

HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hormead Parish Council Meeting Thursday 25 February 2014 at 8 pm in The Church Room

PRESENT: Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman (JD), Cllr Dave Baseley (DB)
Cllr Robb Denham (RED), Cllr Denis Madden (DM)

No members of the public.

In attendance: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

- 14.019 Apologies for absence** **ACTION**
1. **Councillors:** Cllr John Kilby: holiday
 2. **Others:** Rev Kate Peacock
 3. **Other Councillor absences:** None
- 14.020 Declarations of Interest**
Cllr Baseley: Chairman of Village Hall Management Committee
- 14.021 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 16 January 2014**
It was **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 16 January 2014 be accepted as a true and accurate record.**
The Chairman signed the Minutes at the end of the meeting. **JD/Clerk**
- 14.022 Casual Vacancy**
The Clerk reported that no one had come forward for co-option **Clerk**
- 14.023 Police Report**
No report was provided by the police
- 14.024 Register of Interests**
The Clerk said he had heard nothing further from the Monitoring Officer. **Clerk**
- 14.025 Chairman's Announcements**
None
- 14.026 PLANNING**
- 1. Applications:**
- 3/1182-00 Anstey Chalk Quarry:** *To extend the working period of the quarry to 31st December 2018.* It was unanimously **RESOLVED to object strongly to the application on the grounds that the large lorries serving the Quarry disrupt the quality of life in Hare Street village. From 6am and throughout the day they create noise and disturbance, particularly very early in the morning. The village has a number of old houses that are on, or close to, the edge of the road.** **Clerk**
- 3/14/0165/FP Yeznaby, Horseshoe Hill:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED to object to the application due to over-intensification of the site.** **Clerk**
- 2. Decision Notices**
- 3/13/2128/FP Yew Tree Cottage, Little Hormead:** *New domestic biodisc sewage treatment plant.* **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**
- 3/13/0586/FP Stonebury Farm, Hare Street:** *Change of use of agricultural land and buildings to open and covered storage – retrospective:* **DECISION AWAITED**
- 3/13/0984/FP & 0985/LB Gardeners Cottage, Hare Street:** *Erection of oak-framed orangery.* **UNDER APPEAL**
- 3. Other Planning matters: Late applications** **Clerk**
- 3/14/0251/FP Bradbury Farm:** *Proposed stable block for domestic use ancillary to main dwelling house* **Clerk**
NO OBJECTIONS
- Nuthampstead Shooting Ground:** *Application for the variation of condition 14 (Types of Waste)* **Clerk**
NO COMMENT

14.027 FINANCE

1. The report of the Council's finances for 30 December to 31 January was received (Appendix A)

Finance Summary to 31 January:	£
Opening available balance 31/12/13:	6,332.00
Plus income to 31/1/14:	20.00
Less expenditure to 31/1/14:	<u>996.16</u>
Balance available to Council 31/1/14	5,355.84
Unpresented cheques as at 31/1/14:	<u>0.00</u>
Bank balance reconciled with statement #354, 30/1/14	<u>5,355.84</u>

Following a brief discussion and vote it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Accounts Statement be accepted.**

The Clerk pointed out that an accounts summary is published each month in the Minutes on the Parish Council website.

Clerk

2. The list of orders for payment was presented for authorisation to be signed (Appendices B1 and B2). It was unanimously **RESOLVED to approve all the invoices presented for payment.**

Clerk

3. Budget/precept 2014-15:

It was unanimously **RESOLVED to sign the 2014-15 precept issue to EHDC for £16,500.** Signed by Chairman Cllr Jayne Denham, Cllr Dave Baseley, Cllr Denis Madden and the Clerk, Colin Marks

Clerk

14.028 Correspondence

The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the agenda. The Clerk drew members' attention to items not covered elsewhere on the agenda:

- BIU Group had written to ask whether the PC could host a clothing bank in support of Herts Air Ambulance. **It was agreed to offer to site one at the Meads car park; exact location to be decided.**

Clerk

14.029 Special Interest Matters

1. Village Hall.

- Cllr Baseley said the latest Minutes had been circulated and that there had been two subsequent sub-committee meetings. All issues have been dealt with and demolition work is due to begin week commencing 3rd March.

DB

2. Highways.

- Cllr Madden reported on his investigations into the DriveSafe scheme. He said it seemed an excellent scheme and he was considering a leaflet drop in Hare Street to engage volunteers to run it. Speeding incidents would be reported to Buntingford police and letters issued. He was also pursuing traffic calming ideas and whether a 20mph limit could be imposed through Hare Street, and also following up the possibility of a speed restriction on the B1038 between the Quin bridge and Great Hornead.
- Large hole in the B1038 west of the kennels: Highways have scheduled to deal with this w/c 3rd March; progress will be monitored.
- Cllr Madden said he had booked into HCC's Town and Parish Councils Conference on 7th April, which will be focussing on Highways issues.

