



HATFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held remotely via Zoom link

7:30pm on Wednesday 5th August 2020

Present: Acting Chairman Cllr M Lemon (ML), P Brown (PB) Cllr N Robley (NR), Cllr Mrs S Saban (SS)
C Cllr S Barker (SB)
Mrs Julie Davies (JD) Parish Clerk
6 members of the public

2692 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor M Bissell (MB) Cllr T Copeman (TC) Cllr Overton (CO) Cllr K Fox (KF) and Cllr R Breavington (RB),

2693 Declaration of Interests

Councillor M Lemon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a District Councillor.

2694 Public Participation

Flooding Stortford Road; A resident thanked SB, NR and MB for their continuing hard work on flooding issues. Resident explained that previously outside his property the flooding had been ankle to knee deep with drivers swerving over the road to avoid the flood. Essex highways had cleared 4 drains but agreed this was a temporary fix. Their next step is to use sonar and CCTV cameras to find how the system drains and to fix it permanently.

SB stated that Hatfield Heath as a whole seems to have lots of flooding issues and suggested going forward that she arrange a panel meeting to discuss all of these and ongoing issues with speeding in the village with both Highways and the Watercourse representatives.

A resident asked for the key task monitor to go on the website. JD reported that the key task monitor has now been finalized and will go onto the website.

A representative from the historical society informed the council that the new updated book on the prisoner of war camp will be reprinted. The new book will include what life was like from a PoW perspective both during and after the war for them and their families.

A resident of Cox Lane said they had revisited the government Covid-19 initiative site and asked the Parish Council to support in an application to temporarily close the road which passes through the cricket field in Hatfield Heath. The resident felt that her point was overlooked at the last Council meeting, where reduction of speed throughout the whole village was discussed. SB commented that the government's plan to temporarily close roads are meant for more urban areas such as towns and cities to help with social distancing. The resident stated that if the village got a lower speed limit this would be a positive for the village. ML thanked the resident and stated that all views are welcome. The issue was discussed further later on and did not receive sufficient support to proceed – the resident accepted this and will help support the speed limit reduction.

A resident stated that reducing the limit was a waste of time since 80% of traffic was doing between 45 and 60mph. NR said that this was not supported by Speedwatch results which showed that speeds were very much reduced prior to suspension of activities because of Covid 19 and very few people were speeding. Since lockdown speeds had indeed risen but we cannot yet restart Speedwatch.

2695 Minutes of the meeting of 1st July 2020

The minutes were approved.

2696 Report from the District and County Councillor

SB report covered in part agenda item 2694 with regard to flooding. SB reported that she has a budget to fill potholes. Place letter in the Village Magazine asking all residents to report potholes to parishclerk@hatfieldheath.com where they can be consolidated into a village list.

SB reported that she has approximately £4000 left in the budget for community projects. Hatfield Heath has been granted £500 for help clean the war memorial.

ML reported that the UDC local plan had not been accepted by the Government Inspectors and that meetings were starting again on a new/revised plan for completion by 2023. ML is in the leadership group and suspects they will go for a new rather than revised plan.

SB commented it was likely that all communities would be asked to up their housing contribution by 50%, UDC may be combined with other District Councils and cease to exist and that extra powers would be given to both District and Parish Councils in future.

2697 Financial Report

a) Budget Report

The budget report was provided. We are on budget.

b) Approval of Expenditure

The following items of expenditure were approved;

| Paid to | Description | Payment method | Gross |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| P K Littlejohn | External Auditor for 2019 | Online | £576.00 |
| J Davies | Salary - July | Online | £785.00 |
| J Foster | Salary - July | Online | £78.98 |
| S Foster | Salary July | Online | £78.98 |
| J Skyes | Salary July | Online | £170.59 |
| HMRC | Salary July | Online | £89.51 |
| J Davies | Mileage - July | Online | 72.00 |
| J Davies | Expenses – July zoom & tarpaulin | Online | £58.36 |
| Cllr M Lemon | Plants for planters | Online | £80.00 |
| Heath Computers | Website maintenance | Online | £60.00 |
| P W May Contracting | Heath and allotment | Online | £543.52 |
| P W May Contracting | Heath | Online | £521.33 |

£3,114.05

2698 Correspondence Report

The report provided by JD was noted.

2699 To discuss the benefits of a Community Police Officer

JD reported that since the last meeting other parishes had been contacted, but are smaller and do not have the budget for a PCSO. This is on the agenda again for Hatfield Broad Oak for the September meeting. NR expressed that he feels it is essential to have our own PCSO as there have been several incidents within the village within the past few months that could have been dealt with more expediently. The issues include public order offences, road rage, animal attacks, theft of and from vehicles etc. JD to work out the extra cost on the precept in time for the next meeting.

2700 Clerks Report

- Resident has complained to Gigaclear after the grass verge has been ruined. Clerk has formally written to Gigaclear and awaiting a response. Follow up JD
- 'A' board on the Heath, Clerk has formally written to the Anwars asking them to remove the board. Follow up JD
- Formally written to Essex highways regarding state of Cox Ley road. Follow up JD
- Previous email circulated Clipped Hedge overgrown trees possibly parish owned. NR confirmed that they were in fact owned by the Parish Council. NR and PB to review with owner and contractor and get quote.
- Tarpaulin available. Run over to Friars farm to cover the salt bags. JD

2701 Key Task Monitor

Key task monitor was noted and shall be put onto the website.

2702 Planning Matters

a) Applications determined by the Planning Authority;

Ref: UTT/20/1093/HHF - 6 Clipped Hedge Hatfield Heath Bishops Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7EG

Proposed single storey extension and conversion of garage to living space; installation of french doors. Block paving to part of front garden and erection of fence.

