

WIDFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Widford Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 5th July 2016 at 8pm in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Cllr Jill Buck, Chairman (JB); Cllr Barbara Edwards (BE); Cllr Glen Parcell (GP);

C Cllr R Beeching, D Cllr R Brunton, and fourteen other members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman opened the meeting at 8pm

ACTION

16.082 Apologies for absence:

1. Councillors: Cllr Paul Riddle (PR). *Reason given was accepted by the Council.*
2. Others: Police Sgt Duncan Wallace, Carol Blackett

16.083 Declarations of Interest:

1. None declared
2. a) and b) Written requests for dispensations: None

16.084 Approval of Minutes of Meetings, Extra-ordinary Planning Meeting 15 June 2016

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 15 June were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

JB/Clerk

16.085 Police report: The Chairman read a report submitted by Sgt Wallace:

Since 1st April there have been 4 reported incidents in Widford:

- 24th May: 2 x theft from vehicles, both tradesman's vans where power tools were taken. This is currently an emerging trend across the whole county and not confined to the village or even East Herts.
- 27th May: 1 x Burglary/other offence where persons have entered a garden and taken tools from a shed.
- Between 15 and 22 May: Dwelling Burglary. Victim is elderly and as such it has been difficult to determine exact circumstances. Specialist resources are dealing and safeguarding put in place around the victim.

Any issues, please advise and I will pick up on my return.

Sgt Duncan Wallace

16.086 Chairman's announcements:

Carol Blackett had applied to fill the casual vacancy. It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mrs Blackett and to ratify this at the next meeting. The Clerk said he would get her to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and other necessary paperwork before the next meeting.

Clerk/CB

16.087 Planning

1. New Applications

None – but see point 3 below

2. Decision Notices

3/16/1164/FUL Land South of Martlets: Erection of 1no 5 bedroomed dwelling, 5no 4 bedroomed dwellings, 5no 3 bedroomed dwellings, 5no 2 bedroomed dwellings and 2no 1 bedroomed dwellings. Widening of vehicular and pedestrian access from Hunsdon Road, landscaping, surface water drainage, and car parking. *DECISION AWAITED*

3/16/0944/FUL 9 Benningfield Road: Continued use of dwelling for childminding for a temporary period of up to 3 years *GRANTED*

3/16/0879/HH 10 Daintrees: Demolition of existing conservatory and construction of replacement conservatory. *GRANTED*

3/16/0873/HH Little Goddards, Abbots Lane: Single storey side extension *GRANTED*

3/16/0532/FUL Priory Farm House: Erection of 1 new two storey detached residential dwelling and double garage, driveway, and other associated development. *GRANTED*

3/16/0186/FUL South Paw Farm: Erection of fencing, brick wall and gates (retrospective)
WITHDRAWN: It was noted that this was being incorporated into a new application being submitted 5 July

3/15/2055/FUL Greenacres, Ware Road: APPEAL AP/15/0116/refuse: 2 no 3-bedroomed dwellings with garages – amended scheme *APPEAL ALLOWED 7 June 2016*

3/15/0507/LBC Adams Farm: Alterations to layout and fenestration from previous application 3/09/1344/LB to form 4 dwelling houses. *EH Planning has confirmed that permission is for 4 dwellings, not 3. LBC DECISION AWAITED*

3. Other planning matters: including matters received too late for the agenda

1. Late applications

3/16/1364/VAR Wilmoor: Variation of condition of LPA 3/14/0629/FP – construction of a terrace of 3 three-bedroom houses and a pair of semi-detached two-bedroom affordable houses - to REMOVE the provision of affordable housing. *OBJECTION Clerk*

3/16/1399/HH Yew Tree House: Two storey extension, porch and gates *OBJECTION Clerk*

3/15/2104/APPEAL Youngs Little Acre, The Mount: Appeal to the Secretary of State against planning refusal *REAFFIRM ORIGINAL OBJECTION Clerk*

2. Martlets: It was requested that East Herts Planning be asked to confirm the existence of a restrictive covenant believed to have been put on the land by a former owner. *Clerk*

3. Pegs Lane general update: Nothing further to 16.087.2 above

4. E/16/0182/ENF Enforcement case, Yew Tree House: The action taken by Planning Enforcement regarding the possible felling of a yew tree was noted.

16.088 Finance

1. The report of the Council’s finances for 1 May to -30 June was received (Appendix A)

Finance Summary from 1 May to 30 June	£
Opening available balance 1 May	9,493.29
Plus income to 30 June	284.97
Minus expenditure to 30 June	<u>3,407.02</u>
Balance available to Council 30 June	6,371.24
Plus un-presented cheques as at 30 June	<u>615.61</u>
Bank balance reconciled with statement, 30 June 2016	<u>6,986.85</u>

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Accounts Statement be accepted.**

The Clerk, as RFO, presented the financial position for the first quarter against the budget. In particular, areas of higher than anticipated expenditure were noted in respect of the closed churchyard trees and grass removal, and the allotments clearance and dangerous tree work. Expenditure for the rest of the fiscal year will be continuously monitored, taking the current position into account. *Clerk*

The Clerk said an accounts summary is published in the Minutes on the website.

