

Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 16th December 2014 at 8pm
Held at Graveley Village Hall

Present: Chairman- Peter Bracey (PB) Vice Chair- Steve Firth (SF) Cheryl Peers (CP) Hilary Napier (HN) and Tony Bracey (TB)

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – NHDC Cllr Sal Jarvis (SJ)

Declarations of interest-none

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 18th November 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, a letter has been sent to David Scholes Chief Executive NHDC with a copy to John Wood (Chief Executive and Director of Environment), so far no reply has been received – Clerk to chase.

JT

b) Accidents – during December to date there have been four accidents, two that resulted in road closures and two less serious. PB to draft a letter to be sent to John Wood at Hertfordshire CC.

PB/JT

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.

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) Flooding on the Road outside the George & Dragon-still seems to be a problem Trevor Ward is on the case, PB to chase.

PB

2) Planning

Tony Bracey

a) Cars For Sale outside The Old Forge and High Street Lay-by-.Peter Carey is our new contact Clerk has chased and received email-apologies *for the delay in responding to you on this. I have met with colleagues to discuss the issue that you have raised. I have one point which I still need to clarify and will come back to you early next week.* Clerk to chase.

JT

b) Caravan (Grinders End)- Chris Braybroke has been in touch with TB and informed him that it will be moved and the sign overlooking the A1M as it flouts planning laws.

TB/JT

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c) Draft housing allocations unveiled for North Herts., Local Plan- GPC discussed the next move that the GPC and GASP could take in opposing the proposal for the building on the green belt. A possible petition and leafleting the local residents to urge them to contact the Council with their views. To be discussed at the next meeting. A draft response to be written on behalf of the Parish Council.

HN

3) Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) Bank Account- Our current and reserve accounts now stand at £18,068. 01

b) Precept Requirements for 2015/6- NHDC have requested our requirements for the next year's Precept amount. Following a recommendation from the Financial Officer It was agreed by all GPC members that the Precept would stay at £6,000.00 The Clerk to send these Minutes and the amount agreed on to Tim Neill at NHDC.

JT

c) Arborcare- The payment, made on the 19th August 2014 (£984.00), has been lost by Arbocare's bank. PB has cancelled this cheque and a new one has been issued.

4) Playground

Cheryl Peers

a) Rent Increase- Solicitors (Hamilton & Davies the Old Town Stevenage) have sent the new lease to the Land Registry. On its return Clerk to send to Suffolk Legal.

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 obtained another key and a large supply of bags. The spare litter bin key & 10 black plastic bags have been passed to Phil for him to service the playing field litter bin. The remainder of the black plastic bags, the remainder of the bags will be used by the litter picker for his normal litter collection.

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 chase.

JT

e) CPM Inspection- CP reported that this has been carried out and all was in order.

5) Any Other Business- none

6) Matters Arising- none

7) Correspondence received

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

HN/JT

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

Footpaths/bridleway North of Stevenage-Andrea Trendler emailed, it advises that the decision will be delayed until the New Year.

Current situation with Bridleways to be reviewed.

TB

c) Surface Water Management Plans: - Reply has been sent raising Parish concerns. PB has been nominated as first point of contact.

d) 'No Parking' Post- outside the Old School House in Church Lane could be considered a hazard PB to report to Herts. Highways.

PB

e) Retaining Wall-in the High Street by 1a High Street, it appears that sections of the wall are crumbling and could become dangerous to passers-by. Highways Structures Department are to investigate.

PB

8) Cheques Issued

- a) Cruz Microsystems Computer repair £183.33 plus vat
- b) Clerks Petty Cash £86.51
- c) Hamilton Davies Lease Registration £166.00 incl vat
- d) CPM Playground Inspection £48.00 incl vat

9) Any Other Business.

a) Playground Contribution-GPC would like to thank Cllr Sal Jarvis for her contribution of £300.00, from her Locality Budget, towards the cost of renewing the fence.

b) Wet Suits- GPC would like to thank Cllr Cathryn Henry for her contribution of £200.00. from her Locality Budget towards the cost of providing 'Wet Suits' for the use by the GEG for the maintenance of the Village Pond.

The Graveley Parish Council wishes you all a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm
The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
On Tuesday 20th January 2015 at 8 pm.