

A meeting of the WIDFORD PARISH COUNCIL was held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 1 July 2014 commencing at 8.00pm.

PRESENT

Chairman Mrs Jill Buck, Councillors Mrs J Miller, Paul Riddle and the Clerk
CC Dr Roger Bechjing, DC Mr Mike Newman and three members of the public.

APOLOGIES for absence had been received from Councillors Neil Rogers and Mrs Wendy Camp.

MINUTES of the meetings held on 6th May 2014 had been circulated and were now approved.

- d) Annual Meeting of the Parish Council followed by an
- e) Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

MATTERS ARISING

- a) There were no matters arising from the Annual Meeting.

- b) Matters Arising from the Ordinary Meeting.

District Plan. The Parish Council had returned comments following the Open Meeting for the Public on 12 May. It is understood that it may be some time before we receive any further information from the District Council.

The Village Sign reported to Ringway before Christmas, followed by two further enquiries in February and March, and again in June had not brought forth any information regarding repair or indeed, whereabouts. The sign had been lodged against the hedge for several weeks after it appeared to have been pulled off the posts on which it was mounted, before it disappeared. It is not known who removed it.

CC Beeching asked for details of reference numbers and offered to make enquiries.

Salt Bin

The proposal to remove the old salt bin left lying in the hedge in Lousy Lane when a new one was installed, had not been moved to Benningfield Road by local assistance as anticipated. After the meeting closed a local resident had visited the site to confirm that the bin was still hidden in the grass!

Village Archives

Doubts have arisen about the use of the School Premises for Housing the Village Archives. The available storage space had been viewed and was considered unsuitable for permanent placing of the documents. It was agreed that the available storage area would be acceptable but not for public viewing as the area was restricted. Other concerns included visitors during times when school was closed, although it was explained that separate keys would be available and there was unlikely to be any objection from the County Council. It was understood that School is having difficulty in collecting the money for completion (in spite of donations made by CC Beeching) and would have to provide proof that the Archives room was being used for its specified purpose. School will arrange publicity through the Hertfordshire Mercury to meet this need ..

A grant for the Parish Council to prepare documents Digitally and on line will not be granted unless it can be legally proved that the Village Memorabilia collected by Mrs Bunty Smith, photographed passing them to the Parish Council in July 2009 for safe keeping, are owned by the Parish Council. To date there is no such document and it is not known whether the request for this arrangement was included in Mrs Smith's Will.

Furthermore, the family who had previously appeared satisfied with arrangements being made had come back suggesting further thought should be given to the matter.

Nether Street - White Railings

There had been no helpful advice from Ringway in spite of many requests regarding paint required for the Victorian style iron fencing along the boundary of Nether Street.(which are in Highway ownership) .

Volunteers from Nether Street residents had formed a working party to carry out the work and were anxious to get started and it was agreed that the paint and necessary accessories would be purchased by Dr Ian Brett. It should be noted that CC Dr Beaching had already offered to pay for the paint from his Community Budget.

It is anticipated work will commence late July.

Dog Refuse Bins

In view of the cost of emptying the bins and the additional information required before any installation could be made with regard to underground pipes etc. it was agreed to wait and see if the recently purchased dog stickers reminding dog walkers of their duty to use Poo bags and dispose of them at home, would have any effect.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 2nd September 2014 - Village Hall - 5.00pm

CORRESPONDENCE

Poppies in the Highway

An enquiry was received from the Management and Strategies Group of the County Council with regard to a scheme put forward by the Royal British Legion to plant poppies in remembrance of the 100th anniversary of the First World War.

The interest was so that in their grass cutting schedule, any areas seeded with poppies would not be included.

The Parish Council had not considered this possibility but it gave rise to possible seeding in the closed churchyard or in the graveyard now called 'Gods' Acre.

JB The next meeting of the EHATPC is to be held in Council Chambers 10th September 10.00am.'

Draft Countywide Parish and Town Council Charter - Outlines how Parish and Town Councils with County Council can work together - consultation opens on 23rd June -ends 15 August.

To be discussed. in sub committee meeting on July 8th.

Village Facilities and Services Assessment

An enquiry received from Assistant Planning and Technical Officer, East Hert Council, regarding available facilities in Widford, to inform work on the emerging District Plan. With the exception of inclusion of CPL Distribution, located approximately 0.5 miles from the centre of Widford, and the Widford Parish Council website, all details reiterate comments returned from the Parish Council in response to the District Plan on 19th May. The small scale map accompanying the enquiry shows the village boundary proposed in the emerging plan. A recently allowed planning application for 5 new dwellings appears to be outside the proposed boundary. An additional sheet for amendments has also been supplied but will be returned with 'Nil' changes.