2. Reconciliation of Accounts and bank statement

In accordance with new Financial Regulations and the Transparency Code, Cllr Parcell checked, verified and signed that the Accounts and the end of June bank statement reconciled. It was noted that the Parish Council has only one bank account and only uses only one cheque book at a time. It was unanimously **RESOLVED to accept the reconciliation of the Accounts and bank statement.** *GP/ Clerk*

3. List of payments. It was unanimously **RESOLVED to approve all the payments:** *Clerk*

Date	Payee	Item	£	Chq	Power
31/5	Clerk	Salary May	225.00	1001	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A), & s151; LA 2011 s41
11/6	J English	Litterpick to 11/6	105.76	1002	OSA 1906 s9 & s10
6/6	DP Electrics	AED wiring and light	158.40	1003	PHA 1936 s234
6/6	Tower Mint Ltd	QEII medals	211.98	1004	LGA 1972 s137

15/6	IT Ltd (Defib shop)	AED posters	60.00	1005	PHA 1936 s234
30/6	Clerk	Salary June	233.03	1006	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A), & s151; LA 2011 s41
30/6	HMRC	PAYE Apr-June	170.60	1007	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A), & s151; LA 2011 s41
5/7	Clerk	Travel/phone exp May/June	43.80	1008	LGA 1972 s112(1), (2A), & s151; LA 2011 s41
5/7	Clerk	Petty cash top up	20.90	1009	LGA 1972 s111, s112
5/7	J English	Litterpick to 9/7	105.76	1010	OSA 1906 s9 & s10
5/7	C Parrott	Closed churchy'd 2/4	224.00	1011	LGA 1972 s215
5/7	J Turner	Cutting B/fld Grn 2/3	83.33	1012	OSA 1906 s9, s10
5/7	D Jarrett	Remove grass heap Closed Churchyard	102.00	1013	LGA 1972 s215
5/7	D Jarrett	Fell willow allotments	125.00	1014	SHAA 1908 s26(1)
		VAT included	109.96		

Cheques for 5th July were signed at the end of the meeting.

16.089 Correspondence

The list of correspondence was noted as it appeared on the Agenda:

- EHC and parishioner: Re caravans parked in layby, B1004 (16.092.3)
- EHC/Gigaclear: removal of broadband advertising banner
- EHAPTC: Meeting notes, EHC, 5th May
- Parish Magazine editors: Donation towards possible additional dog-waste bin
- DC R Brunton: Gilston Area Concept Framework (16.096)
- EHC Enforcement Yew Tree House (16.087.3.4)
- HAPTC: Oak Moth warning
- SLAA: Update list of sites (16.094)
- Parishioner: Overgrown Green Lane Bridleway 10 (16.092.1.b)

16.090 Village Reports

1. Village Hall:

- The Quiz Night will be on 29th September, in aid of the Village Hall. The highly recommended Comedy Night will be on 3rd December.
- It was noted that the decorators are continuing with the Green Room and removing the external ivy. It is anticipated to be some time before the work is finished.
- The Chairman requested that the notice board be reinstated in the Small Hall.

PR

2. Allotments:

- Cllr Babs Edwards reported that there is now only one vacant plot, although it's possible some more may become available in September if tenants do not work their plots as per the Tenancy Agreement.
- The paths need cutting and it was agreed to ask Nigel English to quote.
- It was agreed that Carmel could arrange for a rotorvator to dig the plots she is proposing to manage.
- A dangerous willow tree has been felled and removed by David Jarrett

BE/JB

3. Playing Field:

- Cllr Glen Parcell is joining the Committee as the Parish Council's representative.
- Tom Edwards has taken on the role of Treasurer.
- The AGM will be on Monday 11th July.

GP

4. Closed Churchyard

- a. Cllr Parcell said he would endeavor to contact another tree surgeon to get a quote for dealing with the diseased sycamore tree.
- b. David Jarrett had cleared the large pile of old grass cuttings under the trees as a one-off job. It was agreed to see whether Busy Lizzie are contracted (and licensed) to take them off-site in future.

Clerk

Clerk/JB

The Clerk confirmed the Parish Council's responsibility for the upkeep of the churchyard and said he would get a definitive statement of the duty parameters from HAPTC/NALC.

Clerk

16.091 Report by the County and District Councillors

County Cllr Roger Beeching gave the following report (*edited by the Clerk*).

