

**Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 17th May 2016 at 8pm
Held at Graveley Village Hall**

Present: Chair Jack Rigg (JR) Vice Chair Cheryl Norgan (CN), Tony Bracey(TB) NHDC Cathryn Henry (CH) and HCC Tony Hunter (TH)

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – Hilary Napier (HN) Financial Officer Steve Firth (SF) NHDC Cllr Terry Tyler (TT) and CPO Michelle Trussell (MT).

Declarations of interest-none

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

Matters Arising

a) Annual Meeting & Election of Officers JR agreed to serve as the Chair for the coming year proposed by TB and seconded by CN. CN agreed to serve as Vice Chair proposed by TB and seconded by JR. SF agreed to act as the Responsible Financial Officer . All other members agreed to continue with their present roles.

1. Highways Report

Jack Rigg

a) Accidents- There have been further accidents at the North Road and High Street junction GPC received the following email from HCC *-The County Council are aware of concerns about this junction and it appears on the 'hazardous sites' list of locations in the County. Hertfordshire County Council's Road Safety team have considered the detail of each of the accidents recorded at the B197 North Road/High Street, Graveley, junction and have made recommendations accordingly. Proposals to modify the alignment and improve the clarity of the road markings at this location have been developed and the contract documentation prepared for delivery within the current financial year. Our expectation is to implement the scheme in the school summer holidays (Aug 2016). Once these works are completed, there will be a period of monitoring to determine whether additional measures are required.*

JR

b) Stevenage Local Plan-JR, CN and TB have attended a meeting at Stevenage Borough Council on the 9th May at 10am to discuss GPC's reply to the Stevenage Plan - JR has provided an analysis of this meeting which are attached to these minutes.

c) Street Lights off Turf Lane-Clerk has reported once again this problem and received this email *Thank you for reporting a highway fault on 07/03/2016 3:51 PM Your reference number is: Reference Number 201011969472
Fault type: Street light out or flickering Your description: I wish to report a faulty street light it is on the road entrance to the garages of Turf Lane Gravley It is the one nearest the garages there is no number on it but the one at the entrance is marked 1 so it is probably no 3 (as there are three lights in all) Location: Turf Lane,* Clerk to send these details to TH who will investigate

JT/TH

d) Back Lane Potholes- HCC emailed *We have inspected this location and the necessary works have been carried out. No further action is planned. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.*

e) Speeding in High Street and Church Lane- JR sent the following email to Mr Thompson at HCC- *Graveley Village has real problems with speeding traffic, be it on the B197 or Church Lane where we have two blind bends within 20 metres of each other and residents report speeding traffic and screeching brakes.*

Taking the B197 first, the ideal solution would be speed cameras but this solution has been refused in the past. Given the problems of the Stevenage Road /B197 Graveley junction and cars using the lane for oncoming traffic to go round queuing traffic to turn left at the junction speed cameras would be appropriate to discourage this form of reckless driving going forward (this also occurs at the bus stop when buses stop to pick up passengers in the high street). Signs advising the motorist that they are speeding would hopefully reduce the incidence of speeding where due to driver oversight as opposed to being attributable to a total disregard for the speed limit.

Regarding Church Lane, this is a single track country lane used on a regular basis by horse riders, cyclists and walkers. With the congestion occasioned by Great Ashby, Church Lane has become a Rat Run with increasing volumes of speeding traffic. In addition to the two blind bends at Crow End there is also one opposite St Mary's Church and a further one towards the B197 junction. The road at Crow End is so narrow as to require pedestrians to stand back from the verge to allow a single car to pass. These problems are likely to increase further if the current proposals to build 360 houses at round wood are approved. The increased volumes are also creating problems at the junction of Church Lane and the B197, particularly for traffic wishing to turn right towards Baldock in the rush hour.

Traffic speeds on Church Lane within the village should certainly be reduced to 20 miles per hour (10 mph at Crow End) but this will be pointless unless this can be enforced. At least a Sign Indicator would remind drivers of the need for caution. We await a reply

JR

2. Planning.

Tony Bracey

a) Single storey side extension to form link between main house and outbuilding Church Meadows, Church Lane, Graveley, Hitchin, SG4 7LU - Case Ref No:16/00922/1HH GPC have no objections Clerk to action

JT (actioned 19/05/16)

b) 1a High Street-JR has emailed Tony Hunter at HCC-.... *I am e-mailing you on the advice of Tony Douris. Use of the above yard is in the process of changing from a scaffold yard to that of retailing second hand cars by Stevenage Cars Ltd. Pursuant to this change, cars offered for sale are being parked outside the yard gates (please see enclosed photo below). Given the proximity of the yard to the Junction of Graveley B197/ North Road, Stevenage, which is deemed by Highways to be a hazardous road junction, advertising of these cars on the road verge could be causing a distraction to drivers approaching the junction from Graveley. Since the photo was taken they are also placing a portable sign advertising that cars are for sale on the kerb side. Currently we do not believe any application for a Change of Use for the yard has been made has been made to NHDC Planners. CH suggested that she gets in touch with Wymondley PC who had similar problems to see if their experience could help*

CH/JR

3. Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) Bank Account- Current Account £13,697.22 and Deposit Account £5,950.08.also received a VAT refund of £382.92

b) End of Year Accounts -The GPC Examined, Agreed and Adopted the 2015-16 Financial and Audit reports together with the Governance Statement for submission to BDO, our External Auditors. Clerk to send by registered post, together with a copy of these minutes.