DM

DM

DM

3. Footpaths and Byways

- The Clerk said he had reported to Dawn Grocock (Countryside Access Officer) that the sign for FP13 opposite the Worsted Lane/B1368 junction was pointing in the wrong direction.
- Cllr Denham reported that footpaths continue to be churned up by horses and that horses had also been ridden across the Meads, leaving holes up to 6" deep. It is concerning that a few people are acting selfishly and ruining amenities for the majority of users. Together with James Wyld, he is looking into the question of some Footpaths being turned into Bridleways. Dawn Grocock is being very helpful on all Footpath issues. Making appeals in the Newsletter is not proving to be effective.
- He was also pleased to report that the sheep fencing erected across the Hertfordshire Way (FP24) had been removed.

**Clerk/
RED**

RED

	4. Website	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk had nothing to report. A Facebook page was discussed. Matthew Reeves-Hairs has set one up for the Neighbourhood Forum, as has Rev Kate Peacock for the Church. There were no plans at present for the Council to follow suit. 	Clerk
	5. Parishioners' concerns.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nothing was reported. 	
14.030	The Meads and Pavilion	
	1. & 3. <u>The Meads generally and flood consequences:</u> The Clerk reported that, following the flooding of the pavilion, he had a site meeting with Zurich's loss adjuster. The kitchen will have to be stripped out and damage to the walls assessed; a building firm has been appointed by the insurer. Due to the water being potentially contaminated, the pavilion cannot be used until it has been deep cleaned, a drying certificate issued, and all remedial work completed. It was RESOLVED that due to building damage and public health and safety concerns, the bookings for the cycling clubs, and the Over 60's booking in March, should be cancelled.	Clerk
	2. <u>Car Park repairs and disabled ramp:</u> The Clerk said the new ramp into pavilion had now been fitted, but the remainder of the resurfacing will not be completed until the weather improves.	Clerk
14.031	Risk Assessments	
	These are ongoing	RED/Clerk
14.032	Asset register	
	Still in progress	RED/Clerk
14.033	Neighbourhood Plan	
	Cllr R Denham said the Buntingford Town and five parishes plan was being progressed with the objective of attaining approval by EHDC. Unfortunately the last Hormead Local Forum meeting was attended by only 5 parishioners, disappointing in view of the room full at the first meeting. He noted that, despite Hormead Parish comprising Category 3 villages, there seemed to be a certain amount of inappropriate focus on new housing in the draft Questionnaire.	RED
	The publishing of East Herts Council's District Plan has been moved back from 2015 to 2016.	
14.034	Centenary Poppy Campaign (HCC)	
	In response to the invitation from HCC to participate in the WWI Centenary Poppy Campaign, it was RESOLVED to buy poppy seeds for sowing within the parish.	Clerk
14.035	Gypsy & Traveller Needs Assessment Consultation	
	Participation in the consultation was discussed and a response expressing concerns of parishioners was considered to be very important. Therefore it was RESOLVED to complete the form in expressing that view.	Clerk
14.036	Urgent matters received too late for inclusion on the agenda	
	None	
14.037	Items for future agendas	
	None	Clerk
	<u>Adjournment for public comments</u>	
	No members of the public were present to make comments	
14.038	Date of next Parish Council meeting	
	Thursday 20 March 2014 at 8pm in the Church Room.	Clerk
14.039	Since no public or press were present, no vote was necessary asking them to withdraw while the following business was transacted	

14.040 Staff Committee matters (confidential)

There was a discussion on filling the Staffing Committee vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Ginn, and it was **RESOLVED that Cllr Madden become a member of the Staffing Committee.**

DM

14.041 Meads letting and hire T&C (confidential)

There was a discussion on what would be an appropriate arrangement for HHFC to hire the Meads facilities. It was agreed that it should be on a trial basis and in the form of an open hire arrangement, ie per match and training use, paid in advance (as other users). The recently provided specification from the HHFC Hon Sec differed considerably from that previously supplied to Cllr Baseley. Although the hire principle was agreed, no firm decision was reached as to what the charge should be. It was not clear how many players, officials and spectators should be catered for, or whether the proposal was to commence in spring 2014 for training or autumn 2014 for matches. The prevailing flood damage to the pavilion and on the Meads meant it would not be available for some time.

Clerk

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

Signed **Dated**.....