

Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 20th June 2017 at 8pm
Held at Graveley Village Hall

Present: Chair Jack Rigg (JR) Vice Chair Cheryl Norgan (CN) Hilary Napier (HN) Financial Officer Steve Firth (SF) Tony Bracey (TB) and HCC Cllr Steve Jarvis

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – None

Declarations of interest-none

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 16th May 2017 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising – None

1. Highways Report

Jack Rigg

a) Stevenage Borough Local Plan: The following email was received from SBC- *Sustainability Appraisal of Proposed Main Modifications will be available for you to view and comment between the following dates: Start date: 12/06/17 09:00 End date: 24/07/17 12:00 Please select the following link to view this event:*

http://stevenage-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/ppolicy/local_plan/stevenage_borough_local_plan_sustainability_appraisal_of_proposed_main_modifications

b)NHDC Local Plan- no further information at this stage.

c) Travellers Site – It was agreed that GPC would instruct Richard Buxton Environmental and Public Law 19B Victoria Street, Cambridge CB1 1JP to represent GPC regarding the proposal of the site in Graveley. JR will send the 'Terms of Business' together with a cheque for £500.00 on account so work can commence.

JR

2. Planning Report

Tony Bracey

a) 1a High Street- 17/00792/1EUD | Certificate of Lawful Development: Continued existing use as B8 (storage and distribution). **This Application was withdrawn**

b) 1a High Street- Outline Application: Erection of 3 x 3 bed detached dwellings and 4 x 2 bed semi-detached dwellings (all matters reserved except access). - Case Ref No: 17/01132/1- This application was discussed- two Council members were against, one abstained and two were in favour- JR as Chairman had the casting vote and it was agreed that GPC would not oppose the application.

In the discussions it was pointed out-

a.) The area of the proposed development is within the green belt, as such the area is not a brownfield site.

b.) There is not any evidence that the site is previously developed land. The GPC has concerns

regarding the access and egress from the site onto a busy road that has a history of numerous accidents.

Clerk to send to NHDC our comments. Also at the meeting was a Planning Consultant Gay Parry who was representing the applicant, her views were noted.

JT (Done 21/06/17)

c) Proposed development of a 50 Mgw Gas Fired Power Station at Little Wymondley, closing date 26/6/2017. This was discussed but it was felt that GPC should take no action.

3. Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) Bank Account- SF reported that he had not received a Bank statement and will chase up our bank. The figures will be in next month's minutes.

b) End of Year Accounts -The GPC Examined, Agreed and Adopted the 2016-17 Financial and Audit reports together with the Governance Statement for submission to BDO, our External Auditors. Clerk has sent by registered post, together with a copy of these minutes. SF reported that BDO raised one or two issues which he has dealt with.

4. Playground

Cheryl Norgan

a) Playground Report- CPM pointed out that a rope on a piece of equipment had broken. Clerk in consultation with CN agreed that as it was a safety issue it should be put right as a matter of urgency and Clerk issued an order the cost is £135.00 plus vat.

5. Correspondence Received

a) None

6. Matters Arising

a) Dog Mess Bin- Jim Devereux has given a quote of £80.00 for repairing the bin at Grinders End which has been hit and needs straightening up. It was agreed to go ahead with the work. Clerk to raise the order.

JT

b) Transparency Fund Grant- Clerk has managed to get this grant, £516.00, once again with the help of Sue Campbell at HAPTC (this is the last year this scheme will operate) It was agreed to pay Finedata Ltd., £280.00 as the scheme is specifically targeted for work on maintaining the GPC website by Finedata and the Clerk. Clerk to action.

JT

c) Dead Tree-a local resident pointed out that a dead tree on the corner of Ashwell Close/Common needs removing. Clerk has contacted Trevor Ward to arrange the removal and he has raised the order.

JT

d) Local residents concern re access by Fire Engine's in Grinders End

Clerk contacted the local Fire Station and received the following email from-*Adam Laycock Watch Commander Green Watch Stevenage. Apologies for you not receiving a response, we were tasked*

by our Station Commander to check this on the 27th April, we attended at school pick up time which we usually find to be the busiest time of day. No access issues were found at that time, that is not to say that at other times or on different days the access is maintained. Clerk to email the local resident with this information.

JT

7. Any Other Business

a) GEC- A member of the public wished to acknowledge all the hard work carried out by GEC members and volunteers who have made the central reservations in the High Street so colourful, a great display which we all appreciate- our thanks.

b) Facebook – It was suggested that GPC should have its own Facebook page to improve the flow and immediacy of information on issues facing the village/residents. This would be in addition to the Village Web site which provides villagers with useful contact information and on groups in the village and their activities. Pending.

c) Open Day – It was suggested by a member of the public that it might be a good idea to have an Open Day (similar to that held in respect of the Village Plan) as a means of raising funds to help with the costs involved in opposing SBC's Traveller's Site proposal and the NHDC Local Plan, and in increasing residents involvement in the work of the Parish Council.

Further consideration will be given to this proposal at the next meeting. Suggestions from members of the public would be welcomed either in person at the meeting or by e-mail beforehand.

d) Rural Grants- Clerk has ascertained that NHDC will no longer provide rural grants to Parish Councils

8. Cheques Issued

a) CPM Playground inspection £50.00 plus vat

b) Richard Buxton Environmental and Public Law Part fee £500.00 (see 1c above)

The meeting closed at 9.52 pm

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
On Tuesday 18th July 2017**

