

MINUTES

Graveley Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 18th May 2010 8pm held at Graveley Village Hall

Present: Chairman -Mr Alan Lines (AL), Mr A Bracey (AB), Mr Derek Allen (DA), Mr Martin Hardwidge (MH).

The meeting welcomed our local ward PC, Bridget Jones, who spoke to the meeting about current issues. She advised that our new Community Police Support Officer will be Ms Charlie Tizard.

Members of the public were also present.

Apologies – Vice Chair Mr Peter Bracey, NHDC Cllrs. Sal Jarvis & Lee Downie and Ex Officio member Mrs Evelyn Goldwater (GACC Chair), all attending the SNAP meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - The minutes of the 20th April 2010 were approved and signed.

Election of Chair & Vice Chair for 2010/11- The election of Alan Lines as Chair and Peter Bracey as Vice Chair was proposed by Mr Derek Allen and seconded by Mr Tony Bracey and was carried.

1 Highways Report.

a) Speed Monitoring Devices & Speeding in Graveley High Street-

Police Officer Bridget Jones discussed the problems of speeding both in the High Street and Church Lane. There is a possibility that a Speed Recording box for Church Lane could be considered for one week. BJ to discuss with P.C. Guy McCullum. Also she will give, after consultation with him, details of volunteer training in the use of Speed Guns for use in the High Street. It was suggested that perhaps there was possibility of funding (106 money) for 'Gates' etc. Report to be discussed at the next meeting to include the cost of the equipment.

JT

b) Speeding in Church Lane- AL read out a draft letter to Nigel Schofield (copy to CEO J Campbell) which was approved. To be run past PB before clerk sends.

AL/JT

c) Community Speed Watch-A meeting is to be held at Welwyn Garden City on

the 20th May 2010, under the auspices of Guy McCullum, to discuss this matter. Chris Hutton will be attending, Clerk to ask him for a report of proceedings.

JT

d) Gravel Depot Graveley High Street- A draft letter to Mr Flowerday with copies to Tony Hunter and Cllr Sal Jarvis will be sent. It seems as if the HH have taken a one year lease on the Haulage Yard opposite in the High Street. We point out that there is a more suitable site up at Jacks Hill.

PB,JT

e) Untaxed Car on the Grass verge at the Old Forge- Clerk has drawn to Bridget Jones' attention an untaxed car- she will investigate and advise what action can be taken. AB pointed out that a car had been in the lay by in the High Street opposite the George & Dragon for several week. It did have a tax disc, but felt it should be investigated, BJ will do.

She will also keep an eye on cars parked on the yellow lines in Oak Lane.

BJ

f) Suggested Pedestrian crossing on Great Ashby Way- Clerk to chase up with a further letter (approved by the GPC) to Nigel Schofield with copies to Tom Brindley(JMP) David Barnard Chairman of Southern Rural) and find out what progress has been made. (Not, note, another crossing on Whitehorse Lane)

JT

g) Road Repairs-The very necessary road repairs to Graveley High Street will be carried out hopefully when the village signs are erected.

2) Planning Issues and Applications.

a) NHDC planning application for rear lean-to conservatory at 63 Finbracks, Great Ashby, SG1 6HB - no objection.

JT (done 19/05/10)

b) Roundwood Development by Croudace - 7 replies were received from our letter of objection to this plan. Our points were noted but no comment could be made.

c) Goods Vehicles License for Haulage Yard-The Traffic Commissioner has refused the recent application. **3) Financial Report.**

a) The Budget for 2010-11- to be amended to include:-

1) £6,000.00 for Great Ashby Community Center for set up costs involved in a Youth Club project led by MH.

2) £2,000.00 to accommodate bark top up in Graveley play ground.(5h)

3) £450.00 to the purchase of a laptop computer for clerks use.(4f)

4) £700 for 2 dog bins.

Some money may need to be taken from our Reserves.

b) Annual Return of Accounts - MH Presented the GPC accounts for the year ending 31st March 2010, which were approved by the GPC. Clerk to attach these minutes to the Annual Return of Accounts, filling in the reference (2) on the form and arrange for them to go to Chris Nathan (who has approved them) to sign and date (page6).

