

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

Present: .Chairman- Peter Bracey (PB) Vice Chair- Steve Firth (SF) Cheryl Peers (CP) Tony Bracey (TB)

Members of the public were also present

Apologies –HCC Tony Hunter (TH) and Hilary Napier (HN)

Declarations of interest-none

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 21st October 2014 were approved and signed

Matters Arising Included below.

1) Highways Report.

Peter Bracey

a) Church Lane – Regarding the increase and speeding of traffic in Church Lane, HN drafted a letter to David Scholes Chief Executive NHDC with a copy to John Wood (Chief Executive and Director of Environment) Clerk has sent, but so far. has not received replies – Clerk to chase.

JT

b) Accidents – Daniel Parker Assistant Engineer - Development Management emailed PB: - *While the majority of the works were implemented during the autumn half term, there are a couple of minor snagging items to be resolved with Ringway. The works in relation to the embankment were not completed as they were identified in the Road Safety Audit and are still with the Developer to complete. I am currently engaging with the Developer's Agent and Network Management to arrange for these works to be completed.* PB to follow up in due course.

PB

c) Investigation of the smells coming from the culvert appears to fall under the NHDC umbrella for enforcement. PB has contacted Daniel Rose, Environmental Officer who will report back.

Andy Hardstaff HCC is preparing a response to our request on the build-up of silt in the culvert.

PB

d) Overgrown hedges in the High Street- They have been cut back but were unable to cut back the hedge by the Bus Shelter owing to the equipment used PB to contact to Trevor Ward to see if this can be done.

PB

e) Street Lights- The two in Church Lane are a problem, one is not working the other is faulty.

PB to report.

PB

2) Planning

Tony Bracey

a) Cars For Sale outside The Old Forge and High Street Lay-by-.Peter Carey is our new contact

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At NHDC he is the Environmental Health Manager and is having a meeting in late November and will report back.

TB/JT

b) Draft housing allocations unveiled for North Herts., Local Plan- GPC has written to Cllr David Levett, NHDC's Portfolio Holder for Planning and Enterprise with the GPC's observations .Clerk chased but he is on leave until the end of the month. Copies of the letter were sent to all Cabinet Members by the Clerk. It was agreed that we also send a letter regarding building on the Green Belt to all 43 NHDC Councillors. Jack Rigg and CP will prepare and send as time is short before the next NHDC full council meeting.

CP/JR

3) Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) Bank Account- Our current and reserve accounts now stand at £19,609.98

b) Precept Requirements for 2015/6- NHDC have requested our requirements for the next year's precept amount. SF to look at and report at the next GPC meeting. The figure needs to be minuted and Clerk to send to Tim Neill at NHDC.

SF/JT

4) Playground

Cheryl Peers

a) Rent Increase- Solicitors (Hamilton & Davies the Old Town Stevenage) have undertaken to register the new lease with the Land Registry. Clerk to chase up progress.

JT

b) Trees in Playground- CP has instructed Matt Thompson Services to landscape the area where the trees were felled. Work has taken place but there are still one or two things to be completed

CP

c) New Litter Bin-TB will speak to Bin Co to get a second key (CP has one) so that it can be given to the local resident who empty's the bin when full.

TB

d) Playground Hedges on the footpath – The hedges either side on the approach to the Playground are very overgrown Clerk has contacted Hertfordshire Homes and received an email from Loren Haley of Hertfordshire Homes: - *It has now been confirmed that this is our responsibility and I am in the process of gaining some quotes to have the hedge cut back.*

Clerk to keep an eye on progress.

JT

5) Any Other Business

A) Caravan (Grinders End) - A caravan has appeared in the woodland it has reported to Chris Braybrooke to ascertain if planning regulation has been breached. Chris Braybrooke will report in due course.

6) Matters Arising,

a) 1a High Street-the site has been cleared but it was felt that an eye must be kept on any future developments.

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b) High Street Waste Yard- The site is, once again, becoming full of rubbish and needs clearing PB to follow up with HH.

PB

7) Correspondence received

a) Flood Risk Management Plans- Clerk has sent to the Graveley Environmental Group for their input. HN is also investigating and will report at the next GPC meeting.

HN

b) NHDC Precept Requirements for 2015/16

c) Change from Footpath to Bridleway documents and plans were received for changes in Green, Turf and Milksey Lane. Clerk to send to Anne Conchie.

JT

d) Surface Water Management Plans: - Reply to be sent raising Parish concerns.

PB/JT

8) Cheques Issued

a) J Deamers mower and strimmer service £208.20 incl vat

b) Women With Waders pond reed clearance £900.00 plus vat

c) Paul Baltruschat Litter Picking £104.00 no vat

9) Any Other Business.

a) Village Pond clearing of overgrown reeds. The work has now been completed by the Graveley Environmental Group with help from local volunteers. GPC thank all involved for their hardwork.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
On Tuesday 16th December 2014 at 8 pm.**