

Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 20th October 2015 at 8pm
Held at Graveley Village Hall

Present: Chair Jack Rigg (JR) Vice Chair Cheryl Peers (CP) Financial Officer Steve Firth (SF) Tony Bracey (TB) and Hilary Napier (HN)

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – HCC Tony Hunter and NHDC Sal Jarvis

Declarations of interest- none

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 15th September 2015 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

1. Highways Report

Jack Rigg

a) Accidents- a member of the public reported that there had been another accident at the North Road and Graveley High Street junction it was serious enough, for the person involved to be admitted to Hospital, JR to draft a letter for Clerk to send to Robert Gordon (leader of the council), Terry Douris (portfolio holder for Highways), HCC Tony Hunter, NHDC Sal Jarvis and Cathryn Henry

JR/JT

b) Hedges and clearance of debris- Clerk contacted Highways and HCC Tony Hunter regarding the clearing of the debris at the back of the Bus Shelter and the cutting back of the weeds on the footpath- Whilst some much improved work has already been carried out TH emailed to inform GPC that further work on the footpath in the High Street will take place shortly.

c) Church Lane Potholes-Whilst some patching of the numerous pot holes has been carried out one very large one has been missed. JR contacted Trevor Ward pointing this out-awaiting a reply
JR

d) Wagon & Horses- The repairs to the fencing, on their side, has been carried out

e) Retaining Wall 2 and 4 High Street- JR has spoken to Trevor Ward who is getting a specialised contractor to have a look at the problem and will report back in due course.
JR

f) Hedge in Church Lane- The Clerk contacted the Land Owner requesting that the hedge be cut back. This was completed very quickly, Clerk has emailed with GPC's thanks

2 Planning.

Tony Bracey

a) The George And Dragon, Case Ref No: 15/02464/1 Retention of timber pergola with slate roof to external beer garden. External walk in freezer to private yard area.
GPC do not support this retrospective application. Concerns were raised by members of the public regarding increased noise late at night following construction of the Pergola, and the cutting down

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without planning permission of mature trees and a tall mixed hedge, which had previously screened neighbours from the pub reducing noise and light nuisance.

Residents present also stated that the pergola roof cladding of slate was not in keeping with a Grade Two listed building in a Conservation area Clerk to send GPC's observations and the five letters from local residents with their concerns to Planning. The GPC had no problems with the planning application for a walk in Freezer

JT

b)18 High Street, Case Ref No: 15/02520/1 Renewal of an existing planning approval sanction in 2011 on an existing basis of one terrace of 3 x 3-bedroom dwellings and 1 x 3-bed detached dwelling with 8 parking spaces as replacement for existing car sales premises.
GPC have no objection to this application. As with the previous approval the need for cleansing of the site of heavy metals associated with its former use as a garage and the need to ensure the adequacy of the water drain were noted.

JT

c) Noise from The George & Dragon-GPC have received complaints about very late night noise coming from the pub. If local residents are concerned about late night noise they should contact the Environmental Health Dept. at NHDC with details time and date and any other information. For action to be taken by Environmental Health a pattern of nuisance will have to be established north-herts.gov.uk/.../environmental/noise-smokeand-other-nuisances

3) Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) Bank Account- Our current and reserve accounts now stand at £18,661.13 (including £3,000.00 half our Precept which has been received)

b) NHDC Rural Fund Grant- Clerk has sent in the forms regarding our applications for grants for the Hedge Cutting/Grass Cutting/Litter Picker and the Replanting of the piece of land on the corner of the High Street and Church Lane and a Playground equipment Grant. Stuart Izzard has sent an email informing us that the forms have been received- we will hear the outcome in due course.

4) Playground

Cheryl Peers

a) Playground Inspection- CPM have pointed out that the Playdale Twistem/play needed some work which they will undertake for £20.00 (agreed by GPC). The Clerk has received a price for the removal of the Basket/football goal for £150.00 and the replacing of the noticeboard back board £130.00 Clerk has raised the order and the work has been carried out

b) Repair of Fence-Clerk to contacted Jarrett Fencing asking when the remedial work on the fence will be carried out. The order has already been raised

c)Trimming of Hedge- 4Seasons Specialist Tree Surgeons of Hitchin, have completed the hedge cutting.

d)New equipment-CP suggested that with the removal of redundant equipment we could add another suitable piece of equipment. CP has details of suppliers and let the Clerk have them so that he could complete the form for a Playground Grant under the NHDC Rural Grant scheme. This has

