

MINUTES
Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 16th August 2011 8pm
held at Graveley Village Hall

Present: Chairman -Mr Alan Lines (AL). Tony Bracey (TB), Steve Firth (SF), Mrs Joyce Andrews (JA) and NHDC Cllr. Cathryn Henry

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – Vice Chair- Mr Peter Bracey (PB)

Declarations of interest – none

Approval of minutes - The minutes of the 19th July 2011 were approved and signed.

Matters Arising

a) New Notice Board - Clerk has contacted Fitzpatrick Wolmer and the order has been placed, the GPC members have seen and approved the signage. We now await a delivery date. Clerk to get quotes for erection of the Notice Board.

JT

1) Highways Report.

Peter Bracey

As PB was unable to attend this meeting he supplied the following report:-

- a) Oak Lane drop kerb:-** Works order has been raised.
- b) Broken railings over culvert:-** currently under discussion as to whether Highways local office or structures team problem
- c) Hedge next to bus stop and adjacent lay-by** to be cut back and weeds in lay-by to be weed killed.
- d) Footpath next to post box** to be repaired.
- e) Grass verges in Ashwell Close** belong to North Herts Homes not Highways
- f) Pondsides Signs:-** the current signs are standard Highway signs there are no other types available, there is also a drive to reduce sign clutter rather than increase the number.
- g) Chippings store** meeting with Highways (Andy Turner) set for 15th Sept.
- h) Sewer problem-**No further update has been received

I) Bus Shelter Renovation – Work has been completed by Mercer Leyton Building Ltd . Clerk when sending the cheque to express the GPC's satisfaction with an excellent job. The GPC will apply for the grant monies that the GPC have been awarded. Cllr Cathryn Henry has confirmed that the contact at NHDC is Stuart Izard.

SF/JT

j) Church Lane Footpath- work has been completed

k) Herts Highways' complacency- no reply received from Tony Hunter and Cllr Cathryn Henry, Cathryn (who was at the meeting), will chase.

2 Planning

Tony Bracey

Planning Applications-NHDC Planning App. 36 High St., Graveley Rear ext. The GPC generally support the development, as it will improve the run-down property, and bring it into the 21st century. However GPC wish that the following points are considered during the planning process.

Concerns have been raised that off street parking for a development of the proposed size (it is assumed that the proposal is for a four bedroom house as the bedrooms are not numbered on the plans provided) has not been addressed. It is noted in the Design Statement that the proposal will have its own parking on site, but not setting out how this will be achieved.

The owners of 38 High Street do have a concern that the extension will overshadow their property, and that the positioning of the proposed skylight may overlook the property.

a) Waste Bins- Email received from Jamie Sells at NHDC (16/08/11) *I hope to have the 2 pondside bin/benchside (opposite the Pond) and the school bin in bank holiday week if not sooner. I needed the cleaning manager for Veolia to visit the site to assess the current litter bin fixings to see if Veolia can remove them whilst installing the NHDC bins. believe this isn't going to be a problem removing them so will get the job done in one go. I'll confirm the actual day of installation as soon as I have it. I have asked the question if our Grounds Maintenance contractor could empty the playing fields bin and I will confirm as soon as I know.*

TB

b) Black Waste Bin for Litter Picker- This is at present in the Playground but it was agreed to position it outside the Village Hall. AL requested that it was Minuted that he was against this as he felt that it would be filled with waste from users of the village hall and be withdrawn. The positioning, it was agreed, would be carefully monitored.

ALL

3) Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) GPC agreed to the Amendment of Audit Certificate for 2010-11 with regard to the changed valuation requirements of "GPC's Asset Register" (value as at 31.03.11 £29,782.00).

b) Trade Refuse Invoice/Credit Note- Clerk to contact NHDC Financial Dept to request payment of £38.20 which is credit due

JT

c) Transfer of monies- It was agreed that £5,000.00 would be transferred from the GPC's savings account to the current account.

SF

4) Playground

Joyce Andrews

a) Playground Inspection RoSPA emailed *I have checked on our system and Graveley has not been inspected. We did not receive the order until mid May and for some reason this information was not given to our Inspector. I have an Inspector going to Hertfordshire in August so we will do then at the reduced rate.*

b) Hedge Cutting etc- JA was unhappy with the work that was carried out by P Allen Services and has contacted them to address this issue. Clerk to hold onto the cheque until JA is satisfied.

JA/JT

c) Matting- JA to investigate the cost of matting to go under the equipment rather than the bark at present. To be discussed next GPC meeting.

JA/JT

5) Any Other Business

a) NHDC Grants- E mail received from *Stuart Iazard Parishes can technically go for all three grant funds, however with regards to the Community Buildings Refurbishment Fund, if a Parish has received an award in the previous year they are exempt from applying to that specific fund until the following year.*

From a quick look at our records Graveley was awarded £2,387 last year from the CBRF so unfortunately it looks like you can only apply to the Playground Fund and the Environmental Improvement Fund this year.

b) JA raised concerns about children on cycles racing down the footpath that runs down from Ashwell Close to Pondsides to the danger of local residents. PB to raise the issue at his next walk about with Gary Henning to see if a barrier could be placed at the top .

PB

c) Parish Paths- GPC Members expressed their gratitude to Helen Lumley for carrying on with the parish paths partnership for Graveley, begun by Phil.

6) Correspondence Received.

a) Herts Waste Core Strategy with CD

b) NHDC Members Code of Conduct Seminar-23rd Aug. 2011

c) RHS Britain in Bloom information

d) NHDC Credit note Trade Refuse Service

7) Cheques Issued

- a) P Allen Services invoice Hedge Cutting £200.00 plus vat
- b) Mercer Leyton Bus Shelter renovations £5727.60 inc vat
- c) Graveley Environment Group £200.00 no vat Grant received from NHDC.
- d) Deamers Strimmer repair £65.00 inc vat

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
on Tuesday 20th September 2011 at 8pm.**