

MINUTES

Graveley Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 20th July 2010 8pm held at Great Ashby Community Centre

Present: Chairman -Mr Alan Lines (AL), Vice Chair Mr Peter Bracey, (PB) Mr Derek Allen (DA), Mr Martin Hardwidge (MH)

Members of the public were also present.

Apologies – Tony Bracey, NHDC Cllr.Sal Jarvis, P.C. Bridget Jones, Mrs Evelyn Goldwater (GACC Chair). The GPC requested the Clerk to send their best Wishes to Tony and Evelyn for a speedy recovery.

JT

Declarations of interest – DA Fence quote for playground (item 5e) and AL for request from St Mary's Church (item 5g). They took no part in the discussion of the respective items.

Approval of minutes - The minutes of the 15th June 2010 were approved and signed.

1 Highways Report.

Peter Bracey

a) Speed Monitoring Devices & Speeding in Graveley High Street- GPC are still waiting for Chris Hutton's report regarding the availability of the necessary volunteers to take this project forward. Clerk to chase.

JT

b) Speeding in Church Lane- A reply to our letter to HH Roger Flowerday was received and PB will draft a response for clerk to send.

PB/JT

c) Gravel Depot Graveley High Street- Another site, off the Baldock Bypass, is to be considered for this. The present site is to be tidied up. Jack Rigg and PB are on the case.

d) Untaxed Car on the Grass verge at the Old Forge- BJ has reported this to the Licensing Authorities (DLVA) and we await their reply. Clerk to chase her up.

BJ/JT

e) Suggested Pedestrian crossing on Great Ashby Way- Clerk wrote to Richard Jones at N & E Herts email reply received 6/07/10 '*no funding has been allocated by JMP in the 2010/11 budget, but our request will remain on our potential candidates list for future consideration*' Clerk to write a draft letter to the JMP for PB's approval before sending as there seems to be some confusion.

JT

f) Kissing Gate in Church Lane Graveley - This has now been reinstated

g) Grassing over 2 car spaces outside the Old Forge - email received from Gary Henning Herts.,Highways '*Unfortunately, I've not yet had time to pursue this, as we are still scheduling work etc following the severe winter and this work has taken priority. In the first instance, I will need to instruct our Legal Department to start proceedings to revoke the existing Licence to cultivate which was granted in the 1970's to the owner of the end property. As the owner of the property has changed since the original licence was granted, the current licence can be revoked. I will endeavour to meet our Legal Rep in the next few weeks to discuss and commence the necessary proceedings*' PB will be meeting Gary Henning in August and will also discuss with him.

PB

h) Railings Outside the Village Hall-PB will be meeting Gary Henning and Barry Crouch (Chair of the Village Hall Committee) to make sure the railings are in the correct position

2) Planning Issues and Applications.

Tony Bracey

a) NHDC Planning App.1a High Street Graveley A letter has now been emailed to Kate Poyser and Mary Caldwell with the GPC's objections (22/07/10)

b) Brycelands Planning App. Jacks Hill letter sent with objections 8/07/10, email reply received 12/07/10 ' *The Graveley Parish Councils comments have been noted and will be taken into consideration when the application is determined*' Tony Hunter was sent a copy of the original letter with GPC's objections and he will do all he can. Clerk to send our original letter to Peter Lilley MP requesting his support.

JT

c) Section 106 money for Graveley There is a potential amount of approximately £21,000.00 which is available for specific projects in Graveley, Stuart Izzard is available to discuss the implications with the GPC at the appropriate time.

d) Appeal West View Church Lane Graveley- The owner has appealed against NHDC's refusal to allow the installation of French Doors at the rear. The GPC had no objections to the original application 12/10/09. Clerk to advise that the GPC has no objections and supports the original application. Sent email 21/06/10

JT

e) Unauthorised advertising sign on Wymondley Road (Milksey Stable). Clerk has written to Gary Henning 28/06/10 reply received 9/07/10 ' *sign has been inspected and highway boundary plans reveal that the sign is erected on private land. (copy of plan attached) You may wish to refer this matter to the NHDC Planning Department, as the sign may contravene planning regulations.*'

Clerk to contact Chris Braybrook at NHDC Planning Dept. and enclose copy of the plan.

JT

3) Financial Report

Martin Hardwidge

a) The external audited accounts to 31st March 2010 were approved by BDO and per their request GPC 'Resolved that there are no matters which give cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met'. Clerk to display on village noticeboard for two weeks the appropriate public notice.

b) Youth Club/Christmas Tree- MH reported that all was going well with the setting up of the Youth Club. He also informed the GPC that he is getting a Christmas Tree to go outside the Community Centre.

4) Great Ashby Report

Evelyn Goldwater

a) Dog Bins - AL will be meeting with Andrew Mills and Cheryl Gibbons and will pinpoint the exact location for the requested bins, report next GPC meeting

AL

b) Mendip Way and Great Ashby Parking-It was 'Resolved that because of inconsiderate parking on the bend and very close to the round-about junction on Mendip Way with Great Ashby Way and White Horse Road GPC request the Southern Rural Committee to submit a request to the JMP to install double yellow lines there. Also to install parking restrictions on Great Ashby Way after Smugglers Dell and before Mendip Way/White Horse Way for the same reasons'.

Clerk to send the above observation to EG for discussion at the GACC meeting on 12th August 2010.