1. EU and BREXIT and HCC: Nothing is known at present; everything will carry on as normal and adjustments made as it unfolds.
2. Flooding on 23rd June: 248 emergency callouts in the county. Drainage systems are unable to cope with the sudden downpours. The county is looking into what remedies can be carried out
3. Travel In Hertfordshire over next 35 years and growth of population: Population now is 1.1 million; by 2050 it is likely to be 1.5 million. In the next 15years an hour's journey will take 15 minutes longer. County is looking at Hertfordshire Transport Vision to manage the extra strain on rail, links between towns, better public transport, shared transport schemes, walking and cycling routes in larger urban areas.
4. Grass cutting: Highways cuts the equivalent of 1200 football pitches in a normal year of 13 cuts. 7 cuts done already this year. Cutting is being carried out overnight to reduce disruption on major roads. Each time the crews go out they cut 1.5million square metres.

Cllr Beeching was presented with the **Benningfield Road** parking petition and supporting photographs. The fact that an ambulance was unable to get down the road was emphasised. The problems have been discussed with Highways and what is certain is that the road will not be yellow lined. Also raised was the question of long-term parking in the **B1004 layby** and whether it is possible for a parking restriction to be imposed by Highways, eg by the enactment of a byelaw. It was noted that the layby is used by walkers, lorry drivers resting etc and they are denied that facility by a permanently parked caravan. Cllr Beeching said this sort of thing was happening all over Hertfordshire. He undertook to discuss these matters with County and report back.

RB

District Cllr Robert Brunton said he wanted to report on the **Gilston Area Concept**. In addressing this it was agreed to bring forward **Agenda item 16.096: Stop Harlow North**.

There have recently been two meetings between the District Council and the developer. The vision is for a series of 7 villages of distinct character that will ultimately total approximately 10,000 houses. The first phase of 3,000 is almost certain to go ahead and will happen by the end of the new District Plan period, ie by 2033. The available green space left during the process will be signed over to a community trust to protect it from any future development.

Transport modelling is continuing through the emerging District Plan. The A414 will be particularly affected, and will include a bypass for Hertford and a new Junction 7A on the M11. It is now proposed that sewage treatment will be handled through Rye Meads rather than on-site. Affinity Water has said it has enough water from its present resources to meet the required supply. It is asserted that there is sufficient gas and electricity capacity to meet the needs of the full 10k homes. The development will also create four primary and two secondary schools.

Cllr Brunton said that since this development will almost certainly go ahead and bearing in mind the considerable changes made to the original Harlow North plan, it might be better to accept the fact and maximise some advantages. For example, that appropriate infrastructure is built into planning proposals and that local builders and suppliers are at the head of the supply chain.

Information available on the East Herts website and the website of the owner/developer – Places for People/Quod.

16.092 Highways, footpaths and byways

1. Footways and kerbs:

- a. Lack of footway maintenance: Ongoing
- b. Green Lane Bridleway 10 overgrown: Reported; with RoW Officer.
- c. Also raised: FP3 is overgrown with rape. RoW Officer to be contacted.

Clerk
Clerk

- 2. **Benningfield Road parking:** Discussed above with CC Beeching, 16.091
- 3. **Parking in B1004 layby:** Discussed above with CC Beeching, 16.091
- 4. **Other matters:** It was reported that hedge along the Hunsdon Road between Abbotts Lane and Martlets entrance is growing over the footway and into the road. Clerk to report as a Highways fault. Also mentioned was the gulley cleaning observed at the coal yard. The Clerk said the HCC gulley cleaning programme for this area was scheduled for July. Concerns over missing/worn out white lines should continue to be reported as faults, with photographic evidence if possible.

Clerk

16.093 **Website and Broadband:** No report

16.094 **Neighbourhood Plan.** No report

16.095 **Defibrillator:** Installation of the AED and light has been completed. The notices of its location have been posted around the village, which was agreed by all to have been an excellent idea.

16.096 **Stop Harlow North:** Development of the Gilston Area Concept discussed above with DC Brunton, 16.091

16.097 **Dog-waste bin:** It was unanimously **RESOLVED to purchase a small bin from Broxap for Benningfield Green, subject to EHC not being able to provide one from their budget.**

Clerk

16.098 **Urgent matters** received too late for inclusion on this agenda: None

16.099 **Items for future agendas:** None

The Chairman said the Council would consider suspending the meeting if parishioners had any further comments to make:

There were none

16.100 **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 13th September at 8pm in the Village Hall

16.101 **To consider exclusion of press and public for Agenda item 16.101, Benningfield Green**

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted under this agenda item, it was unanimously **RESOLVED to exclude press and public under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960.**

The Clerk reported that those concerned had been sent a letter requesting reinstatement of the damaged areas of the Green in compliance with the licence conditions and as a condition of its future renewal (due August). It was unanimously **RESOLVED to support this action.**

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

Signed.....Dated.....