

HORMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hormead Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 15 April 2014 at 8pm in The Church Room

PRESENT: Cllr Jayne Denham, Chairman (JD), Cllr Robb Denham (RED),
Cllr John Kilby (JK), Cllr Denis Madden (DM)

PCSO Amanda Higham, PCSO Tom Clark, two members of the public

In attendance: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

- 14.062 Apologies for absence** **ACTION**
1. **Councillors:** Cllr Dave Baseley: holiday
2. **Others:** None
3. **Other Councillor absences:** None
- 14.063 Declarations of Interest**
None
- 14.064 To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 20 March 2014**
It was **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on 20 March 2014 be accepted as a true and accurate record.**
The Chairman signed the Minutes after the meeting. **JD/Clerk**
- 14.065 Casual Vacancy** **Clerk**
The Clerk reported that no one had applied to be co-opted.
- 14.066 Police Report**
PCSO Amanda Higham said that since the March meeting, no crimes had been recorded in the parish. However, there had been reported sightings of hare coursing from Anstey and Meesden, and a call regarding suspected poachers. Hare coursing remains a high priority crime for the police.
The DriveSafe initiative was welcomed; the Dassels scheme is now set up and Braughing is trying to initiate one, which would mean the villages from Puckeridge to Hare Street would be covered. One speed machine could cover the three villages on a rota. Cllr Madden is endeavouring to establish and meet the necessary criteria in order to set up the Scheme. It is intended to check HGV movements and legality of loads as part of the traffic record. **DM**
The Chairman thanked the PCSOs for attending and for the giving report. PCSO Higham asked if they could be excused from staying for the whole meeting so as to resume their other duties.
- 14.067 Register of Interests** **Clerk**
The Clerk said he had nothing further to report from the Monitoring Officer.
- 14.068 Chairman's Announcements** **JD**
None
- 14.069 PLANNING** **Clerk**
1. Applications:
No new applications had been received.
2. Decision Notices
3/1182-00 Anstey Chalk Quarry: *To extend the working period of the quarry to 31st December 2018.* **APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS**
3/14/0394/FP Quinn Rise, Mutfords Farm: *To build a garage and log store.* **DECISION AWAITED**
3/14/0251/FP Bradbury Farm: *Proposed stable block for domestic use ancillary to main dwelling house: **Amendments to first plan*** **DECISION AWAITED**
3/14/0460/FP Yeznaby, Horseshoe Hill: *Remove porch; erect single storey front & side extensions, add first floor & external staircase to existing garage* **DECISION AWAITED**

1/2146-11 Nuthampstead Shooting Ground: *Application for the variation of condition 14 (Types of Waste)* **DECISION AWAITED**

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; DECISION AWAITED**

3. Other Planning matters: None

14.070 FINANCE

1. The report of the Council's finances for 28 February to 31 March was received (Appendix A)

Finance Summary to 31 March:	£
Opening available balance 28/2/14:	3,777.62
Plus income to 31/3/14:	0.00
Minus expenditure to 31/3/14:	<u>1,307.96</u>
Balance available to Council 31/3/14	<u>2,469.66</u>
Unpresented March cheques as at 31/3/14:	<u>60.00</u>
Bank balance reconciled with statement #357, 31/3/14	<u><u>2,529.66</u></u>

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. He also noted that EHDC had confirmed the first instalment of the Precept (£8,250) and the Council Tax Support Funding (£439.68) will be in the Parish Council's bank account on Friday 25th April, a total of £8,689.68. Cllr Robb Denham reminded the Council that this is the last year Council Tax Support will be provided by EHC and that next year's budget will have take account of that.

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.** Cheques were signed at the end of the meeting.

Clerk

3. The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor has been booked to conduct his audit on 14th May. The 2013/14 audit date set by BDO is 30th June

**Clerk/
RED**

4. A contribution to St Mary's Church fund was considered. Following a discussion, it was unanimously **RESOLVED to make a donation of £250 to St Mary's Church Fund, subject to any restrictions and when the Council has funds available.**

Clerk

14.071 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:

- HHFC informed the PC that it had made other arrangements for the 2014/15 season. Cllr Kilby commented that it was a pity they had not been brought back.
- The Herts Air Ambulance clothing bank was now in place behind the Meads car park gate. It was reported that it was already being well used.
- Earthworms Ground maintenance had confirmed it was holding its price this year.

14.072 Special Interest Matters

1. Village Hall.

- Cllr Kilby said demolition had commenced and that contracts have gone ahead, although without total costs being organised.

DB

2. Highways.

- Cllr Madden reported that the organisation of the DriveSafe scheme was under way and that he had discussed issues with Sgt Duncan Wallace. These included speed and weight reduction through Hare Street, more and better signage in the village, the viability of Buckland Road as alternative route, and speed reduction along the B1038 between Hare Street and Great Hornead. However, realistically, it may not be possible to achieve all these objectives.
- He had also attended a conference in Stevenage the previous week where a lot of the emphasis had been on budgets and the desirability of engaging volunteers where possible. The Clerk cautioned against getting volunteers to undertake anything that was subject to Health and Safety regulations.

DM

DM

14.076 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr R Denham reported that progress to date related purely to the Questionnaire, which was distributed and collected by about 10 volunteers. It was anticipated that collection would be completed by Saturday 19th May, after which the analysis would begin. A report would be given in the Newsletter. Step one is now complete and it is hoped that more residents will become involved in the Forum to see whether the questionnaire has created any vision for a plan that fits into both Hormead's and East Herts' considerations; it should be borne in mind that Hormead's Category 3 status already protects the parish from building development. The Chairman reiterated that more people need to be involved and it is vitally important that the Forum represents a full cross-section of the community.

**RED/
Clerk**

14.077 Centenary Poppy Campaign (HCC)

Dealt with under agenda item 14.072.5 above.

RED/Clerk

14.078 Urgent matters received too late for inclusion on the agenda

None

Clerk

14.079 Items for future agendas

None

Clerk

Adjournment for public comments

Following a vote at 9.50pm it was **RESOLVED that the meeting be suspended to allow public comments.**

- Mrs Teresa Marks, although not a parishioner, commented on the discussion on speeding and traffic calming measures. She said that a few years ago, Puckeridge residents, supported by Standon PC, formed an action group to challenge similar problems there. It was hard work and took a couple of years, but consistent pressure on EHC and Highways, with regular public meetings involving District and County Councillors, EH officers and the police, eventually produced a result. She encouraged Hormead residents and the PC to fight to get the changes needed.

DM/ALL

The Parish Council Meeting resumed at 9.59pm.

14.080 Date of next meeting

Various dates for the Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council Annual meeting and the May Parish Council Meeting were discussed at length. Eventually it was **RESOLVED to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 15 May, and the Annual Parish Council Meeting followed by the May Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 22 May.**

Clerk

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.15 pm.

Signed **Dated**