

An ORDINARY MEETING of the Widford Parish Council followed the Annual Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 commencing at 8.15pm.

**PRESENT**

Chairman Mrs Buck, Vice Chairman Mrs Camp, Councillors Mrs Miller, Neil Rogers , Paul Riddle and the Clerk.

17 members of the [public

County Councillor Dr Roger Beeching joined the meeting at 8.25pm.

APOLOGIES had been received from District Councillor Mike Newman and member of public Derek Gough.

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting on 4 March 2014 had been circulated and were now approved as a true record.

**MATTERS ARISING**

**District Plan Progress .** The Chairman said there had been a good turn out of Widford People at the meeting in Hunsdon Village Hall on 17 March when District Councillor Mike Carver and colleagues had addressed the meeting. Explanations of the District Councils proposals for development between 2016 and 2031 were outlined .It had generally been assumed that a proposal for development of Harlow North would not be included as an option in the forthcoming plan .However, it has not been ruled out and many of the public present did not accept the Councils reason for including it as a reason for appearing to be open minded. The preferred Option is to develop local Group 1 villages by 10% of existing housing stock .

Many of the public left the meeting with the impression that they had been let down by the District Council.

**Village Sign** - First reported on 21 March and a more recent enquiry on 24 April, there has been no response from Ringway concerning repair to the damaged sign. Further enquiry to be made.

**Benningfield Road Car Parking** – A request for improved facilities for parking by hardening the grass verge areas had been rejected by the Highway Authority as being too expensive .

**Additional Salt Bin – Benningfield Road.**

A proposal has been made to remove the old one from Nether Street to Benningfield Road No further action will be taken at present.

**Village Archives** – Mrs Luck is organising a date on which the Friends of Widford Church could view the Archives. Adrian Evans will be able to preserve the photographs and Neil Rogers will arrange for these to be included on the Parish Council Webb

**Police Locality Meeting** – These take place at intervals and hopefully in various venues, but frequently in Hunsdon. Widford was host to the meeting in March which was attended by the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk of the Parish Council, District Councillor Mike Newman and the David Gibbs, Chairman of the Hunsdon Parish Council.

**PLANNING**

**Paint for the White Railings** -The suitable paint needed for the iron railings has been requested from Ringway - a response is still awaited.

A member of the public attending this meeting has offered to arrange a 'painting party' once the paint has been obtained.

**BOAT 22** – No action . No problem for the designated use.

**Dog Refuse Bins** – an enquiry to East Herts Council resulted in the information that the bins cannot be bought but a cost is made for installing them as follows:-

In a soft surface, £81.40, in a hard surface £167.52. Cost to empty £154.40 per year for 1x weekly empty through the winter and 2x empty through the summer, plus lubricating the locks and hinges 4 times a year and pressure wash 4 times a year.

Suggestions for sites include Abbots Lane Fp 3, Fp.18 on an area near the allotment entrance, the Permissive Path, access gained from Fp 7. The Farmer was agreeable to the position on Fp 7 if the distance from main road was suitable to the East Herts operators. This to be confirmed.

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH had been circulated and approved.

**Junction of Ware Road B 1004 with Hunsdon Road B 180** . A request for STOP sign to replace GIVE WAY road markings and sign had again been requested but it has been confirmed that there are no statistics that warrant the change and no action will be taken.

**Telephone Kiosk** - The use for the Kiosk has been considered and it has been agreed to try a Book Stall. It will mean leaving the Kiosk unlocked ; it has been kept locked due to an unacceptable use , but it is agreed to try the proposal.

**Medcalf Hill** - The highway response to try to prevent drivers driving too fast on the narrow carriageway resulting in loss of wing mirrors is that their Locality Budget Programme is currently fully committed but will be revised in the following years programme.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014.....8.00pm.... Village Hall

#### CORRESPONDENCE

**Dog Stickers** – To assist with dog fouling problems, a company has designed stickers at a cost of £15.00 for 50.

It was agreed to purchase 50.

**Stop Harlow North** – The Parish Council has contributed £50 a year to the group formed to try to prevent the unnecessary, unsustainable and unjustified development on Green Belt land in Hertfordshire. Thought to have been removed when the East of England Regional plans were dismissed, there is now concern that the Government , and apparently East Herts, find that it may still be a possible means of providing the housing said to be necessary in the area.

Therefore, the Stop Harlow North Group are asking for additional funding to be able to continue their work.

It was agreed to donate a further £50.00 per year.

**Playing Field** – Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts have been received from the Secretary.

**Telephone Kiosk Spares** – Offering BT spare/paint when needed.

**HCC – Waste Development Framework**. Examination of Waste Site allocation document.

#### PLANNING

3/14/0629/FP Wilmoor – 3-3bed and 2 2-bed dwellings, Car Parking.

