## **20/11) Refuse bin**

The Clerk circulated an option for the replacement refuse bin, highlighting that further investigation is required as the cost of this option is matched by the delivery cost. Following discussion, it was agreed that the style of the replacement option was acceptable but that a refuse bin should be sourced that can be attached to the side of the bus shelter.

RESOLVED to purchase a refuse bin for the bus shelter at The Wash for maximum of £200.

## **20/12) Governance documentation**

The Clerk reminded those present that Cllr H Smart had highlighted, at the September 2019 meeting, that whilst the Code of Conduct referred to the Nolan principles, these are not defined within the Code. It had been agreed that the ten general principles, which included and expanded on the Nolan Principles, would be included as an appendix in the Code of Conduct. This has now been done, with minor updates to the Code's text to reflect this.

RESOLVED to approve the revised Code of Conduct.

In addition, inline with best practice, Cllrs present signed new "declaration of acceptance of office" forms that acknowledge the revised Code.

## **20/13) Police**

PCSO Leon de Bruyn introduced himself, explaining his role, the area that he currently covers and the limited local crime activity since the beginning of December 2019.

He also provided a detailed introduction to the new community communications platform that is being rolled out by Herts Police - ECHO. Whilst crimes still needed to be reported via 999/101, ECHO can be used to provide information to the police on matters that are happening. For example, regular instances of speeding can result in an area being prioritised for an increased police presence.

[More information on ECHO is available on the Hertfordshire Constabulary website (<https://www.herts.police.uk/Information-and-services/Getinvolved/echo>), including how to submit your comments]

Note - this item was taken at the beginning of the meeting to enable to enable PCSO Leon de Bruyn to return to duty.

## **20/14) Hertfordshire Rally 2020**

David Ginn, Route Manager for the Hertfordshire Rally 2020 outlined the background to the rally and how it would be operating, the safety aspects etc. [Detailed information from Hertfordshire Rally is available on the Parish Council website] The proposed date is the weekend of 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July, with the race being on the Sunday, starting in Braughing and ending at Little Horstead.

The Chair, expressing a personal interest as he lives on the proposed route, pointed out that despite the information circulated by the Clerk including a reference to local residents on the route having been consulted, this was not case.

Note - this item had been taken after the previous item, at the start of the meeting.

## **20/15) Finance**

### a. Update on current financial position

The financial statement for the current position was noted. There were no matters to highlight.

### b. Expenditure

No items for approval.

### c. Approval of budget for 2020/21 and determination of the precept

### d. Forward Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2024/25

The Clerk reminded those present that, on an annual basis, the Parish Council approves the budget for the next financial year and the forward financial plan for the following four years. The forward plan, therefore, becomes the starting point for setting the budget for any year. Two key changes have been proposed:

- that the precept remains at £4,000 and is not increased to the £4,500 proposed in the previous forward plan; and
- that the Clerk's hours are increased from 3.5 hours to 5.5 hours, giving an increased pay cost of £1,124 for the financial year. HAPTC recommend that the minimum number of hours for a Clerk is 5 hours

per week, and the proposed 5.5 hours per week is based on an analysis of work undertaken.

In addition. The Clerk confirmed that all other income and expenditure items effectively remain the same or have been increased slightly to reflect an expectation of inflation.

RESOLVED to approve the budget for 2020/21 and determine the precept at £4,000.

RESOLVED to approve the Forward Financial Plan 2020/21 to 2024/25.

#### **20/16) Update from East Herts Council (EHC)**

Cllr G Williamson (EHC) had given his apologies for this meeting and sent a short report - a reminder that 2020 is the Hertfordshire Year of Culture and East Herts is promoting this within the district. Details can be found here:

<https://www.eastherts.gov.uk/latest-news/2019/wishing-you-happy-hertfordshire-year-culture-2020>

#### **20/17) Planning applications**

The Clerk highlighted that since the last meeting, 4 applications had been considered and 3 applications had been granted permission.

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

#### **20/18) Clerk's information**

The Clerk referred to the following matters:

- anyone within East Herts is invited to East Herts Council's Community and Stakeholder Climate Change Event taking place on the 15<sup>th</sup> January at Ware Priory;
- the December 2019 Newsletter for the A120 bypass is available on the Parish Council website; and
- if anyone wants to keep up to date with Stansted Airport news, regular newsletters are issued.

#### **20/19) Councillor updates**

None.

**20/20) Residents comments**

Residents commented that the changed layout for the meeting was better as not so affected by the acoustics in the Hall.

In response to a question, the Clerk confirmed that car park matters were in hand.

**20/21) Next meeting**

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council is on the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2020 in the Village Hall at 8pm.

The meeting ended at 9:25 pm.

Planning activity since the previous meeting:

Application number	Proposal	Action
<u>3/19/2466/HH</u>	Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey side extension; two storey rear extension, single storey side extension to incorporate new front entrance and utility room at Clay Chimneys House.	Application considered
<u>3/19/2221/FUL</u>	Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of new single storey rear extension at Chapel House, Barleycroft End.	Application considered Permission granted
<u>3/19/2162/FUL</u>	Erection of manege at Brook Cottage Farm Riding School, Barleycroft End	Application considered Permission granted
<u>3/19/2117/VAR</u>	Removal of condition 2 of planning permission ref: 3/19/0347/FUL - (Construction of a 5 bedroom detached house and single detached garage with creation of 4 parking spaces) - to add a velux balcony to the rear of loft to allow natural light in the roof at Land Adj The Spinney, Whitebarns.	Application re-considered Permission granted