JT, PB

c) Current Financial Situation- MH supplied an up to date statement of the situation, which shows a healthy situation. AL suggested a quarterly statement for the GPC would be sufficient.

MH

4) Great Ashby Report and Traffic Report

a) Dog Bins - two sites have been targeted (Botany Bay Lane and Merrick Close) Lee Downie expressed to the Clerk, before the meeting, that as the Merrick Close bin was possibly on the site of the new school. AL pointed out if this was so, the site contractors would be responsible for resiting it so it should proceed without delay. Clerk to contact Lee and GAC Group and request the location sites are clearly identified for us to progress. The Chairman pointed out that the Botany Bay bin had been discussed now for 6 months and still not sorted. The GPC are willing to fund these two bins.

b) GACC Play Store Shed- Dot Smith has confirmed that the Play Store is insured by Dolly Mixtures playgroup. Members agreed to ask the Clerk to write confirming our wish to give the Play Store Shed to the GACC.

MH to then write off this items from GPC's asset register.

JT,MH

c) Youth Club Great Ashby Community Center - MH gave an update on his proposal to run a Gt Ashby Youth Club (targeted at school years 6 - 10). He had a very good meeting with other helping/funding bodies and is hopeful that it could start in September this year. Funding is in place see a 1 above. He will keep us informed of progress. Estimate of total cost of running a session for one night per week is £13,000.

d) 106 Money- MH reported that there is still money available from Gt Ashby park and could be hopefully be used for the extension of the GACC - this is to be confirmed.

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 We, at last, received an Email from North Herts., Homes and it was suggested we seek local residents opinion on the best way to go forward. AL has produced a simple form which the clerk will print out and deliver to all the houses in Ashwell Close inviting their input and ask the return of completed forms to him. The GPC can then make an evaluation and decide on the next course of action A member of the public pointed out the problem of parking on the grass verges by commercial vehicles.

JT

c) Possible purchase of the Woodland at Grinders End- This still an ongoing issue. Tony Bradford of CMS has been asked to survey it and has advised he hopes to have a look at the site in the next few weeks and will report back. Clerk to gently chase CMS.

JT

d) Laptop Computer- MH provided a final costing for a dedicated laptop for the Clerk's sole use on GPC business. He kindly offered to order it on GPC's behalf and load it with a suitable word processing program.

MH

e) Insurance- The Clerk had quotes from two Insurance Company's and they were discussed. It has been decided to change our present Insurers AON (previously Allianz) whose Renewal Quote was £949..90 to Came and Company 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.

ALto have a look at the proposal to make sure all is in order before clerk sends off.

AL, JT

f) Bark for Playground – DA and AL will progress now that GPC has agreed the higher cost- up to £2000. (We may qualify for a NHDC Grant if in the future we decide to lay a rubber matting improved surface). The Clerk to contact the Prince's Trust to see if they have volunteers for laying the new bark.

It was pointed out by a member of the public that using the Probation Service to do this could have difficulties.

JT

g) Kissing Gate in Church Lane- The new gate that has been installed is out of keeping with the character of the area. The old gate is available for refurbishment and reinstallation. Mr Steve Firth offered to get costings in for this.

The Clerk to confirm that GPC is responsible for maintenance of footpath gates and stiles and not the relevant landowner.

JT. Steve Firth.

h) The Invitation from NH Council for Voluntary Services to join has been evaluated by MH and it was felt that though worthy was not suitable for GPC.

MH

i) Playground - Clerk to get a quote from GRC Services for the repair of the fence.

JT

j) 5 a side Football Pitch - It was felt that a suitable site would be the piece of land at the top of Oak Lane. Clerk to approach the owner, Mr Wallace.

JT

6) Correspondence Received

a) Graveley Primary School Invitation to Pond Opening on 25/05/10

b) Hastoe - Affordable Housing for local People letter. Clerk to write suggesting they come and address the next GPC meeting.

JT

7) Cheques Issued

a) Clerk's remuneration £183.33.

8) Issues Raised by the Public.

a) A member of the public commented on the deplorable state of the Bus Shelter in the High Street and surrounding area. Clerk to mention it to our Litter Picker and take it up with Veolia.

JT

The next GPC meeting will be at 8pm on the 15th June 2010 at Graveley Village Hall.