

Widford Parish Council

Minutes of the Widford Ordinary Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday 2nd July 2019 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall



PRESENT: Cllr Jill Buck, Chairman (JB); Cllr Carol Blackett (CB); Cllr Babs Edwards (BE);
Cllr Paul Riddle (PR); Cllr Michael Ripsher (MR)

8 members of the public

Clerk: Colin Marks, Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm

ACTION

19.056 Apologies for absence

1. Councillors: None (all present)
2. Others: Sgt Duncan Wallace; Cllr Eric Buckmaster

19.057 Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations

1. Interests

Cllr Babs Edwards: as noted on the agenda, a non-pecuniary interest in respect of Playing Field matters, her husband being Treasurer of the PFMC.

Cllr Babs Edwards, Cllr Carol Blackett and Cllr Michael Ripsher: DPs in respect of agenda planning item 19.061.3.2 in that their properties are adjacent to the proposed development.

2. Dispensation requests

Cllr Babs Edwards, Cllr Carol Blackett and Cllr Michael Ripsher submitted written Dispensation requests to speak and vote on all planning matters related to Adams Farm and Priory Farm for the duration of the present term of office. Since their DPs rendered the Council inquorate, powers were delegated to the Clerk to decide on the application. The Clerk granted Dispensations to all three councillors in accordance with the 2011 Localism Act, s33 (2)(a), ie because without them, the Parish Council would be inquorate when considering all matters related to the proposed development.

Clerk

19.058 1. Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2019

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2019 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

JB/Clerk

2. Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2019

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2019 were a true and accurate record.** The Chairman signed the Minutes.

JB/Clerk

19.059 Police report: None received

19.060 Chairman's announcements: None

19.061 Planning

1. New Applications:

3/19/1169/FUL 9 Benningfield Road: Continued use of dwelling for childminding up to 16 children for temporary period of up to 3 years. **RESOLVED to make no objections**

Clerk

2. Decision Notices. The following were noted:

3/18/2752/HH Ashbourne Manor: Acoustic fencing. **APPEAL 19/00068/REFUSE**

APPEAL DISMISSED

3/18/2181/FUL Land north of Abbots Lane, The Old Orchard: Erect 1 no. 4 bedroomed dwelling with landscaping and parking. **Withdrawn – undetermined after 6 months**

3/19/1025/FUL Owletts Corner: Change of use, paddock to manège. **AWAITING DECISION**

3/18/2518/fUL Land adj to Widford Rise: Erect 2 x 4-bed dwellings. **19/00091/Refuse APPEALED.** **APPEAL DECISION AWAITED**

3/19/0547/LBC Church Barns: Change of use to B1 and residential **AWAITING DECISION**

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

1. Late planning applications: NONE

2. Adams Farm & Priory Farm proposed development

1. Report on the Bellis public meeting, 20th June

It was unfortunate that the GL Hearn rep was not present at the Parish Council meeting. The public display was very useful in showing what was being proposed. Over 120 attended and Bellis were surprised at the turnout, and also how many parishioners made similar objections. Thanks were extended to Mr Brickwood and Mr Gardner for writing so powerfully in the Magazine. The Parish Council cannot formally comment until it receives the application. It was recommended that individuals write objections to both Bellis and Hearn in advance in order to thwart the application if possible, even if comments were submitted on the form at the public meeting. It was further recommended that those letters are then copied to EHC Planning as and when an application is submitted. The Parish Council will object separately to EHC as a statutory consultee.

2. Enough is Enough Group

It was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Parish Council support the objectives and actions of the Enough is Enough Group.**

Following a request from the floor, it was **RESOLVED that the Clerk send East Herts Planning an FOI request to provide the Parish Council with copies of all minutes and notes of pre-application meetings and related discussions between East Herts Council and GL Hearn Ltd / Bellis Homes with regard to all possible development plans for the Adams Farm / Priory Farm site in Widford.**

Clerk

It was recommended that a letter be written to the local press when the application arrives. This would provide free publicity.

The Enough is Enough group will hold a public meeting in response to the application.

