

An Ordinary Meeting of the Parish on 1st May 2012 and commenced at 8.05pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Dr Ian Brett, Vice-Chairman Mrs Buck, Councillors Mrs Camp and Mrs Miller.
District Councillor Mr Mike Newman and five members of the public.

APOLOGIES had been accepted from Councillor Mrs Luck whose absence from several meetings had been due to medical reasons.

MINUTES of the meeting held on 13h March 2012 had been circulated and were now approved.

MATTERS ARISING

The Conservation Area Study had been presented to a public meeting on 19th March and it is understood that any comments from the Planning Officer, Mr Kevin Steptoe, will be made by the end of this year. The Parish Council had made a formal response on 23rd March 2012.

Queens' Diamond Jubilee arrangements are going well. A grant of £280.00 is awaited from East Herts Council to be used for free access to two items, Finances are under control, the entrance fee at £5.00 for adults, free for children under 16 is hoped to draw people in, there is to be a margin on sale of alcohol, a Promise of Auction is anticipated will bring in £600.00 to £800.00 pounds, raising a figure of £1,500.00. Any surplus money at the end of the festivities is to be divided between the School, Village Hall, Playing Field and the Church. It is a good programme starting at 3.00pm. Tickets are on sale now from four venues. A programme will be published two weeks before the event which will be delivered to each household.

The Village Sign is currently under construction but due to pressure of work with the manufacturer, it will not be ready in time for the Jubilee as had been hoped. However, it is now envisaged that the sign will be available before the school breaks up for the summer and the children will be invited to the unveiling in early July. The cost is covered with grants of £500.00 from the County Councillors Community Grant together with a grant of £1,000.00 from East Herts Council and the balance up to £3000,00 already in hand.

White Posts on the Playing Field are still in contention and there has been no response to the Chairman's letter of 18 April which gave a deadline by which the Parish Council would remove the posts.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

Refuse Collection – has been confirmed to be cost effective.

Bridleway 10 – There is a gate but it is not locked and can be opened to gain access to the field beyond, towards Minges Farm. (Much Hadham)

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 3rd July 2012, 8.00pm in the Village Hall

CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The Hundred Parishes – A volunteer group being formed to promote the Parishes awareness in 350 square miles of northeast Hertfordshire, northwest Essex and south Cambridgeshire
 - b) Copy of a letter to a resident stating that evidence is currently being prepared with regard to the proposed change of status of RPB18 from the Coal Yard to Pegs Lane, to be referred to the Department of the Environment to make a decision.
 - c) Policing Priorities – 2012 – 2015.
 - d) Letter from resident asking that a disused and hidden flagpole should be brought back
- **IB** into use. To be investigated.

REPORTS

CC Dr Roger Beeching had sent a written report

Changes are to be made in November when the Highway Authority will be disbanded and Management will be under Ringway , with £35 million, to deliver routine and planned maintenance improvements of carriageways ,footways and drainage. Four bidders for Client Service Teams Contract is to be awarded in May- this for the administrators and organisers of the work at which they are very good and hopefully will all be re employed.

The Olympic Flame will come through Hertford ,Ware and be in Bishops Stortford on 7 July at approximately 11.30am – six teams are training and living in Hertfordshire from Caribbean teams.

The Hertfordshire County Council new Chief Executive, John Wood, is an excellent man, an internal appointment and cheaper and is doing two jobs for less.

HCC Armed Services Covenant – Housing Policy to be modified to allow easy access to armed forces returning from combat and retiring from the services. Very many end up sleeping rough.!

98% of parents applied on line for a school place.

All libraries have been kept open, some with reduced hours, makes saving of £2 million a year.

Waste – 48% is now recycled.

Co-operation- the internal audit is now being shared by HCC and five District/Borough Councils which is much cheaper.

District Councillor Mr Newman

With regard to planning, Parishes feel they are not being noticed so a group is being formed as East Herts Town and Parish Council Association which it hopes will carry more weight.!

Parish Plans are done, Brickendon Liberty has a Network Plan and Neighbourhood Plans are being considered by East Herts Council.

Whenever a planning application is made it has to conform to the Local Plan Policies 2007. Since the East of England Regional Assembly has now been abolished, planning has returned to the County Councils, and District Council now have to come up with a strategy.

Eventually there will be a new Core Strategy, Neighbourhood Plans for Town/Parish Councils to see how it fits in to new requirements.

So what is the Core Strategy? So long as a Neighbourhood Plan is done, the East Herts Council is obligated to take plans on board. At present there is no Neighbourhood Plan ,therefore, no strategy. This should be rectified by the end of 2012.Next will be a District and National Plan which must be compatible with the Strategy – the Local Development Plan is to encompass all things about the villages. Core Strategy will be complete by the end of 2012. A new Local Plan ,a Public Consultation then to Examination in Public to ensure it is fit for purpose. Neighbourhood Plans will then be able to proceed. More consultations later will take place – it will be a long procedure.

Police Report – The Police Liaison representative was not present at this meeting and had not submitted a report for several meetings. It appears that there was some confusion in the force which has now been clarified and the Clerk was asked to write to David Kitching to remind him of the need for police news at the Parish Council meetings.

IB **Parish Paths Partnership** – Money awaited from Groundworks for two new benches.

JB **Playing Field** – Copy of the Annual Audited Account received.

Rubbish/grass cuttings and twigs have been brought onto the Playing Field for burning by Mr Julian Pawle who has been asked not to but still does. The Committee are holding a Strategy meeting on 5 May to address this problem.

The Committee is working well. The Old Climbing Frame is being replaced to conform with present “Health and Safety Rules”

A grant for equipment for the 7 – 11 year ages is being applied for from East Herts Council.

Village Hall – Annual Meeting scheduled for 15th May. The Mural by Bruce McNally is nearly finished – he is highly talented.

IB **Allotments** - Water has now been turned on again. An account for £8.08 for water to the end of March received. The Annual Meeting is to be at 8.00pm on 8th May.

FINANCE

Received from the East Herts Council.....first half of Annual Precept.....£2,000.00

Cheques signed for the following:-

| | |
|---|----------|
| Dr Brett.... £8.08 Allot: Water to March, Petrol for Mower for Benningfield Green(£15.77) | |
| And £15.30 for gift of Whisky to Internal Examiner (Audit).....) | £ 39.15 |
| M B Hollylee .Reimbursement for Litter Picking through April..... | £ 98.63 |
| Litter Picker for May..... | £ 98.63 |
| Litter Picker for June..... | £ 98.63 |
| Jim Turner. Grass Cutting,Benningfield Green , 1 st of 3 payments..... | £ 83.33 |
| Mrs C Parrott,(Busy Lizzies)Grass Cutting Closed Churchyard 1 st of 3 payments..... | £ 128.00 |
| Playing Field.....First half of annual grant..... | £ 500.00 |
| Contribution to Widford PCC for upkeep of New Churchyard..... | £ 300.00 |
| Annual Insurance Premium..... | £ 621.77 |
| Annual Payment for Hire of Village Hall – 7 meetings (Inc: 24 th Jan EHTPCA mtg:£15.00)..... | £ 68.00 |

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 9.30pm

Chairman.....

Date.....3 July 2012.....