

Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 18th March 2014 at 8pm
Held at Graveley Village Hall

Present: .Chairman- Mr Peter Bracey (PB) Vice Chair-Mr Steve Firth (SF) Mr Tony Bracey (TB), Mrs Joyce Andrews (JA),

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – Mrs Hilary Napier (HN) and NHDC Cllr Sal Jarvis (SJ)

Declarations of interest- none

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 18th February 2014 were approved and signed with two slight amendments.

Matters Arising Included below.

1) Highways Report.

Peter Bracey

a) Church Lane - PB has had a meeting with MP Peter Lilley at his Graveley Surgery on March 14th 2014 to discuss the Church Lane traffic problems, Peter Lilley will ask for a report and come back to GPC

PB

b) Accidents - At the Junction of North Road and Graveley High Street PB drafted letters for Clerk to send to John Wood, Chief Executive, HCC and Peter Nicholls, Traffic Management Senior Officer, Hertfordshire Police Headquarters, pointing out the concern of the GPC and members of the public regarding the number of accidents at this Junction and request that a further investigation be carried out; Clerk also wrote to Rob Smith Deputy Director for Environment and Chief Constable Andy Bliss. All replied but even though there were four traffic accidents in one week this accident spot is only ranked 118th equal with 5 other locations for hazardous sites. At the moment there are no plans to sort out the problems but Highways are planning better signs and cutting back foliage-GPC to keep an eye on progress. PB to draft a letter to John Wood for the Clerk to send.

All urged to report any accidents seen to the clerk or chairman

PB/JT

c) Parking outside GPS – Clerk to write to PCSO Elaine Cuozzo and PC Chris Suckling for an update on this problem and invite them to the next GPC meeting,

JT

d) Footpath Church Lane- Although no formal notification has been given the Council understands that the yellow lines, resurfacing and kerbstones will not be done by the end of March as previously stated but delayed for 3 months Clerk to contact Rob Payne for more information.

PB/JT

e) Railings around the culvert in Pongside- PB had a meeting with Herts County Council Environmental Planning Department regarding ownership and responsibilities of the railings and ditch. A report should be issued identifying responsibilities for the next Parish Council meeting.

PB

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2) Planning

Tony Bracey

a) Waste Recycling Centre- Land adjacent to B197, north of Graveley, Hertfordshire, SG4 7EQ.

Proposed amendment to size and height of 3 buildings at a waste recycling centre granted under planning permission 1/0574-12

Graveley Parish Council robustly opposes this application.

Reasons The proposed development is in the green belt and special circumstances need to be

demonstrated- special circumstances do not appear to have been demonstrated. Graveley Parish Council view that the proposed increase in size of the footprint of two buildings and the increase in height of three buildings as unsightly and a wholly inappropriate construction within the Green Belt, this will have a damaging impact on the countryside. The proposed changes particularly the increase in height of the buildings to 12metres will not be in keeping with the rural nature of the site location .GPC wish to register strong objections to the increase in height to 12metres of building A as the proposed building is on the brow of a hill and will be a real carbuncle in the area.

AND

Variation of condition 4 (hours of operation) of planning permission 1/0574-12 from 7.30 - 16.30 Monday to Friday and 7.30 - 12.30 on Saturdays to 06.00 - 18.00 Monday to Friday and 06.00 - 14.30 on Saturdays

Graveley Parish council oppose this application.

Reasons Increasing the weekday hours as requested would extend yard usage into the evening peak rush hour. The junction of the B197 is heavily congested at this time with long tailbacks of traffic waiting to join the dual carriageway. There is no information justifying the application, this can only indicate an increase in load volumes/vehicle movements over the originally approved total of 80 journeys (40 in & 40 out} per day and therefore the need for the yard to be opened longer. Although the yard is operational, there does not appear to have been any progress in complying with Point 9 of the conditions attached to the original planning application No 1/2645-10 (*No operation of the site shall take place until a right hand turn lane has been constructed and brought into use in accordance with the drawings*) therefore preventing the lorries accessing the site via Graveley, GPC strongly object to the possibility of lorries travelling through the village from 06.00 hrs-18.00 hrs.

b) Cars For Sale outside The Old Forge- TB is still pursuing this with Chris Braybrooke as there is still confusing as to who owns the land.

TB

c) Car for sale in the layby- TB supplied the Clerk with photographs of a car for sale which he has emailed to Andy Goodman who will look into it and report back in due course.

JT

3) Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) Bank Account- our current and reserve account now stands at £19,850.70.

b) Legislation is going through Parliament that changes the conditions of Audit for Parishes with an under £25,000 budget. SF to review.

4) Playground

Joyce Andrews

a) JA reported that all is in order and that the grass has been cut.

b) Rent Increase- a new draft lease has been sent to PB, the annual rent will increase to £100.00 per annum. It was felt by GPC members that whilst not a large amount other Playgrounds were maintained by NHDC at no direct expense to those communities.

PB to draft letter to Rural Affairs portfolio holder Tony Hunter.

5) Any Other Business

a) NHH Report/Walkabout-PB and Clerk meet with Sarah Paxton of HH to look at any problems in Ashwell Close/Common. The main one was parking on the Grass verge and the tenants have been written to advising them not to continue to do so. Clerk to write to Sarah Paxton seeking clarification on parking in front gardens as one resident has complained that he received a letter saying they could not do so, even though he has drop kerb and hard standing for parking.

JT

b) Road Repairs Ashwell Close in front of new parking spaces – Sarah Paxton emailed *The works are due to commence on the 24th, 25th and 26th March. Contract surfacing from Knebworth. Chris Rowley Capital Works Manager*

c) Caravan (Grinders End) - A caravan has appeared in the woodland TB to report to Chris Braybrooke to ascertain if it was not against any planning laws.

TB

6) Matters Arising,

a) Garage Church Lane/High Street- A member of the public raised two issues one the washing of cars that resulted in torrents of water across the footpath. the other was that cars parked in the forecourt overhung the footpath. TB to raise with Chris Braybrooke.

TB

7) Correspondence received

a) NHH Estate Inspection Summary Report (see 5a above)

b) HCC Community Directory-clerk to action

c) Aon Insurance quote request for GPC's details-clerk to get a quote

8) Cheques Issued

a) Clerks Petty Cash £57.44

b) NHDC Empty dog mess bins (one year) £335.09 Inc. vat

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall

On

Tuesday 15th April 2014 at 8 pm.

