

FURNEUX PELHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday, 3rd March 2022, at 7:00 pm

Present: Cllr S Bratt, Cllr R Gale, Cllr T Langlois, Cllr R Rodrigues, Cllr H Smart and Cllr E Wills.

In attendance: 5 members of the public.

Before the meeting, and by invitation, two representatives from Gigaclear described their activities in the village. Work will require the closure -at different times in March and April - of the road from Gravesend to East End, Ginns Road, and The Wash. Further closures were needed but not yet approved by HCC. A virtual public meeting will be held shortly. In discussion, it became apparent that the company had not been made aware via OFCOM that several properties in the village already had Fibre To The Property (FTTP) from BT. The company was also given feedback regarding their operatives' attempt to block access to someone wishing to use a public footpath and a case of defecation in a hedgerow. The Parish Council was assured that these issues had been or would be dealt with.

The meeting formally opened at 7.17pm

22/17) Apologies

None. The Chair reported that the Clerk was unable to attend through illness.

22/18) Declarations of interest or dispensation requests

None.

22/19) Chair's announcements

All items were covered under 'outstanding matters', or were on the agenda.

22/20) Adoption of previous minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting had not been completed owing to illness. These will be brought forward at the next meeting

22/21) Report on outstanding matters

An update in relation to the following outstanding matters was provided:

- pallets yard - no further information has been provided on the Parish Council's longstanding request for enforcement of planning controls. The Chair noted that he had responded to a request from Much Hadham Parish Council for examples of planning infringements that had not been effectively enforced so that a multi-council response can be made to Michael Gove's dept;

- road signs and marking - Cllr B Gale reported that he had heard no more following his reports on the Herts County Council fault reporting portal;
- Parish EV (electric vehicle) charging community hubs project - Cllr B Gale understood that the initiative to instal electric vehicle charging points in village hall car parks had been dropped;
- Allotment fence - see item 22/24 c); and
- Anti-social behaviour - Cllr T Langlois reported that matters appeared to have improved.

Finally, the Clerk stated that the gifted land, the Jubilee and the anti-social behaviour items were specific agenda items.

22/22) Gifted land

Having decided that removal of the fly tip was the first priority, Cllr T Langlois explained that she had identified two further options to removal by skips, viz: (1) removal by grab truck at a cost of £358 per 15 tonne load, and (2) complete removal by digger and truck for £960.

RESOLVED to visit the site and consider whether the tip is near enough to the fence to be removed from the roadside in no more than two loads and if not to accept Option (2).

(Post meeting note: the field has been visited and the furthest part of the tip is >10m from the road, so Option (2) is necessary)

While the planting season has now passed, the absence of water on site will make it difficult at any time to plant and establish specimen trees. To be reviewed later in the year. Meanwhile, rewilding with mown-grass paths remains the favoured option.

22/23) Annual Parish Assembly - 5th May

As in previous years, light refreshments will be provided and residents encouraged to share their views informally.

22/24) Finance

a. Update on current financial position

The Clerk had previously circulated an update on the current financial position. There were no questions. For additional clarity, the Chair gave a detailed breakdown of the Clerk's expenses, noting that most of these were whole year amounts for items such as travel, stationery, printing, mobile phone and website maintenance.

b. Expenditure

RESOLVED to pay invoices of £54 for Village Hall rental and £316 for Clerk's expenses.

c. Allotment fence quote

Following a brief discussion, RESOLVED to accept quotation of £1,010 for repair of allotment fence.

22/25) Police

The Chair reported on the new style crime report for the villages. One attempt had been made to break into a BT telephone exchange, listed under Furneux and Stocking Pelham. It was noted that a recent early-morning disturbance in Stocking Pelham had not yet been included.

22/26) Update from East Herts Council (EHC)

None.

22/27) Planning

The Chair noted that new applications at Old East End House and Brick Cottage, The Causeway had recently been posted.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council had not effectively communicated its role in issues like planning, and would create a document clarifying its activities and responsibilities, for posting on the Parish Council website.

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

22/28) Councillor updates

Cllr B Gale had been approached by a local shepherd. In the interim, it was agreed to allow his sheep to graze the field, subject to one month's notice.

Cllr T Langlois commented on the deterioration of the road in Barleycroft End close to the new build opposite the football field. To be reported on the Highways fault reporting portal.

Cllr T Langlois reported that the Pelhams Pre-School had recently made use of the Village Hall when their normal venue had its oil stolen, and had found the Parish Council's car park already nearly full with 13 vehicles. Cllr E Wills put forward that a locked section solely for the use of Village Hall users be developed.

Cllr E Wills reported that he had been unable to make progress with the Parish Council's involvement in the Beacon lighting at the start of the Jubilee weekend as he had not had insurance details. These will be expedited through the Clerk.

Additionally, he shared a frustration that the Parish Council had not taken a bigger lead in Jubilee preparations.

22/29) Clerk's information

Deferred

22/30) Residents comments

Two residents commented on Jubilee events, one noting that the church was running a bring and share lunch on the Saturday, and another saying that the Parish Council should be more involved in celebrations. Cllr Smart noted that this was not the role of a parish Council, though individuals were welcome to get involved. Cllr Langlois reported that she was planning a tea party in the Village Hall garden on the Sunday afternoon and that invitations would be issued shortly.

The Chair of the Allotment Association reported that she had obtained rat boxes and located these securely. All allotment holders had been briefed. Bait is being taken so it is presumed that the problem is being dealt with. She also noted that nearly all fees for the year had now been collected, and asked whether the Parish Council could hold Allotment Association funds.

A resident asked that the webbing under the playground equipment be replaced. A Cllr explained that this should be brought to the attention of the Brewery Tap management.

A resident noted that a 'slow' notice near Quainty had been worn away and that 30 mph roundels were missing between the pub and the school. The Chair said that these had all been included in the village-wide road survey completed some 18 months ago and reported to HCC, but would report these specific items again, and also encourage the School to make its own representations.

22/31) Next meeting

Confirmed that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on 5th May 2022, following the Annual Assembly, at 7pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 8.30 pm.

Planning applications since the last meeting detailed below:

3/22/0379/HH - Single storey rear extension with new side gate and fence between house and detached garage at Brick Cottage, The Causeway: **Application considered**

3/22/0241/FUL - Conversion of garage to create a new dwelling at Kingscote, The Street: **Application considered**

3/22/0039/FUL & 3/22/0040/LBC - Erection of 1 detached Eco dwelling and new vehicle access at Land Adjacent to Old East End House, East End: **Application considered**

3/21/3166/FUL - Demolition of stables; construction of replacement two bedroom, single family dwellinghouse at Land Adj To Hall Cottage, The Street: **Application considered**