

MINUTES

Graveley Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 15th June 2010 8pm held at Graveley Village Hall

Present: Chairman -Mr Alan Lines (AL), Vice Chair Mr Peter Bracey, (PB) Mr A Bracey (AB),

Members of the public were also present.

Apologies – Mr Derek Allen , Mr Martin Hardwidge NHDC Cllrs. Sal Jarvis & Lee Downie, PC Bridget Jones and Ex Officio member Mrs Evelyn Goldwater (GACC Chair),

Declarations of interest – none

Approval of minutes - The minutes of the 18th May 2010 were approved and signed.

Hastoe Affordable Housing for local People. Frank Baker and John Lefever gave a most interesting talk on their aims and objectives. Hastoe took over from the Rural Housing Trust, which no longer exists, which had links with NHDC. Hastoe addresses local housing needs in rural areas via Rural Exception Sites. If the GPC feel that there is a need locally for Affordable Housing, Hastoe then send out a questionnaire to assess this need. The houses are held in perpetuity and can only go to local residents, they can though own up to 80% of the equity of the building. Rents are affordable - for instance a two bedroom house is £79.63 per week. They are regulated by the ASA and build to a very high standard. They are also very concerned with green issues and have recently built homes that require no heating at all even in the coldest of winters. Information packs were provided and have been issued to all GPC members. Members thanked the speakers from Hastoe for their interesting presentation and noted their comments for the future.

1 Highways Report.

Peter Bracey

a) Speed Monitoring Devices & Speeding in Graveley High Street- PB reported that the costs involved in setting up hand held 'Speed Guns' was in the region of £2,500 and the installation of 'Smiley Faces' £3,500. For the 'guns' volunteers would be needed and trained. Chris Hutton had indicated that via The Village Plan group nine volunteers could be mustered. Clerk to contact CH to find out if this is still so. PB emailed Roxanne Gland at Herts Highways to see if some of the 106 money from the Victoria Court development could be released for this project and the Village Gateway scheme. An email was received from Bob Davidson of Parkway PC with his reservations on this project. It was Resolved that GPC decided that we are, in principle, in favour of Resident Speed Monitoring, but that it must be run separate to the Parish Council by a separate community group, but with the Parish Council's support. This to be communicated to the Traffic Section of the Graveley Steering Group.

JT/PB

b) Speeding in Church Lane- A letter has been sent to Nigel Schofield (copy to CEO J Campbell) He emailed us to send all relevant files to Roger Flowerday which has been sent 2/06/10 Clerk to chase up.

JT

c) Gravel Depot Graveley High Street- A letter to Mr Flowerday with copies to Tony Hunter and Cllr Sal Jarvis was sent. Roger Flowerday has passed it on to Andy Turner HH Network Manager Works Team for him to comment on. Clerk to Chase up. PB to draft a letter to Miss Tapster which will be sent marked 'Private & Confidential' to get some action.

JT

d) Untaxed Car on the Grass verge at the Old Forge- Clerk has drawn to PC Bridget Jones' attention an untaxed car- she replied that as this was on private land no offence had been committed. The Clerk has emailed her back to point out that this was not so. The Land Registry records show that this in fact HH land so we await BJ's reply.

BJ/JT

e) Suggested Pedestrian crossing on Great Ashby Way- Clerk to chase up the letter sent on 20/05/10 to Nigel Schofield with copies to Tom Brindley (JMP) David Barnard Chairman of Southern Rural) and find out what progress has been made.

JT

f) Kissing Gate in Church Lane Graveley - Steve Firth gave an update on progress - the original gate together with a suitable post will soon be installed. They will not be painted but left in the original state to match in with the existing iron work. The GPC thanked Steve for his work

g) Grassing over 2 car spaces outside the Old Forge - Clerk to follow this up with H Highways.

JT

2) Planning Issues and Applications.

Tony Bracey

a) NHDC planning application for Front Dormer window 26 Windemere Close, Great Ashby, SG1 6AG - no objection.

JT (done 16/06/10)

b) Appeal West View Church Lane Graveley- The owner has appealed against NHDC's refusal to install 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.

JT

c) Brycelands Planning Application Jacks Hill - A new application has been received. All previous correspondence with GRS to go to AB, from clerk to assess, who will report at next meeting. Clerk to ask for an extension to 25th July 2010 from Alice Carrington at CDU - received 17/06/10

AB/JT

d) Unauthorised advertising sign on Wymondley road (Milksey Stable). Clerk will report to NHDC Enforcement officer.