Changes to Household Waste.

Herts County Council has launched a public consultation on suggested changes to household waste recycling centres (tips/dumps) closing on 3 August. The need to make substantial savings over the next four years has led to a new contractor being employed to find a way of saving £750,000 per year.

Key suggestions are:- Permanently closing the centres at Hoddesdon and Elstree, (reducing the number of centres from 17 to 15).

Changing the remaining 15 sites from 7 day week service to five day week with weekday closures, changing opening times with all sites opening from 9am to 4pm all year (at his expense) by the Landowner.

Note to be placed in the Parish Magazine to encourage more response.

Correspondence continued

Parish Views sought on Rural Housing. It was unclear who was seeking this information, but the Parish Council was urged to respond.
To be further considered.

Minutes of the Police Crime Panel received. No comment.

East Herts Community Trigger - Pamphlets on Anti Social Behaviour circulated to Councillors.

Herts County Council Parish/Town Charter - to assist County Council, Parish and Town Councils to work more closely together.
To be discussed.

REPORTS

CC Dr Beaching spoke of the Highlights proposed for 7 Roundabouts -and Carers in Hertfordshire . There is now a Grant available to help Carers. Of the 1 m people in Herts 788 thousand adults need Carers. 20,000 adults work as Carers, 1 in 9 are Child Carers - and 12,000 are unpaid. £2.1 m a year is paid for carers, although there is some voluntary service. Some being cared for receive grants.

DC Mr Newman - said he had nothing to add.

Parish Paths Footpaths - a request for a wooden kissing gate to replace the broken stile on Fp 7 in Marys' Field has been agreed with the Ground Maintenance ,Hertfordshire and County Council Rights of Way Officer.In due course it will be put in by eMS Voluntary workers and a sum of £350.00 from a possible £1,000 annual grant from Groundwork has been agreed.

NR. Playing Field. Nothing to report since the Annual Meeting held on S" May.

PR Village Hall

Maintenance - Automatic cut out on the heating is now working - heating off automatically at 10.00pm.

Roof repair has worked and the walls are drying out and will be touched up when dry.

Bookings - payments are outstanding for one of the groups who use it on a regular basis.

Fund Raising - Annual Bike Ride - details being sorted out re marshalling, food and marquee

Antiques Roadshow - Format and possible dates being considered -possibly September.

Cabaret - 29th November - to be confirmed.

Supporters Club Draw winners announced.

JM Allotments

A Committee Meeting had been held attended by The Chairman Parish Councillor Mrs J Miller and Allotment members Mrs J English and John Gilmore. Satisfactory work is being done by Lewis Hosier, there are two new gardeners and only four vacant plots. The Plots have been renumbered into a more orderly sequence .As Ash Tree on the Plot No 1. needs trimming. Conservation Officer to be contacted in case permission is required as it is near the Conservation Area.

FINANCE

The Auditor had requested further information which it is anticipated will increase the charge by £45.00 - together with the standard fee of £120.00 -a total of £165.00 is anticipated

Received: East Herts Council Grant for Litter Picking 201415£1,374.88

Cheques signed as follows:-

Francis Carne Ass:Dog Litter Stickers£ 19.98

Lewis Hosier to end of June + 1 July .Total of 4 hours£ 40.00

Stop Harlow North additional donation£ 50.00

Finance continued

oneques srqneq as follows

Jim TurnerGrass Cutting Benningfield Green(2)£
83.33
Mrs C ParrottGrass Cutting/strimming Closed Churchyard(2)
£224.00
Mrs FLuckArchivesFraming of two items for display£
35.96
Mrs J EnglishLitter Picking 21/06/14 to 12/07/14.New Rate£
105.76
Mrs J EnglishLitter Picking 19/07/14 to/09/08/14£
105.76

Information regarding New Homes Bonus award .. 2014/015£320.00

Expecting awards from 2015/6 onwards. Anticipated total of award for 2011/12, 12/13, 13/14 and 14/15 = £1,368.00.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A letter had been received from an elderly resident asking if a railing could be put in at the Benningfield Road end of the Twitchel (Footpath 18) where the ground slopes and is slippery in bad weather.

This to be considered and cost sought. CC Dr Beeching offered to pay depending on the cost.

Traffic Survey to be requested through the Village.

There was no further business and the meeting ended at 9.45pm.

Signed

Chairman, Mrs Jill
Buck

Date2 September

2014