

**Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 15th March 2016 at 8pm
Held at Graveley Village Hall**

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

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – HCC Tony Hunter (TH), NHDC Sal Jarvis (SJ) and Cathryn Henry (CH).

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

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 16th February 2016 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

1) Highways Report

Jack Rigg

a) Accidents- There have been further accidents at the North Road and High Street junction GPC have had contact with Terry Douris who has responded that the matter is currently under review. JR composed a letter asking for a regular update on a solution to this problem, which Clerk has sent to Terry Douris who replied that he would give an update in time for the next GPC meeting in April
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 to contact the Travellers Liaison Department at HCC to find out their thoughts regarding the proposal to site a Travellers Site (as proposed under the Stevenage Plan) in Graveley.
JR

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 nearest to the garages in the road leading of Turf Lane has been reported by the Clerk ref 201007785950, Clerk to chase.
JT

2) Planning.

Tony Bracey

None received

3) Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) **Bank Account-** Our current and reserve accounts now stand at £17,597.09.

4) Playground

Cheryl Peers

a) **Playground New Equipment-** GPC has been awarded a grant of £869.00 towards new playground equipment. CP has a quotation from The Playground Company for a 'Bespoke Trim Trail' piece of equipment consisting of stepping logs (6) Balance Beam, Clatter Bridge and a further set of logs (6) for a price of £1,855 plus vat which includes installation. It was agreed by all members to go ahead. Before clerk raises an order CP to ascertain if there is an extra for the item on the quote for 'Price is based on all spoil being lost on site'

CP/JT

5) Correspondence Received

a) **Water flooding Milksey Lane-**a local resident emailed ... *there is a constant stream of water flowing down Milksey Lane* JR to contact Herts Highways.

JR

b) **Graveley Cricket Club application for GPC grant** Email received from Peter Bracey- *Just as an update to our enquiry as to whether the GPC could help us with funding for the cricket club electricity project; we are currently investigating various funding possibility's including Biffa, Luton Airport Community Trust Fund, England and Wales Cricket Trust and Hertfordshire Cricket. Also, we are in discussions with Stuart Izzard to identify any other possible avenues we can pursue. All the potential funding bodies ask on their application forms for details of where else are we applying for funding it would strengthen our case if we are able to say the Graveley Parish Council are supporting our application and have offered a grant along with the rural grant scheme that has allocated funding of £2500.00 to support the project.*

On the question of can the GPC place an order directly with UK Power Networks for a particular element of the works? I have emailed the surveyor to ask the question but to date have not received a reply. It was agreed by all members to give a grant of £1,500.00 towards this scheme, Clerk to compose a letter, for JR to approve, to send to GCC.

JT/JR

c) **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 been in touch with the firm that refurbished the shelter to get a quote still to come, to be discussed at the next meeting.

SF

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. Clerk contacted SBC who forwarded our request for action to the Environment Dept, so far no reply has been received Clerk to chase.

JT

e) **Fly Tipping-** A local resident has complained about fly tipping outside the Garages off Turf Lane. Clerk to contact Hertfordshire Homes, as it is on their land, and ask them to arrange for the rubbish to be removed.

JT

f) Police and Crime Commissioner Road Safety Fund, - Letter received from the Police Commissioner inviting bids for funding of road safety measures from a monies collected from speeding fines. JR to contact them and see if under one of their schemes they could provide Speed Cameras to be erected in the High Street to deter speeding vehicles.

JR

g) Receipt of a Notice from HCC to record a public right of way along Milksey Lane, Turf Lane and Green Lane, with any objections to be made before 21/4/2016. No comments have yet been received from the village and GPC having no objections, it was agreed no action was required.

h) Graveley School reply re Stevenage Plan- no action required given to JR

7) Any Other Business

a) Graveley Website- This is now up and running and has the accounts for 2014/15 on it the Transparency Codes will be put on this month (see5b below www.graveley.org.uk)

b) Transparency Code for Parish Councils- TB has completed his assessment of the material which we are bound to display on the Graveley Website (Standing Orders, Email and Internet Policy, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct). All these items have been sent to all GPC members for their comments. It was agreed by all GPC members to ratify the contents. TB will arrange for them to be uploaded onto the Graveley Website.

TB

c) Membership of HAPTC- TB has been in touch with Sue Campbell with details of what HAPTC can offer members, the fee for the first year is £150.00 and thereafter £200.00 per year. TB and JR will attend the next meeting at Kimpton on the 22nd March 2016 so they can assess if it is worth GPC taking out membership. They will report back in due course.

TB/JR

d) UK Powernet leaflets Clerk received an email from UK Power networks regarding a scheme they are running for people who are vulnerable if their power goes off to have priority. They will have to register and Clerk has arranged for a supply of leaflets to be sent to JR who will deliver them around the village. Clerk offered to help with the distribution.

JR/JT

e) Roundwood- proposed development by Croudace Homes UK JR drafted a letter for the Clerk to send to Mr Sehmi of HCC-*Graveley Parish Council is very concerned regarding the traffic flow implications of the above on Back Lane/Church Lane. As you know this is a single track country lane frequented by walkers and horse riders which since the development of Great Ashby has seen increasing traffic usage as a rat run to avoid congestion within Stevenage. Please can you advise when the last Traffic Assessment/Survey of Back Lane/Church Lane was conducted and if it is proposed to undertake a new one. Increasing traffic volumes in Church Lane have resulted in queuing traffic at peak times wishing to access the B197 adding to the high levels of congestion and air/noise pollution within the village.* We await a reply Clerk to chase in due course. JR and TB attended the presentation by Croudace at the Great Ashby Community Centre. HN to contact the Great Ashby Community Group to find out their thoughts on this project.

JR/TB /HN

8) Cheques Issued

a) Clerks Petty Cash £89.88

b) Alan Eaton Grass Cutting Playground £160.00

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
On Tuesday 19th April 2016 at 8 pm.**