

Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 15th April 2014 at 8pm
Held at Graveley Village Hall

Present: .Chairman- Mr Peter Bracey (PB) Vice Chair-Mr Steve Firth (SF) Mrs Joyce Andrews (JA), Mrs Hilary Napier (HN) HCC Cllr Tony Hunter (TH) NHDC Cllrs Sal Jarvis (SJ) and Cathryn Henry (CH)

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – Tony Bracey (TB),

Declarations of interest- none

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 18th March 2014 were approved and signed

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 has replied, PB to respond to letter.

PB

b) Accidents - At the Junction of North Road and Graveley High Street. Since the last GPC meeting there has been a further two accidents and two near misses reported. No reply has been received from the Chief Executive, however it is understood that a reply is imminent with details and timings of works that are planned.

PB

c) Parking outside GPS – Clerk has contacted PCSO Elaine Cuzzo and PC Chris Suckling for an update on this problem and invited them to the GPC meeting, no reply was received. It was agreed that the clerk contact Chief Inspector Danny Pierce

JT

d) Footpath Church Lane-PB had a site meeting to discuss the proposed work, despite GPC, the local residents and site owner all supporting the changes (the work being financed by County Councillor Tony Hunters locality budget) there is some confusion within Herts Highways regarding the lifting of the kerb and they are seeking advice from their Legal Dept. TH will report back on progress. The work is planned to start 19th May.

TH

e) Railings around the culvert in Pondsides- PB had a meeting with Herts County Council Flood Risk Management regarding ownership and responsibilities of the railings and ditch. A report was to be issued for by the GPC April meeting. This has been delayed as the Flood Risk Management Team is awaiting a reply from Herts Highways. TH will look into it.

PB/TH

f) Street Lights- we are still experiencing problems with faulty lights PB to send TH the details

PB/TH

2) Planning

Tony Bracey

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

TB has received a reply from Ian Leech regarding his email in which he raised several points:-

I carried out a site visit and had a detailed discussion with the applicant on site recently regarding a number of the concerns below.

As a general point, I have discussed concerns with colleagues in our enforcement and monitoring

team and we are and will continue to carry out random monitoring of the site as and when we are in the local area.

HGVs- We will monitor this and consider what further measures may be necessary if the problem persists. I understand ...that the situation has improved but there remain sporadic incidents of skip lorries passing through the village.

Wheel washing- the majority of the site has been surfaced with concrete ... there is an area which remains ... Once the whole site is surfaced, I would envisage no issue with mud or debris on the road. The road appeared to be clean and free of debris ... I have asked for confirmation regarding water supply and measures for wheel washing.

Right hand turn lane- The applicant has engaged a new highway consultant in order to progress this matter with our highways department. I am also discussing with colleagues in order that this matter is resolved as quickly as possible so that the turning lane can be finally provided.

Advertisements/signage- Numerous signs have been put up along the front of the site. Unhelpfully, the regulation of signs/adverts does not fall to us as the county planning authority but is a matter for NHDC. I have previously advised the applicant that he should contact NHDC regarding the signs in order to ensure that he seeks any necessary planning permission for them. I understand that he did make contact with NHDC.

Landscaping- There is a sufficient strip of land within the inner boundary of the site in order to have planting as is required and the applicant does intend to provide the planting ... along the boundary at the earliest opportunity. I did walk along part of this area when I was on site. The issue is that access along this strip of land will be needed when installing the additional buildings on site and there is little point in putting in planting that would then be damaged and need to be replaced. Equally, I quite understand the concern and I would expect this planting to be provided as quickly as possible once all other works have been completed .

Sale of material- whilst there is no specific condition preventing sale of materials on site, planning permission was granted for a waste transfer and processing site. If any sales were low key then they may be considered to be ancillary to the main use of the site. However, if sales became a larger part of site operations and attracted greater vehicle movements then it would be likely to require planning permission. Any lorry movements to and from the site would need to be within the limits set by condition (40 in and 40 out).

Wildlife area- It is intended that this still be provided.

Right hand turn lane- It is still a requirement of the current planning permission

Clerk to write to Mary Caldwell asking her to clarify the Advertisement/signage situation.

