#### Graveley Parish Council's Meeting Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 8pm Held at Graveley Village Hall

**Present:** Vice Chair Cheryl Norgan (CN) Financial Officer Steve Firth (SF) Tony Bracey (TB) HCC Cllr Steve Jarvis and NHDC Cllr Terry Tyler.

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – Chair Jack Rigg (JR) and Hilary Napier (HN)

**Declarations of interest-**none

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising – None

1. Highways Report

**a) SBC Plan- NHDC Local Plan- Travellers Site** AS JR was unable to attend this meeting he supplied all GPC members with an update, which CP read out. (Attached to these minutes )

#### 2. Planning Report

a) 1a High Street- 17/00792/1EUD | Certificate of Lawful Development: Continued existing use as B8 (storage and distribution). TB to draft a reply for Clerk to send to Tom Allington at NHDC TB/JT

**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 Clerk has asked, Tom Allington at NHDC, for an extension for GPC's reply until the June GPC's meeting **TB/JT** 

### 3. Financial Report

a) Bank Account- Current and Savings Account £12, 611.82

**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 to send by registered post, together with a copy of these minutes.

### JT

### 4. Playground

 a) Playground Report- all is in order, CPM's report indicated some minor maintenance required, Alan Eaton has repaired / replacement of some bungs.
CN

# Steve Firth

**Cheryl** Norgan

**Tony Bracev** 

Jack Rigg

### 5. Correspondence Received

a) None

#### **6.**Matters Arising

**a) Street Lights-** two faulty street lights-Turf Lane and on the footpath leading up to Ashwell Close-both have been repaired and are now working

**b)** Overgrown Footpath- the footpath between the two public houses leading from Pondside to the High Street is overgrown, Clerk contacted Trevor Ward to get it trimmed back, which has been done. Clerk has requested that this could go on Trevor Wards rolling programme of work. **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. **JT** 

**d) Dog Mess Bin-** Clerk to ask Jim Devereux to give a quote for repairing the bin at Grinders End which has been hit and needs straightening up. Clerk to chase up **JT** 

e) Local residents concern re access by Fire Engine's Grinders End "On Monday a fire engine was in Grinders End. ..... It had difficulty passing the parked car which is often parked there the person is to do with the school.

Clerk has contacted the local Fire Station to ask for their views, and is awaiting a reply **JT** 

### 7. Any Other Business

**a) Phone box update.** Clerk has contacted BT informing them that the GPC were not going ahead with the adoption of the redundant phone box in the High Street.

**b)** Wall High Street JR emailed Derek Jerrard District Service Agent Before your recent secondment we raised the issue of the disrepair of the above wall and it was my understanding that the job had been put out to tender but would not be undertaken until financial year 2016-2017 for reasons of budget. Please could you let me know where we are on this please as I need to update the Parish Council. And received a reply You are correct this was to be funded in 16/17 but unfortunately higher priority works took precedence. I will resurrect the works order and see if the works can be funded this financial year. I cannot make any promises as this type of work is a low priority and other works may take precedence this year.

c) The Government's new Housing White Paper-GPC responded to the Consultation on the government's new Housing White Paper, giving several proposals for strengthening the Green Belt, as the HWP appeared to some to dilute Green Belt protection. There was discussion on the importance of maintaining existing strong protections for the Green Belt. These should include clarifying that Green Belt boundaries in Local Plans should be amended only in exceptional circumstances. Local authorities must also demonstrate that they have examined fully all other reasonable options for meeting their identified housing requirements, an omission from the White Paper. CPRE is intending to highlight this deficiency and seek reassurance that the Government

does not intend to "row back" from its current support for this key policy in the NPPF. The proposed "exceptional circumstances" tests are not comprehensive enough, and could make it easier to permit harmful development in the Green Belt. Additionally, no account of the effects of Brexit was taken in the HWP, affecting numbers of houses needed.

#### 8. Cheques Issued

- a) Came & Co Insurance one year £729.88
- b) Alan Eaton Grass cutting/repairs Playground £200.00
- c) Paul Baltruschatt Litter Picker £186.00

## The meeting closed at 9.52 pm The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall On <u>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2017</u>

### Update from JR sent to all GPC members 10th May 2017

As I will not be at May's Parish Council meeting I thought it would be helpful if provided you below with a summary of my actions taken since the last PC meeting on NHDC's Local Plan.

1. I have written to all Parish Councils suggesting a co-ordinated response to the Local Plan. So far I have had positive responses from Ickleford, Great Ashby and Weston. I was unable to find contact details for the four towns, Baldock, Hitchin, Letchworth and Royston (any suggestion would be welcomed). Cheryl has also contacted various local groups opposed to the plan and we have had positive responses from Save North Herts Green Belt, Save Rural Codicote and Say NotoRoundwood.

2. I have also had a meeting with Adrian Hawkins and Chris Turvey from Wymondley who are part of a local group who are also opposing the NHDC Plan. Established for some two and half years they have appointed solicitors to scope out a challenge to the plan and will be meeting with their solicitor on June 15th to discuss how to proceed. They are clearly well down the road in their preparations for opposing the plan. They suggested that Graveley should become part of their group but I have written to them that given my recent e-mail to all parish councils on a co-ordinated response (of which they are supportive) I did not feel I could not do so pending clarification on the level of response to my e-mail.

3. As advised I wrote to PTB Transport Consultants to understand how they could help us and to get an idea of the cost involved. James advised the following:

Basic Review & Supporting Note	Fees £2,000 + Survey Costs £1,000*
Detailed Analysis & Supporting Note	Fees £3,600 + Survey Costs £1,750*.

• These costs will have to be confirmed with the company undertaking the survey.

4. I have written to Richard Buxton, a firm of Solicitors in Cambridge regarding our concerns on the coalescence of Graveley with Stevenage under the Local Plan and possible concentration of NS1's affordable housing on the village boundary to get an idea of cost and the best way to approach these issues. I have also spoken to the partner concerned and am awaiting their response.

5. I am contacting those parishes who have responded to update them on the level of response and to propose we defer consideration as to the setting of the meeting until the second week in June by which time all the Parish Councils should have met.