

**MINUTES**  
**Graveley Parish Council's Meeting**  
**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2011 8pm**  
**held at Graveley Village Hall**

**Present:** Chairman -Mr Alan Lines (AL).Vice Chair- Mr Peter Bracey (PB) Tony Bracey (TB), Steve Firth (SF) and Mrs Joyce Andrews (JA) NHDC Cllr's. Cathryn Henry (CH) and Tony Hunter (TH)

Members of the public were also present

**Apologies** – None

**Declarations of interest** None

**Approval of minutes** - The Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011 were approved and signed (with one amendment see 1b below).

**Matters Arising**

**1) Highways Report.**

*Peter Bracey*

**a) Sewer Problem-**PB has received a reply from Liz McBreen, at Anglia Water, the new sensor has now been fitted. This will alert the control centre if there is a danger of overflowing.

**PB**

**b) New Mower- Correction to Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> October 2011** a new mower will cost in the region of £450.00 plus vat, grass and hedge cutting (playground) £500.00 a total of £950.00.

**c) Oak Lane-** The drop kerbs will be installed in the next two weeks

**d) Chipping Yard-** There is still work to be done tidying up this site and it is hoped this will all be resolved this month PB to liaise with Andy Turner and Tony Hunter.

**PB**

**e) Car Parking Old Forge-** Clerk has contacted Christine Pronto regarding the untaxed Cordoba Seat illegally parked as it is still there. Clerk to chase.

**JT**

**f) Church Lane Closure-** PB to write to Alan Bardett, Chairman of JMP 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.

**JT**

**g) JMP/Herts Highways-** TH gave an interesting insight into the workings of the JMP which may be abolished and replaced by a Locality Budget scheme. This will mean in TH's case (who is responsible for 17 Parish Councils) more constraints on spending for Highway repairs. Though small works such as drop kerbs, linage and signage will (probably) not be affected. This proposal is still in the approval stage. No doubt more information to follow.

## 2 Planning

*Tony Bracey*

### Planning Applications

a) None received

b) **Waste Bins**-One has now been installed outside Graveley Primary School and the ones scheduled for installation around the Village Pond are to be carried out soon -TB to keep an eye on progress with Jamie Sells.

**TB**

c) **Key for Bins**- Earth Anchors has supplied two keys for the lockable bins around the pond etc one has been given to JA and the other to TB.

### 3) Financial Report

*Steve Firth*

a) **Bus Shelter Grant money and 106 Money**- the grant of £2387.00 has been paid but we are still awaiting the Section 106 money (£1,000.00) due from the development in Oak Lane.

**SF**

b) **Audit Date for 2011-12** We to request 21 May 2012 with BDO receiving the papers by 6 July 2012.

c) **Precept for 2012/13**-We have been requested by NHDC to forward our Precept requirements for next year. SF to draw up a plan of our needs and present at the next GPC meeting.

**SF**

d) **Planting Grant**-HAPTC Cheque for £502.50 (North Herts Rural Community Pot grant) has been received. A Cheque for £500.70p paid to Rockford Gardens for plants.

### 4) Playground

*Joyce Andrews*

a) **Playground Inspection** It was agreed to get CPM to do three Operational Inspections (£40.00 plus vat each visit) and one Annual Inspection of Risk Assessment (£65.00 plus vat) Clerk has written to Derek Clements at CPM confirming this.

**JT**

b) **Repairs to playground equipment**- JA has requested estimates from three contractors (Playdell, Wickstead and CPM) so far only CPM are willing to quote and they will have estimates ready for JA to present at the December 2011 meeting.

**JA**

c) **Funding**-. The contents of the NHDC grant form have been approved and JA has delivered to Stuart Izzard at NHDC Letchworth together with PB's forms (1b above). JT and JA to complete the forms for a Lottery Grant and will email early December 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) **Play Ground Safety Matting**- JA has investigated the cost of the wet pour system and from

the three quotes it was decided to go ahead, grants permitting, with CPM at an approx. cost of £8830.00 This includes reinstatement to grass of the excess barked area not needing to be rubberised.

#### **5) Any Other Business.**

**a) Parking/Garages Ashwell Close-** Clerk has made contact with Mrs O'Leary of NH Homes and the areas around the garages have been cleaned up. Clerk to keep in touch regarding future plans.

**b) Skip Hire-** A member of the public pointed out that the Lorries preparing the site were coming through the village and not, as agreed, exiting at Junction 9. Clerk to draft a letter for AL's approval to Mary Caldwell.

**JT/AL**

**c) Localism Bill-** AL read out a questionnaire regarding the GPC's thoughts on this Bill (even though it is still under discussion at The Houses of parliament). AL to collate the various thoughts by GPC members and submit.

**AL**

**d) Village Fête Monies-** as there was no Fête this year (though a very successful Village Day was held) St. Mary's Church are still holding £250.00 which the GPC gave as a floating fund for setting up the Fête. Clerk to write and ask for it to be returned to GPC where it will be held for future Fête needs the Church are involved in.

**JT/AL**

#### **6) Correspondence Received.**

**a)** none received

#### **7) Cheques Issued**

**a)** Earth Anchors £24.60 inc vat (Litter Bin Keys.)

**b)** Alan Eaton Grass cutting £200.00 no vat.

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

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