

MINUTES
Graveley Parish Council's Meeting
Tuesday 20th December 2011 8pm
held at Graveley Village Hall

Present: Vice Chair- Mr Peter Bracey (PB) Tony Bracey (TB), Steve Firth (SF) and Mrs Joyce Andrews (JA)

Members of the public were also present

Apologies – Chairman -Mr Alan Lines (AL) Cllr. Cathryn Henry (CH) PCSO Charlotte Tizard

Declarations of interest None

Approval of minutes - The Minutes of the 15th November 2011 were approved and signed

Matters Arising

a) Footpaths- Anne Conchie, RA Footpath Secretary for Graveley, attended the meeting and discussed her concern that two footpaths, the one going from the houses at the end of Ashwell Common towards Corey's Mill and the other going from Milksey Lane north near the bridge under the bridge of the A1(M) are not shown on Ordnance Survey maps as rights of way, even though they have been used for many years. Ann requested the support of the GPC, which was given, and needs local people who have used the paths in question for 20 years to write stating so. For more information she may be contacted by email anne@conchie.me.uk

1) Highways Report.

Peter Bracey

a) Bags of Grit- the Herts Highways have supplied a quantity of grit which is stored at the back of the Village Hall in 34 bags. This is for the use of villagers who may collect it and use on footpaths and the roads in the event of inclement weather. It is not to be used on private property.

b) Oak Lane- The drop kerbs have now been installed.

c) Chipping Yard- There is still work to be done tidying up this site and it is hoped it will be carried out in March 2012.

PB

d) Church Lane Closure- PB has composed a letter for the clerk to send to Alan Bardett, Chairman of JMPs, regarding the closure/modification of Church Lane in light of the possible increase in traffic if the Roundwood development takes place. It is unsuitable for heavy traffic usage as it is, in effect, a country lane with very restricted pedestrian amenities ie footpaths and passing places for vehicles.

PB/JT (done)

2 Planning

Tony Bracey

Planning Applications

a) Planning Application Jacks Hill Farm, Graveley- Conversion of existing dwelling into flats. This

GPC have made the following observations to the planning department on this application.

The Parish Council have no objections to this application. But have the following observations:-

Does in comply with green belt policy

Safety of entrance/egress from the site with the increase number of residents

Concerns about sewerage if it discharges towards Graveley as there are issues with the current Graveley system.

b) Waste Bins- The ones for installation around the Village Pond have been delivered to TB who is storing them and he together with PB will be fitting them into their new positions

TB/PB

c) Litter in Graveley Lane- Jamie Sells has, with two Council officials, visited the site after TB had contacted him regarding the amount of rubbish which had come from the open skip at the stables. It has been cleared and the owners of the stables will, in future, clear up any offending rubbish.

3) Financial Report

Steve Firth

a) Section 106 Money- The amount due from the Oak Lane development has been paid and PB to chase Stuart IZARD for payment to GPC.

PB

b) Precept for 2012/13- It was agreed that our requirements for the next financial year should stay the same. Clerk to write to Tim Neill, Accountancy Manager at NHDC with our precept requirement for this period is £6,000.00 with a copy of these minutes.

JT

c) Playsafety Ltd – They carried out the RoSPA report this year on the playground. There were a number of issues in getting this carried out and AL agreed that because of the problems incurred that the charge would be £63.00 (plus vat) and not the invoiced amount of £205.00 plus vat. The Clerk has already emailed Ann Edwards (twice) and has not received a reply. Clerk to write requesting a credit note before payment enclosing all the relevant emails.

JT

4) Playground

Joyce Andrews

b) Repairs to playground equipment- JA has received a quotation for the repair of the Playground equipment from CPM that was highlighted in the RoSPA report. The GPC have agreed that the necessary work be carried out to:-

Swings- replacing seat and shackles and chains plus 'No Climb' notice ££401.00

Grass Surface- reinstate worn grass and potholes £25.00

Playdale Climbing Frame- wire brush and re-paint, replace laminated platform and re secure Fireman's pole £430.00

Basketball Goal- Affix adhesive sign 'No Climb' £15.00

Vat to be added to the above figures. Clerk to write to CPM giving the an order. It is envisaged that

the work could be carried out at their convenience. JA to be involved on the necessary closure of the Playground when work takes place.

JA/JT

c) Funding- JT and JA to complete the forms for a Lottery Grant and will email early in the new year 2011. They will let us know within six weeks if, in theory, our application has been successful. Then provide all the backup paperwork.

JA/JT

d) Litter bin in playground- JA pointed out that the bin had not been emptied and TB to have a word with Jamie Sells.

TB

5) Any Other Business.

a) Information Panels- It was agreed that GPC would initially fund the supply of two information panels that have been planned by the Graveley Environment Group. Fitzpatrick Woolmer have quoted £3171.69 plus vat. Clerk to write and place the order. The GEG will be funding part of this project from grant monies already received. Clerk to contact Cllr's Lee Downie, Cathryn Henry and Tony Hunter to request a contribution from their discretionary Grant allowance. It is envisaged that one panel will be placed by the pond and one near the Church- they will depict walks and places of interest in and around the village.

JT

b) Skip Hire B197- Email received from Iian Leech, in reply to our letter of 26th November 2011 *Many thanks for your letter on behalf of Graveley Parish Council. I have discussed the matter with the site operator. They have apologised if any contractor vehicles have driven through the village and will remind all contractors of the need to use junction 9 of the A1 only and not drive through the village again. They have been using new contractors for certain preparatory works on site and will brief them again on this important point also.*

As you correctly point out in your letter, once all access arrangements have been fully constructed, the exit would be designed to prevent vehicles leaving the site turning right out of the site towards Graveley. We do carry out periodic site visits and will continue to carry out our own inspections especially in light of this complaint.

6) Correspondence Received.

a) none received

7) Cheques Issued

a) Clerks Petty Cash £62.42 n0 vat

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
on Tuesday 17th January 2012 at 8pm.**