19.062 Finance

1. Report of the Council's finances for 1 April to 30 June (first quarter) was received (Appendix A)

Finance Summary from 1 April to 30 June	£
Opening bank balance 1 April	13,182.04
Plus: income to 30 June	8,173.88
Minus: expenditure to 30 June	2,376.36
Minus presented March cheques 1200, 1201, 1210, 1212	<u>731.76</u>
Balance available to Council at 30 June (cashbook balance)	18,247.80
Plus previous month's unrepresented cheque 1221	<u>36.55</u>
Bank balance: reconciled with bank statement at 30 June	<u>18,284.35</u>

Reconciliation of the Accounts to the bank statements was noted and it was unanimously **RESOLVED that the Accounts Statement for the first quarter be accepted.**

Clerk

2. Cllr Michael Ripsher, as a non-signatory member, signed the accounts sheet and bank statement to verify reconciliation.

3. Financial statement for the first quarter, 1 April to 30 June 2019

The Clerk provided a detailed statement of the budget vs actual financial position at the end of the first quarter. Income and expenditure are broadly in line with budget expectations. It was unanimously **RESOLVED to accept the financial statement.**

Clerk

4. List of payments. It was unanimously RESOLVED to approve all the payments as listed:

Clerk

All expenditure made under the General Power of Competence

Date	Payee	Item	£	Chq
7/5	P Riddle reimbursement	Printer ink	36.55	1221
22/5	J English	Litterpick May	116.00	S/O
30/5	Clerk	Salary May	360.00	1222
3/6	Bank error or scam	Refunded on 10th June	21.50	D/D
22/6	J English	Litterpick June	116.00	S/O

28/6	Clerk	Salary June	374.20	1223
28/6	HMRC	PAYE 1st quarter	273.40	1224
1/7	Mrs C Parrott	Closed Churchyard 2 of 4	240.00	S/O
2/7	Clerk	Expenses May/June	43.25	1225
2/7	Petty cash (Clerk)	Petty cash May/June	2.40	1226
2/7	J Turner	Benningfield grass 2 of 3	100.00	1227
2/7	CPRE	Annual subscription	36.00	1228
2/7	Clerk reimbursement	Microsoft Office 365 licence (50%)	40.00	1229
2/7	Clerk reimbursement	Cartridge Monkey printer ink	103.12	1230
	Cancelled	Cancelled		1231
Recoverable VAT included			17.18	

It was agreed to pay £120 to HAPTC for the Clerk to attend the Advanced Clerks' course on 17th July. £80 will be reimbursed by two of the Clerk's other councils (£40 each).

Clerk

A provisional £162 for trimming the closed churchyard yew trees was cancelled due to Lady Parker offering to pay for them, as in the past. The Chairman to write a letter of appreciation.

JB

The cheques were signed at the end of the meeting.

19.063 Correspondence

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

- Parishioner/Police: dangerous parking on B180
- To parishioner: re re-locating allotments to the Playing Field
- Parishioner: re ongoing speed & volume traffic studies (19.065.2.1)
- GL Hearn/Bellis: public meeting re possible development (19.061.3.2.1)
- Parishioners: responses to PWLB loan proposal (19.064.3.2)
- EHC: Notification of SCI and Retail Frontages SPD consultation, 20 June to 1 August.

19.064 Village Reports

1. Village Hall and archive

CB

- The bingo night (6th July) has been cancelled due to lack of support.
- The AGM will be held on 10th July.

2. Playing Field

JB

There has not been a meeting recently and consequently there was no report.

3. Allotments

BE

1. and 2. The lack of a water supply dominates the concerns and the outcome of the consultation on taking out a loan is awaited. Tenants living nearby have trundled some water in, but it is a very difficult situation. Although some years ago, water was pumped from the ditch, there is no water in the ditch these days.

Some residents from Benningfield Road said there used to be another ditch behind their property that fed into the one by FP18, but this had been filled in and a hedge planted some 20 or more years ago by the landowner. It was contended that the ditch infill was illegal and the landowner should remove the hedge and re-open the ditch, which it was suggested was a statutory duty. The Parish Council was asked to look into the matter.

JB/Clerk

The Chairman said that responses to the loan consultation were fairly evenly divided.

4. Closed Churchyard

As discussed under Finance 19.062.4 above, Lady Parker has offered to pay for the yew trees to be trimmed by David Jarrett.

19.065 Highways, footpaths and byways

1. Footpaths, footways and kerbs.

1. **FP6:** Nicholas Maddex has said he will write to the landowner again and ask that the FP be reinstated across the field.

Clerk

2. Highways

1. **Clr Paul Riddle reported on his meeting with Eric Buckmaster and Ian Hollinrake on 27th June 2019 to discuss the possible locations of SIDs within the village:**

Much Hadham road

Not possible to put a SID anywhere in the 30mph zone because of the trees and the sight lines. It would be possible to put a 40mph SID on the bank opposite Scott Lester’s main entrance (not the Pegs Lane entrance) but this is a long way from the village.

