

**Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 16th February 2016 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), HCC Tony Hunter (TH) and NHDC Sal Jarvis (SJ)

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – Hilary Napier (HN)

Declarations of interest-TB (see item 7 e below)

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 19th January 2016 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

1) Highways Report

Jack Rigg

a) Accidents- There have been two further accidents at the North Road and High Street junction since the last GPC meeting. GPC have had contact with Terry Douris who has responded that the matter is currently under review. (also see item 7d below).

JR

b) Church Lane Potholes-Whilst some patching of the numerous pot holes has been carried out, one very large one has been missed. JR advised he had contacted Trevor Ward who said that the issue was being taken up by his boss Derek Jerrard. JR has contacted Derek and is awaiting a reply. The problems were also mentioned to Derek Jerrard who was at the December meeting who said he would investigate. Still to be done-JR to chase up.

JR

c) Stevenage Local Plan-JR supplied a reply to SBC regarding GPC's observations which Clerk has sent in, together with a Local Plan Representation Form – Jan 2016 in respect of the Travellers Policy. The latter will allow a member of GPC to speak at the Public Examination of the Local Plan when it takes place.

d) Retaining Wall 2 and 4 High Street- JR has spoken to Trevor Ward who advised it has been agreed that the wall needs some remedial work, JR to find out when this work will be carried out. Awaiting a reply

JR

e) Street Lighting- the two Street lights in Church Lane are now working but one (no.2) in Oak Lane is not Clerk to send details to TH.,

JT/TH

2 Planning.

Tony Bracey

None received

3) Financial Report

Steve Firth

- a) **Bank Account-** Our current and reserve accounts now stand at £16,000 (approx as bank statement was not received) plus a vat refund of £1,110.60.
- b) **Provision against future costs.-** Given the potential impact of future development proposals by NHDC and SBC on Graveley, JR proposed that a provision of £10,000 00 be set aside from GPC funds against possible future costs, which might be incurred in opposing elements of those plans. Following a discussion by members of the Council this proposal was carried unanimously.

4) Playground

Cheryl Peers

- a) **Playground Inspection-** has taken place and CP reported there were no problems
- b) **Playground Grant-** GPC has been awarded a grant of £869.00 towards new playground equipment. At the moment no decision has been made regarding what is needed, as the grant is valid for two years it was not something we need not to consider until we are sure of our requirements

5) Any Other Business

a) **Clerks Concerns-** Clerk received an email from a GPC member- *.....due to the Minutes usually being written up in such a way that they often do not reflect what was actually said, and Parish Councillors not even voting on issues they should be voting on.* Clerk emailed all GPC members *I have been writing the minutes for over eight years and they are always submitted to the Chair for approval before sending out. I always produce them promptly so that they are in time for Alan to put in GM. If the GPC members feel I am not doing the minutes properly I will resign I will add this to the Agenda for a vote to be taken* A vote was taken (one abstention) that the Clerk was doing a competent job and is therefore happy to continue as Clerk. He pointed out that any future issues regarding the contents of the Minutes be raised at the following GPC meeting so they can be Minuted.

b) **Roundwood-** proposed development by Croudace Homes UK there is to be an exhibition of the proposed development at Great Ashby Community Centre on 1st March 2016 between 2pm and 7pm. JR and TB will go along to see what potential impact it might have on our Parish, Clerk has supplied to JR all the previous correspondence.

JR/TB

c) **Transparency Code for Parish Councils-** GPC have received information on this new code in which various items i.e. accounts have to be published on the Village Website Clerk has provided a print out of these new regulations and TB will assess them to see how we go about gathering and producing the information.