JT

5) Any Other Business

a) Additional Notice board- The COMMA grant application has been unsuccessful, letter from Katherine Sexton of CDA Herts., *'The quality of applications has been high and only a limited number of applications could be funded. If you contact us we will be happy to discuss your project and provide some feedback on your application. We may also be able to help you identify other possible sources of funding.'* Clerk to contact KS

JT

b) Garages. At Ashwell Close - Reply to our letter with the findings of the recent poll received from Mrs M. Radley of NHHomes 9/07/10 *'I have arranged a visit with a NHH surveyor to ascertain if it is feasible to erect new garages.w/c 12/07/10 and will report back in due course.'* Clerk to keep an eye on progress.

JT

c) Laptop Computer- MH has ascertained the cost for a Laptop for use by the Clerk for GPC matters the cost £561.60 was approved and cheque issued against a pro forma invoice from Dell Computers'

MH

d) Bark for Playground – As the Probation Service are unable to help us by providing volunteers in time for the School Summer Holidays it was agreed that Derek Allen will arrange for the bark to be laid It was 'Resolved that the expenditure, authorised by 3 GPC members, of £200 to P Allen for weeding and installing the play bark at the Playground be ratified'.

JT

e) Playground - Quotes from GRC Services for the repair of the fence was received and AL has received a quote from Derek Allen. To be discussed at the next GPC meeting.

JT

f) Additional Playing Field for Graveley - Clerk has approached the owner Mr Wallace and received a reply. *'He would be prepared to grant GPC a lease and 3 points were raised 1) No access to his adjoining land and netting would need to be installed on the North side..2) Rent would be £1,500 per acre per annum paid annually in advance.3) the GPC would have to pay all reasonable legal costs'* It was resolved that the letter from Mr Wallace be passed to the relevant sub group of the Graveley Village Plan for their comments together with our concerns about the future ongoing costs involved when GPC's income is reduced by 90% because of the probable split of the parishes into two.

JT/AL

g) Church Roof- a request from Hilary Thompson, Church Warden, for help towards the £400.00 cost of supplying a simple security system following the theft of lead from the vestry roof. The GPC agreed to contribute the sum of £200.00. Regarding the agreement for the GPC to fund the grass cutting in the Church yard, clerk to ask Hilary for a quote for the year's maintenance to put before the GPC.

JT

h) Separation of the Parish Clerk sent email to David Miley *'It was resolved at the Graveley Parish Council meeting on 15th June 2010 that I should E mail you to support your suggestion to issue the Community Governance review questionnaire in July, providing the time scale for a reply allows for anyone taking a two weeks holiday. No advantage could be seen in delaying until September.'* He replied *'I shall keep this in mind'*.

i) Hedge Cutting - Playground- It was agreed that GRC's quote, £75.00 per cut should be accepted Clerk to inform him to go ahead asap with cut number 1 (of 2).

JT

j) Bus Shelter- The bus shelter in the High Street is in a poor state, brickwork and pointing are crumbling. Clerk has received a reply to his letter (8th July) from Roxanne Claud at HH The site has been visited and their findings were *'It is our assumption that that the damage to the brickwork is purely aesthetic al and not structural....after a scheme is completed there is a one year maintenance period which has lapsed.....the bus shelter is in the ownership of the Parish Council who is responsible for the maintenance and no further action will be taken by Hertfordshire Highways.* PB to look into this and report back.

PB/JT

k) Rubbish fly tipped. PB has advised Veolia.

l) Weed Growth between the two Public Houses. The weeds have now been trimmed back.

m) Graveley Primary School- AL received a copy of a letter sent by the headteacher Mrs Massey to Rachel Pitts-Tucker at the Cygnet Hospital regarding a recent incident at the school that resulted in an emergency procedure being carried out. Clerk to draft a letter for AL's comments to send to Rachel Pitt-Tucker giving Mrs Massey our support and share her concern.

JT/AL

6) Correspondence Received

a) Rural Grant Funding Awards 2010/11- Clerk to follow up with Gary Gover hopefully to get a grant for our noticeboard/litter bins.

JT

b) Roger Flowerday Speeding in Church lane. Clerk t/w PB to send a reply noting his comments but reiterating our request for a traffic data surveys be carried out. (cable and boxes).

JT

c) NHDC. Revision of Parish Charter. MH took away to study.

MH

d) NHDC. Invitation to a planning Seminar Sept 30. Sent to all members. Clerk to book 2 places (AL already booked in).

JT

e) Alteration to North Hertfordshire District Council's Constitution - Planning Matters

7) Cheques Issued

a) Clerks remuneration £183.33

b) Thomas Dryer-Beers Litter Collection £212.50 (no vat)

c) Hire Village Hall 4 months £72.00 (no vat)

d) Michael Fry invoice inspection of Playground £45.00 (no vat)

e) NHDC invoice Trade Refuse Collection £68.74 (incl vat)

f) Clerks Petty Cash £49.93 (incl vat)

g) HMRC PAYE Clerks Income Tax £125.01

h) BDO Auditors fee £158.63 (incl vat)

i) Alan Eaton Playground Grass Cutting 7 @ £20.00 = £140.00 (no vat)

j) Came & Co., GPC Insurance £752.22 (incl vat) Paid 21/05/10

k) Dell Computers Laptop for Clerk's use £561.60 (incl vat)

l) LMA Welding (Kissing Gate Church Lane renovation) £287,88 (incl vat)

m) P Allen Services Ltd., Bark laying Children's Playground £200.00 (incl vat)

8) Issues Raised by the Public. None

**The next GPC meeting will be at Graveley Village Hall
at 8pm on the 17th August 2010.**

