

**Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 17th February 2015 at 8pm
Held at Graveley Village Hall**

Present: Chairman- Peter Bracey (PB) Vice Chair- Steve Firth (SF) Cheryl Peers (CP) Hilary Napier (HN) Tony Bracey (TB) HCC Cllr Tony Hunter (TH) and NHDC Cllr Sal Jarvis (SJ)

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – none

Declarations of interest-none

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 20th January 2015 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 who has asked Simon Ellis to investigate, Clerk has chased no reply received so far. Clerk to keep an eye on progress. It was thought that until the Local Plan and its impact is decided no decision can be made

JT

b) Accidents – During December and January there have been six accidents, four that resulted in road closures and two less serious. PB drafted a letter (18th December 2014) sent to John Wood and a further letter 14th January 2015 (re two more accidents) A reply has been received, but was far from satisfactory. TH has spoken to Rob Smith of Herts Highways regarding the remedial work on the new road works. The 'Bond' from the original contractor has been recovered and is now with their Legal Department for consideration on how to move forward. PB will draft a letter for Clerk to send to John Wood in reply to his letter.

PB/JT/TH

c) Investigation of the smells coming from the culvert. PB has contacted Daniel Rose, Environmental Officer, who has reported that no action will be taken until the summer.

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 has contacted Trevor Ward (Ringway) requesting that the work is completed an order has been raised and will be carried out in due course.

PB

e) Flooding on the Road outside the George & Dragon-Trevor Ward is on the case, a further problem has been identified (outside Bow Cottage) where the drain is totally blocked. This has been reported and cleared, however with the recent heavy rain, the problem still persists.

PB

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

PB

1

g) Retaining Wall-in the High Street by 4 High Street, the following has been received from Ringway 'the wall is waiting for a plan to confirm who is responsible for its maintenance'.

2) Planning

Tony Bracey

a) Cars For Sale outside The Old Forge and High Street Lay-by-.Peter Carey is our new contact. His reply was debated, The ongoing situation to be monitored.

JT

b) Caravan (Grinders End) - NHDC Senior Planning Compliance Officer contacted TB and informed him that it will be moved and the sign overlooking the A1M as it flouts planning laws the owner has to comply with this order within 28 days of it being served..

c) Draft housing allocations unveiled for North Herts., Local Plan- GPC together with Parish Councils - Barkway, Bygrave, Codicote, Kimpton, Knebworth, Langley, Newnham and Caldecote, Offley, Pirton, Sandon, Weston and Wymondley sent their objections to Mrs L. A. Needham, Leader of the Council who has replied. PB to review with other Parish Councils and seek agreement to send copies to local MP's and CPRE.

PB

Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) Bank Account- Our current and reserve accounts now stand at £17,063.31

b) Payments-Two payments from their Locality Budgets (Sal Jarvis £300.00 for the new Playground Fence) and (Cathryn Henry for £200.00 for Wet Suits) have been received.

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. Clerk has chased and will keep an eye on progress as, owing to a backlog at the Land Registry, they do not think it will be completed until later this month.

JT

b) Playground Update: - all in order

5) Any Other Business- none

6) Matters Arising

a) Flood Risk Management Plans- HN has sent a letter in reply with GPC's thoughts.

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

c) 1a High Street- Local residents have raised the matter of the activities in the yard TB emailed- The NHDC Senior Planning Compliance Officer seeking clarification on the permitted use of the yard the email response follows:-

2

NHDC Senior Planning Compliance Officers email

I have had a look at the site history for this site and it has a lawful use (through the passage of time) as a Haulage yard, as established by John Cole in 2004.

This lawful use does not have any conditions regarding hours of operation from the site, as it was not granted a planning permission, but was determined a lawful use as stated. When the previous scaffold company were there it was determined that the use class was still the same, however the racks for scaffolding needed consent to be erected on site, this was never applied for.

To be discussed at the next GPC meeting

7) Correspondence received

a) NHDC Cllr Lynda Needham reply re Local Plan (see 2c above)

b) HVV CE John Wood reply re Accidents (see 1b above)

8) Cheques Issued

a) Matt Thompson Services landscaping playground £365.00

b) Clerks Petty Cash £92.21

c) Paul Baltruschat Litter Picking £104.00 no vat

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
On Tuesday 17th March 2015 at 8 pm.**