TB

6) Matters Arising

a) **New Projects-** see items 7 b-e below.

b) **Community Book Swap Scheme-** This was discussed and Mrs Hilary Thompson informed the meeting that St Mary's Church would be happy to host the project and store the books. She suggested that plastic storage boxes in which the books could be kept would be needed. She will find out the costs involved and report back, Both SJ and TH offered some financial help from their Locality Budgets. To be discussed at the next meeting.

c) Graveley Website- This is now up and running and GPC would like to put on record our thanks to Danielle for all her work. The Clerk has contacted all the groups in the Village for any changes that may be needed. The new site has many more features, improving the transparency of GPC and information on the activities of various groups in Graveley. There is even a link on the home page (at the foot) to click on BBC and the weather forecast for Graveley is displayed. Any contributions should be sent in Microsoft word for inclusion to the Clerk

d) Litter Problems- a local resident raised the problem of the amount of litter festooning the verges on the road leading from North Road down towards the A1M Junction 8 roundabout. Whilst this area is not in the Parish it was felt that we contact Derek Jerrard re getting something done. Recently work has been carried out tidying up footpaths by a volunteer group, perhaps this could be a solution Clerk to investigate.

JT

7) Correspondence Received

a) Crime Figures Dec. 2015-one Burglary and one ASB incident.

b) Parking Ashwell Close/Common and Grinders End-in response to our request for new village projects two emails were received from residents in Grinders End regarding parking of cars which cause problems with residents accessing their driveways. It was requested that a new parking area could be considered. There are two problems in achieving this, one is the land required and secondly the cost of tarmacking the surface. JR contacted Derek Jerrard(Ringway) who advised that approximate cost is £150.00 per square metre and with the likely number of car spaces need the overall cost of land (if it could be found) and surfacing would be in many of thousands of pounds which GPC do not have (a single parking space excluding land would cost about £1,800). Clerk to reply to the two residents giving our local PCSO's Michelle Trussell details who should be contacted when problems arise.

JT

c) Water flooding Milksey Lane-a local resident emailed *I reported to HHighways the constant stream of water flowing down Milksey Lane and got this standardised reply. It is clear HH have done nothing about it- probably because Milksey Lane is closed and reverts to the adjacent land owners I believe but there is no info back to me. Even so it is an inconvenience to pedestrians and when Miss McDonald was leaving a year ago she advised me that there used to be a ditch along the Lane. Sometimes the water flows right over the road when the gully is blocked- another hazard with black ice.*

I wonder if GPC could follow it up please as this has not been the first time it has been reported and if HH are doing nothing -Why?

GPC might actually get a report on the matter.-SJ reported that a blocked drain further up the High Street may be responsible. JR to speak to Herts., Highways.

JR

d) Accidents -email received from a local resident *I see from last months minutes that highways are saying that they make changes (only appear to be minor) next financial year, this is almost exactly what they told us last year. Would it be worth getting them to give a regular update on progress to keep the pressure on?* JR to follow up

JR

e) Graveley Cricket Club application for GPC grant email received from GCC-*I am writing this email on behalf of Graveley Cricket Club. As a club we are endeavouring to facilitate a permanent connection to the electricity grid. The works would be quite costly, we have had an initial quote of*

£28,195 although through our club members offering to dig the trenches for the utility company they have subsequently reduced the quote to £21,360 (inc VAT which we can't reclaim). We have already secured one grant from north herts council totalling £2,500 and we were hoping that given the importance of the cricket club within the Graveley community that the Parish Council would consider committing to grant us some funds towards our fund raising for this project? The balance of the finance required will be raised through fund raising at the club, utilisation of some current club reserves and applying to other grant authorities within the cricketing community. If you require any further information at this point then please let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you soon. Regards, Pete Bracey TB to look into and report at the next GPC meeting.

TB

f) Screening for Bus Shelter – A local resident and a regular Bus user suggested that some sort of screening at the front of the existing open shelter be provided, This would be of great help to users in bad weather conditions (rain blowing in and cars creating spray) SF to look into and get a quote from the original contractors who refurbished the shelter. To be discussed at the next meeting.

SF

8) Cheques Issued

- a) CPM Playground inspection £50.00 plus vat
- b) Shannahan Kissing Gate repairs £527.00 plus vat
- c) Finedata website renewal £250.00 plus vat
- d) Paul Baltruschatt Litter picking £171.00 no vat

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
On Tuesday 15th March 2016 at 8 pm.**