JT

4. Playground

Cheryl Norgan

a) Playground New Equipment- The order has been raised for The Playground Company for a 'Bespoke Trim Trail' piece of equipment. They hope to start work on 19th May 2016 and it should take a day to install

CN

5. Correspondence Received

a) Screening for Bus Shelter a quote from Mercer Leyton (Building) Ltd has been received and GEG were asked for their thoughts, whilst they thought that the screen should have more glass the GPC have approved the quote (£1,1820.00 plus vat) and it was agreed to go ahead with Mercer Leyton's specification Clerk to raise an order.

JT

b)

6. Matters Arising-none

7. Any Other Business

a) Pond Signs- A member of the public emailed *I just thought I'd point out that the signs in the village ponds look scruffy and do rather spoil the scenery. ...a neat sign on the fence or indeed no signs altogether.* Clerk to have a word with the GEG for their comments.

JT

b) Insurance Renewal-Came and Co our Insurers supplied three quotes and after discussion it was agreed to accept Ecclesiastical quote which was the cheapest and provided the best cover. Clerk to action.

JT

c) Grinders End Problems-email received by Clerk from a local resident regarding anti social behaviour, parking by cars on the area on the approach to the pathway, litter and noise late at night. Clerk to reply and suggest it is a matter for the Police and ask if they agree for the Clerk to forward the original email to PC Chris Suckling for his help .

JT

d) S106 Money-Clerk to have a word with Stuart Izzard to see if the £1,100.00 (approx) could be released for use by the GCC for work at the ground

8. Cheques Issued

- a) Came & Co One years Insurance- £699.60
- b) Paul Baltruschat Litter Picking £156.00

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
On Tuesday 21st June 2016**

Report of Meeting with Stevenage Borough Council 9th May 2016 10am

Attendees;

Caroline Danby- SBC Principal Planner

Deborah Horner- SBC Senior Planner

Jack Rigg- Chairman, GPC

Cheryl Peers, Vice Chairman, GPC

Tony Bracey, Councillor, GPC

Peter Bracey, Planning Committee, GPC

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the points raised by GPC in our response to SBC's recent Local Plan Consultation. Main issues discussed were as follows:

Housing Numbers: The figure of 7,600 homes is the minimum that Whitehall have indicated will be deemed to be acceptable and are derived from current ONS projections. (so much for local democracy!)

Creation of New Town to address development needs: As with NHDC, given the time it will take to get such a project up and running (10-15 years) this is not a solution for the development period to 2031. Given the housing pressures on a number of Local Authorities in the area (NHDC, East Herts, Stevenage, South Cambs) it may prove more effective to appoint a New Town Commissioner than getting agreement between some or all of these authorities.

Gypsy and Traveller provision: SBC received a lot of negative feedback from respondents on this issue. Also at our previous meeting with Richard Javees, SBC we were told that the Stevenage Police had refused permission for the Dyers Lane site to be expanded but on checking directly with the police (Chief Inspector Julie Wheatley, North Herts Borough Commander) this was found to be incorrect, indeed it would make more sense for policing of the Traveller community to remain under the control of one force rather than being split between two forces. This issue is now being reconsidered although as part of the published public consultation it will have to go forward to the Inspector at the Public Examination.

Lister Hospital: As presented the SBC's Local Plan envisages building up to the hospital boundaries with no provision for future expansion of the hospital site to accommodate the sharp increase in population which will result from approval of Local Authority development plans within the hospital's catchment area (some 100,000 people). We were advised that despite several requests by SBC to Lister regarding their future development requirements to 2031 no response was received. Historically there had been discussions between the hospital and the owner of the land on which the rugby club stands but an agreement on price could not be agreed. Since then it is believed that the owner has entered into and granted a purchase option to a housing developer.

Local Road Capacity: Development proposed by SBC in North Stevenage (housing and an employment area as well as a new convenience retail store on Graveley Road) will significantly increase road congestion in the area and through Graveley Village itself (as will that proposed by

NHDC). Currently the junction of the B197 Graveley and North Road Stevenage is classified by Highways as a hazard. Creation of an 1,800 housing development and an industrial area on North Road will further increase the accident rate at this junction, particularly as traffic from the industrial estate (high sided vans and lorries) are likely to access the site via the junction rather than travel towards Stevenage past the hospital and obscure the sight of other traffic at the junction. The solution is to install roundabouts at the junction, which was what Highways initially wanted to but this was vetoed by Stevenage. Our hosts were unable to comment as this would have been dealt within Stevenage by another team.

It should be noted that the Inspector in reviewing a Local Plan only takes into account development proposed under that plan. He is not required to take into consideration potential development by a contiguous Local Authority and the implication for infrastructure arising from future development. Park and Ride to be located at Stevenage North B197, off A1(M) J8 : This item appeared on page 181 of Stevenage's Local Plan document. Deborah advised that this was something that had been thought about under the old SNAP plan and had been proposed by HCC at the time. There is no current intention on the part of HCC or SBC to proceed with such a scheme at present. However it should be noted that a review of Town Centre parking following the creation of some 3,000 homes within the town centre itself will need to be undertaken. (Personal comment: Part of the parking solution will be the use of multistorey car parks rather than the current inefficient tarmac level sites. It seems doubtful however if this will provide sufficient parking particularly with the proposed expansion of Stevenage railway station).

J Rigg
21/5/2016