JT

3) Financial Report

No report

Martin Hardwidge absent

4) Great Ashby Report and Traffic Report

Evelyn Goldwater

a) Dog Bins - two sites have been targeted by Cheryl Gibbons who provided a 'Google earth map with the intended locations. Clerk and AL will go up to Great Ashby and pinpoint the exact location and then the Clerk will contact Andrew Mills with this information

JT/AL

5) Any Other Business

a) Additional Notice board- The COMMA grant application has gone in (email& post) with full supporting documentation. We will hear if we are successful by w/c 5th July 2010 Clerk to contact Katherine Sexton at this time

JT

b) Garages. At Ashwell Close - The results of the recent survey was discussed. It was resolved that with the responses now in from the Ashwell Close residents' survey re Action Plan for the Garages in Ashwell Close, GPC write to NHH Homes with the results and requests them to demolish the garages and erect new ones, for the use of garage storage only and nothing else. They should also bear in mind when planning this of the close proximity of the access path to the children's playground.

JT

c) Possible purchase of the Woodland at Grinders End- Tony Bradford of Countryside Management Services has done a survey After discussion it was resolved that with regard to the Report on Grinders End woodland, GPC thank them very much for their trouble but in the light of this and recent notification from Highways Agency the project is deferred.

d) Laptop Computer- MH is still working on this.

MH

e) Insurance- Came and Company are now are our insurers whose Quote £752.22 which includes Fidelity Guarantee standard £100,000 and Public Liability for pond and 2 Bus Shelters insured for £10,000 (For both) which we did not have before. All the paperwork has been received and all is in order. A copy of the 'Employers Liability Insurance' has been placed on the village noticeboard.

f) Bark for Playground – It was resolved that if the Prince's Trust are unable to help with the weeding and laying of new play bark in the Playground, the Clerk be authorised to invite the Probation Service to assist. The bark has been ordered.

JT

g) Playground - A quote from GRC Services for the repair of the fence was received and AL to get a quote from Derek Allen.

AL

h) Additional Playing Field for Graveley - Clerk has approached the owner Mr Wallace and received a letter of acknowledgement as per the Graveley Plan. We await developments.

JT

i) Church Roof- Tim Franklin informed the GPC of the recent theft of lead from the roof of St Mary's Church. Only a small amount was taken as he felt that they may have been disturbed. He is looking into an alarm system that may act as a deterrent. GPC felt they might be able to help with the costs and await further details from the Parochial Church Council.

j) Separation of the Parish Clerk to send PB a copy of the minutes for the last CACC meeting which details the information given by David Miley on how this will work. He will draft a letter urging action for the Clerk to send to David Miley at Gernon Road.

PB/JT

k) SNAP update - PB received the following message from Andy Holman at CPRE 'who spoke to John Ironside of NHDC this morning to get an update on where we stand with the proposed SNAP consultation.

As many of you will have heard by now, North Herts DC and Stevenage BC have decided to defer indefinitely any further work on SNAP in the light of the Government announcement of its intention to abolish Regional Spatial Strategies. The latter means that there would no longer be any formal justification for any local planning authority to plan to meet its housing requirements beyond its own boundary. The meetings scheduled by the two Councils in the next couple of weeks to approve the SNAP Preferred Options document will not now be doing so, and the document is not being issued for public consultation.

The West of Stevenage 3,600-dwelling application is a separate issue from SNAP in the sense that the legal challenge by NHDC and HCC still stands. Whether the Government will proceed to confirm the approval of that application in the event of the challenge being successful and the matter being remitted back to the Secretary of State remains to be seen.

In light of these events, we have considered whether to go ahead with the public meeting scheduled to take place at Graveley on 30 June. We have decided that we should do so, if only to explain to the general public what has happened and where matters stand with regard to SNAP. Peter Lilley MP had agreed to be guest speaker at our meeting, and we will now be asking him whether he wishes to continue with that.'

l) Bus Shelter- The bus shelter in the High Street is in a poor state, brickwork and pointing are crumbling. Clerk to look at the paperwork of the 2009 improvements, construction of the two central reservations, as at that time the Bus Shelter was moved to its present site by H Highways. GPC feel that the work was not done properly and will seek HH to do the necessary repairs.

JT

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

n) Police/Community Engagement Group - The GPC discussed the priorities of projects in the Village i.e. Speeding both in Church Lane and the High Street and the use of Speed Cameras.

6) Correspondence Received

a) Equality Council Recruitment

b) Neighbourhood Policing Policies

Clerk to email to inform them no one will be attending either meeting

JT

7) Cheques Issued

a) Clerk's remuneration £183.33.

b) Clerks Petty Cash £53.08

c) Bark for playground £1408.83 (inc vat)

8) Issues Raised by the Public. none

The next GPC meeting will be at Great Ashby Community Centre

at 8pm on the 20th July 2010