Sight lines would make it impossible to put a 40mph SID opposite Pegs Lane and a 40mph SID could in any case not be located within 100 meters of a 30mph zone.

**EB/All
EB**

It is not possible to extend the 30mph zone in fact a review would mean the hill up to the village would probably become a 40mph zone.

Any SID would have to be funded by Parish Council as the traffic survey shows there is no justification.

Clerk

I suggested that the traffic counter was positioned at a particularly slow location which would skew the results and was told that it had to be at least 100 meters from the start of the 30mph zone so there is no option at this end of the village.

**Clerk/
JB**

Eric was concerned that 5 or 6 houses have planning permission at the top of Pegs Lane and this could require an extension to the 30mph zone. PR to check planning approval.

Ian suggested that the 30mph signs and “Widford Village” sign were hardly visible and on the wrong side of the road he agreed to look to see if anything could be done about this.

Also a “white gate” type structure might help to show drivers they were entering a village. PR to follow this up with Eric.

Hunsdon road

Again, Eric and Ian were unable to identify a better location for the traffic counter.

If the Parish Council were to fund a second SID themselves there is a possible location at the road into Martlets adjacent to their sign.

Chicane

Eric to follow up the relocation of the chicane however he believes that the ball is in the developer’s court.

Ware Road

Again, Eric and Ian were unable to identify a better location for the traffic counter.

If the Parish Council were prepared to fund a third SID Ian would reluctantly look into the possibility of locating one at the end of the Willmore development, where the railings end but the sight lines and pavement width make this a difficult location.

Ian suggested that if required a number of sockets could be installed so two SIDs could be swapped between three locations. This assumes that Ian is able to confirm that the location at the end of the railings is acceptable.

Parking Outside Ashview

The resident living at the white house has requested a disabled parking bay which is difficult on a gravel road even if it is adopted.

Eric was uneasy about the stones which line the grass verge and Ian said that he should really remove them as they were a potential hazard. I urged him strongly not to do this.

Eric suggested that he was prepared to look into installing proper bollards instead.

Bus Shelter & Junction

Looked at the damage to the new bus shelter and we all agreed that a bus stopping at the kerb would not hit the shelter in its current location. It is far more likely that the damage has been done by a lorry or van doing a three-point turn and reversing into it. The damage to the wooden tiles would suggest a blow from the front rather than a scrape.

The road through Widford is due to be resurfaced later this year but reducing the camber at the bus stop would not help.

The pavement at the bus stop may well be raised but this would have no impact as the pavement would be no wider.

I suggested a mini roundabout would reduce speeds through the village but with no serious injuries reported the cost cannot be justified.

I suggested a stop sign rather than just give way sign and Ian felt that this might be a possibility and will give the idea some thought.

Following the report, various courses of action were suggested, including asking the landowner to cut back the trees on the hill south of the Pegs Lane junction to improve sight lines that

would enable a SID to be located at the top of the hill. There was not a consensus on this as there is no guarantee it would produce a positive outcome. There were also reservations in respect of the Conservation Area.

It was noted that the only location at the moment is on the Hunsdon Road.

The use of village gateway devices and signs might create a better awareness that drivers were entering a village space.

2. Bus shelter repair: The contractor will repair the damaged roof free of charge and will install the seat at the same time – no indication of when that might happen.

3. TRO 13050: The temporary closure of the B180 was noted.

3. Other parish concerns

1. Benningfield Green Annual Vehicular Licence: It was agreed to discuss this under exclusion of press and public legislation at the end of the meeting.

2. Other matters raised: None

19.066 Reports by County and District Councillor

Not given to the meeting

19.067 Urgent matters received too late for inclusion on this agenda: None raised

In view of the open discussions that had taken place during the meeting, it was agreed not to suspend the meeting for public comments

19.068 Items for future agendas

- No issues raised other than those during the meeting.

19.069 Date of next Parish Council meeting

Tuesday 3rd September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

JB/Clerk

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The Chairman proposed, and it was **RESOLVED that press and public be excluded under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, while the following deferred business is was transacted:**

19.065.3.1 Benningfield Green Annual Vehicular Licence. The Council considered and resolved a course of action for the 2019/20 Licence.

Clerk/JB

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

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