JT

b) 18 High Street, Graveley Advertisement Consent: Three fascia signs including external lighting troughs, Ref 14/00295/1AD- The Graveley Parish Council object to the proposed illuminated signs. The site is in the centre of the village, in a residential area that is also a conservation area. The sign and size of them would increase the levels of light pollution and is totally inappropriate for the centre of a rural community. Clerk to action.

JT

b) Cars For Sale outside The Old Forge- CH will investigate why this issue is taking so long to be resolved.

CH

c) Car for sale in the layby- Andy Goodman emailed *We've checked on the Registered Keepers of the vehicles cited in the photos you've recently emailed across: they are a female from Stevenage, a male from London SW4, and another male from Graveley. The discussions we've had with these*

people confirms that there is no link between them (i.e. they are not associated with the motor trade) and therefore the provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 don't apply unfortunately. The Highway Act 1980 power might be relevant, but that's matter for Herts County Council as it is the Highway Authority. I've tasked an Environmental Enforcement Officer to keep an eye on the layby and check on the Registered Keepers of any vehicles exposed for sale there. This might encourage people to think twice about using this land for that purpose. Clerk to send a copy of the warning sign that we first requested to CH who will see if this simple expedient would solve the problem. Clerk to contact Andy Goodman to clarify what the definition used for a motor trader is.

JT/CH

3) Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) Bank Account- our current and reserve account now stands at £19,458.90

b) Annual Accounts- SF has completed these and they are being checked by an independent person before going to BDO. The end of the year notice has been put on the noticeboard and if any local residents wish to view these accounts they may do so by contacting SF. Accounts to be signed off and minuted at the next GPC meeting.

SF

4) Playground

Joyce Andrews

a) JA presented the Quarterly report by CPM who pointed out a few things that needed attention and quoted for Jet Washing the safety surfaces, re placing plastic nut caps and reinstating the grass in front of the goal for £230.00 plus vat. GPC agreed and clerk to raise an order.

JT

b) Rent Increase-PB sent a letter to Rural Affairs portfolio holder Tony Hunter as it was felt by GPC members that the increase in rent, whilst modest, was unfair considering that other play areas in Hitchin etc., are completely funded by them and GPC have to fund (albeit with grants) The legal department will not budge so the new lease will be signed at the next GPC meeting

PB

c) Stones-JA reported that large pieces of concrete have been dumped in the playground. PB to investigate.

PB

5) Any Other Business

a) NHH – Clerk contacted Sarah Paxton and received the following email-*Tenants are only allowed to park vehicles within the boundary of their property if they have a properly constructed hard standing and dropped kerb. They also require our landlords consent before they construct the hard standing.*

b) Road Repairs Ashwell Close in front of new parking spaces – This has been resurfaced and

at last this saga has come to an end.

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- The Environment Agency is investigating the water run-off from washing of cars. Cars parked in the forecourt overhang the footpath. TB to raise with Chris Braybrooke. As TB was not at this meeting he will report at the next meeting.

TB

b) Salt Supplies at the Village Hall- It was agreed that our Litter Picker sort out the salt supplies, some of the bags are split and need sorting out. Tim Franklin very kindly offered to supply and deliver a pallet for the work to be carried out. TB to give instructions to our Litter Picker.

TB

c) Insurance- Clerk has asked AEON to give a comparable quote for our Insurance.

JT

d) Herts Parish Conference- JA and PB attended this meeting in which the theme was localism and Highways JA gave a report on the various discussions, for instance, Street lighting, Playgrounds and how Parish Councils could get more involved on a local basis. This will be an annual event.

e) Damaged salt bin- a local resident pointed out that the damaged bin was still in Church Lane and Clerk to contact Derek Twigg to get it removed.

JT

7) Correspondence received

a) John Wood re Accidents to PB 29/3/14

b) Crime Figurers-noted

c) *Open Space, Recreation and Sport Study* PB has sent a reply clerk to do likewise.

d) European Elections Notices-on noticeboard

e) HCC Waste Development update- to SF

f) CDA Membership application- it was agreed not to take this up,

8) Cheques Issued

a) CPM Playground Inspection £48.00 inc vat.

b) NHAPTCC annual subscription £20.00 no vat

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
On
Tuesday 20th May 2014 at 8 pm.**