Parish Council comments inadequate car parking. Suggest better use of allotment area could be used to provide adequate spaces and turning facilities including for visitors and delivery vehicles.

2 continued.....

3/14/0274/14FP 3 Lambs Gardens . Single Storey rear/side extensions. CP.29.04.14

2 continued.....

3/14/0545/LB

Notification of application for internal alterations at Westbury  
No plans to date received.  
Query to East Herts re 2m high fence (may be included in planning Application.)

#### REPORTS

##### **HCC meeting at Stevenage – Highways (\*Ringway) and Health.**

The Chairman had attended the meeting. The County Council want to forge a stronger link with all Parish and Town Councils and there will be future meetings. Much is already known but some other Councils have a more direct contact with Ringways who periodically inspect and to see what work needs to be done. A definitive plan was suggested so that each Council would know whether responsibility would fall to Parish or HCC for maintenance. Hertfordshire has 5100 kilometers of road and 119,000 street lights a year to attend ! All Councillors have a Budget of £97,000 to attend to repairs like potholes etc. Road traffic is estimated to increase by 10% in the next few years. The public Health Service has been taken over by the County in April 2013 and they are hoping to increase cooperation with all areas. Hertfordshire has a population of 1.1 million and is fifth largest economy outside London. A 10% increase in population is forecast in the next 10 years.

##### **C C Dr Roger Beeching reported....**

He has been elected Chairman of the East Herts Council but it s not official until 7<sup>th</sup> May. This appointment may have a impact on his attendances at the Parish Council meetings but he will try to visit as often as possible.

Not much to report – School not oversubscribed, 18300 applications of which 12000 got their first choice. 94% of applicants are satisfied . 10,000extra pupils under 4 from 1<sup>st</sup> November. Extra funding available –£ 116m extra for potholes. The 5000Kilometers of roads cost £7m to repair. 16 bridges were damaged by flooding. Landfill Sites charge £82 per ton. East Herts Capital Grants £80,000 available for Village Groups – applications by 6 June bo [www.eastherts.go.uk/grants](http://www.eastherts.go.uk/grants).

PP **Lilleys Bridge** – it is noted that the surface has been made good by Countryside Mangement.

JB **Playing Field** – Annual Meeting to be held on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

JM **Allotments** – Problem with Plot three resolved. Lewis keeping areas tidy, Annual Meeting on 25 March poorly attended - annual rents overdue – New plot holder from Much Hadham, 2 members from Hunsdon, six plots vacant. Moving the Bonfire to the Common Ground at north end away from the bungalows nearby. Suggest the Committee should meet in the summer. Lets hope for good growing weather ! New plan almost ready for display. Thank you all for all that is done.

NR **Website** – in touch with Dave Wright. Hope to use the website much more for the District Plan . Will put more on and invite comments. Will advertise the Public meeting on 12 May for the District Plan.

#### QUESTION TIME

**Residents of North View Cottages** were concerned with regard to the proposed residential development of five dwelling on land opposite their homes, and the lack of car parking. With on-street parking from their own homes reducing the road to single lane, together with the speed of traffic, particularly at peak times, they were looking for support from the Parish Council to uphold their concerns.

The Parish Council had already returned comments to the Planning Officer including insufficient provision for visitors and delivery vehicles.

The residents were advised to write individually with their case.

Also suggested was a request for a traffic survey to be carried out  
CC Dr Beeching asked to be advised of the Traffic Survey.

(10) FINANCE

The Accounts had been audited by the Internal Examiner and were presented to this meeting and accepted.

Cheques signed as follows :-

Alliance Annual insurance.....was £624,74 in 2013).....	£631.33
CDA .. Annual Subscription.....	£ 30.00
CMS.....new gate at Lilleys Bridge (June 2013).....	£260.00
Petrol for mower – Benningfield Green .....	£14.39)
Jim Turner –mowing Benningfield Green (1 <sup>st</sup> of three)£83.33).....	£ 97.72
Jo English .....Litter 26/04/17/05/14.....	£103.20
Jo English.....Litter 24/05 to 14/06.....	£103.20
Hire of Village Hall for 9 meetings.....	£ 61.00
Playing Field.....first half of annual grant.....	£500.00
Churchyard Grass cutting – Bizzy Lizies.....1 <sup>st</sup> of 4.....	£224.00
Widford PCC – annual contribution to upkeep of new churchyard.....	£300.00
Mrs J Buck .....new Lock for Allotment Gate.....	£ 14.50
Lewis Hozier for work on Common Areas of Allotment Gardens.....	£150.00

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

Chairman Jill Buck

Date.....01 July 2014.....