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been completed. (see 3b above) New equipment to be reviewed when the outcome of our grant application is known

5) Any Other Business

a) Ideas To Benefit the Village- GEG has given details of improvements to re-work the patch of land on the corner of Church Lane/High Street. The plan involves clearing the site completely laying down a waterproof membrane and planting low growing plants in the centre with a border of wild flowers around the edge and covering with bark. As the GEC members carry out their work on a voluntary basis it was suggested that we try for a Rural Grant which the Clerk has completed the forms. (see 3b above) if not GPC will fund the cost which is in the region of £1,200.00

6) Matters Arising

a) Dog Waste Bins- the Clerk has contacted Mike McCarthy Area Monitoring Office (Direct Dial: 01462 474575 NHDC, Gernon Road) regarding the overflowing bin at Grinders End who emailed 13/10/15-*thank you for your enquiry with regards to the Dog Bin in Graveley, I can inform you that the bin is due to be emptied today, and every Tuesday All bins (3) have been emptied*

b) Graveley Web Site – Andy Sears emailed -*After running the Graveley Website for a number of years. Could you let the PC know that as from 1st December I will no longer be hosting servers or websites due to other commitments. This will mean the website will be off-line from that date. The domain graveley.org.uk is registered up to 2017, and if anyone wishes to take on creating a website they are welcome to transfer the domain.*

The Parish Council minutes are on PDF and go back to 2009, again I can make these available.

A local resident, Tim Cook (email tim@softus.co.uk, phone 07753 637786) has volunteered to take over running the Village website. Clerk to email Andy Sears thanking him on behalf of GPC for the many years of running the site and to give him Tim Cook's contacts details also to send Tim a recent Minutes to make sure he can translate to Adobe for the site

c) Pondside Road Repairs- these have been carried out but the Clerk and TB were concerned that the new surface section had fallen short of the agreed area and also regarding the amount of puddles- they meet with Chris Stubbs Local Roads Maintenance Engineer at HCC Chris.Stubbs@hertfordshire.gov.uk who emailed -*As per our meeting yesterday, I can confirm that a section of Pondside remains uncompleted. Unfortunately this was due to a miscommunication between our Contractors departments, as I explained the works were carried out by a specialist hand lay team, brought in from another part of the Country to carry out works on restrictive sites such as Pondside. I have made Colas aware of the issue and they will reprogramme the works to complete the missing section as soon as possible. Micro Surfacing never looks at its best when first laid and we fully expect that it will indeed settle down and provide a durable surface. Once a road has been Micro surfaced the contractor will return to undertake the 'aftercare' works (reinstatement of the existing road markings, adjusting the existing ironworks to the new finish of road level where required and sweeping).*

d) Kissing Gate- SF pointed out that it needs some repairs and it was agreed that SF will get a quote for the work

SF

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e) Crime Figurers-The recorded crime for Gravley and Chesfield for September 2015, received from the Police, were one Criminal Damage and one Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) incident.

f) Inconsiderate Parking-a member of the public raised the issue of parking by cars and vans on the junction of Ashwell Close/Common which caused drivers coming up from Ashwell Close to have a limited view of oncoming traffic which could make an accident very likely. Photographs of the problems were viewed and it was agreed that the Clerk would send these together with a letter requesting action to Herts., Homes (Loren.haley@nhh.org.uk) and our local PCSO Michelle Trussell

JT

g) Football Pitch- a local resident raised again the possibility of a football pitch for the older

village lads that he raised at the 16th June 2015 GPC meeting. He has spoken to some of the lads who would like an area to play football with a goal. GPC do not have access to any suitable land. It was agreed that the local resident seek local landowners possible help. The manager of the George & Dragon pointed out that there was a possibility he could set aside a suitable tract of land not currently used. The local resident will continue with his enquiries and present to GPC in due course.

7) Correspondence received

- a) Graveley Website (see 6b above)
- b) Parish & Town Council Conference 5/11
- c) Neighbourhood Plan. Clerk to see if he has a copy otherwise Helen Lumley will provide
- d) 5 letters from local residents re George & Dragon Planning Application. (see 2a above)
- e) Herts Highways re 1a High Street-no action required
- f) Meals on Wheels week November-no action required

8) Cheques Issued

- a) CPM Playground repairs £300.00 plus vat
- b) Cruz Microsystems Norton Internet Security £30.00 plus Vat
- c) 4Seasons Hedge Cutting Playground £300.00
- d) Alan Eaton Grass Cutting Playground £309.99
- e) Clerks Petty cash £67,56

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm

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