Approved

Ref: UTT/20/1544/DOC - Bramfield Friars Lane Hatfield Heath CM22 7BE Application to discharge condition 2 (details of materials) attached to UTT/20/0161/HHF
Conditions discharged in Full

Ref: UTT/20/1516/DOC - Foxglove Farm Dunmow Road Hatfield Heath CM22 7BL Application to discharge condition 4 (lighting design strategy for Biodiversity) attached to UTT/17/1037/FUL

REFUSED. Conditions not discharged.

Ref: UTT/20/1262/HHF - Rose Cottage Pond Lane The Heath Hatfield Heath CM22 7AB
Proposed part single, part two storey extension.

Approved

Ref: UTT/20/1321/CLE - St Clouds Matching Road Hatfield Heath CM22 7AR
Certificate of lawfulness for existing ground source heat pump at residential property

Approved

b) Planning applications to consider;

Ref: UTT/20/1629/HHF - 2 Little Lancasters Blocks Corner Sparrows Lane Hatfield Heath Bishops Stortford CM22 7AY

Proposed 2 bay cart lodge. No objections

Ref: UTT/20/1568/HHF - Mill House The Heath Hatfield Heath CM22 7AB Conversion of existing garage to residential annexe

Object – The parish council agree with comments made by the heritage experts that this is a separate building and not an annexe and stands in the curtilage of a listed building on an expanded footprint. We therefore formally object although we understand that the works may already have been completed.

Ref: UTT/20/1279/HHF - Matching Barns Sparrows Lane Hatfield Heath CM22 7AT
Proposed single storey extension and alterations. No objections

c) Planning Enforcement Issues

ML reported disappointment in the lack of action taken by UDC into looking into enforcement issues reported by HHPC. ML is looking closely into this.

2703 Highways Matters

ML reported displaced kerb stones in Broomfields. Clerk to write to UDC to request the stones are put back. JD

ML reported that we have not heard anything about the proposed Hastoe development JD to chase.

Cllrs again stated that they would like a blanket 30mph speed limit throughout the village. NR reported that he had written to Essex highways requesting a rules exception to do this and also to convert the present crossing by the Coop to a controlled crossing. The response so far is a repeat of the stock answer on both issues, which is why Cllr Barker had requested a Highway Panel meeting to take place after the schools go back so that a survey will truly reflect the situation we face.

A resident has or is raising a petition requesting a speed camera in the Stortford Road and intends sending this to the District Council. SB pointed out that neither UDC or County Council are responsible for speed cameras and it should be sent to the police. Sb warned that she knew of no new installation of speed cameras for many years.

2704 Parking Management and maintenance of the Council carparks

JD reported received an email from a resident who asked about lighting and who felt it possible he owned the wall on which it is proposed this is mounted. Clerk to correspond with NR and resident.

NR reported that he is still trying to find someone to jet wash the drain by the fish and chip shop that goes to the pond. He has spoken to many answerphones and sent many e mails without response. ML stated that he may know of a few people.

Church car park, JD to formally write to Bidwells agent for the Lord of The Manor, to ask if we can consolidate the existing car park area with hardcore to stop further erosion.

NR stated that the electrical works need to be completed by September 2020 to meet our commitments to the insurers.

2705 Allotment Report

NR reported that we are awaiting a quotation for the rabbit fencing works and posts. PB reported that the grass had been cut this week and was looking nice. NR reported that in the new contract the allotment will have 8 cuts per year.

2706 Major flooding in Stortford Road

Covered in agenda item 2964

NR sent a detailed letter to SB asking for help and they are working together to try and speed up solutions. NR expressed frustration that even after submission of detailed plans and an onsite inspection it took the officer over a month to reply... in the negative! This Council has spent tax payers money thoroughly investigating all the flooding issues and yet are still getting stone walled, which is why NR welcomes SB's help in setting up a meeting to discuss these again fully together with the Highways issues. ML thanked NR for the continuing hard work.

2707 War Memorial

JD informed the council the second quotation has been received. Clerk to forward to war memorial grants.

SS stated that Mr S Foster will maintain the garden area.

SS stated there will be no poppy appeal this year.

2708 Pond Lane Signage

JD to write to all the shop keepers reminding them that they need to take their 'A' boards in at night and that we are constructing a proposal to amalgamate all signage on one highly visible board that will be reviewed with them for comments. JD to establish all of the businesses requiring signs and work with MB to establish a full design we can propose, cost and present to the owners. Also require a letter to each of the business owners clarifying that either side of Pond Lane, including the frontage in front of Reynolds is owned by the LoM and we are under instructions to clean it up.

2709 Playground Inspection Report

JD created a list of remedial works required and circulated an action plan to implement, JD awaiting quotation from Peter May and will be doing a site visit with Peter Graves next week, to discuss works.

NR stated that we have a quotation to repair the pathway at the playground and need to go ahead asap. All agreed that JD organize for the works to go ahead.

2710 Village Green

a) Review of grass cutting contract

NR, ML and KF have developed a new grass cutting regime. NR asked current contractor to review the regime for accuracy and timings for cutting to be done. Currently we only have 2 people to quote for the works. JD to contact EALC to ask for the possibility of an exception, for 2 quotations, as 3 is proving very difficult.

NR has toured the heath with current contractor, and will do exactly the same with the other potential contractor. It was decided that both quotations from the contractors should be given within the month, ready for September meeting.

b) Maintenance of ponds

NR visited the ponds with current contractor. An extra pond owned by Lord of the Manor has been identified and will be included in a separate 'ponds' maintenance regime.

Dog incident where a small dog was killed by another dog on The Heath. PB gave the council an update; the owner has had two dogs removed and is on bail for 4-6 weeks.

2711 Stansted Airport;

ML stated that Stansted airport has appealed against UDC decision. UDC has earmarked monies for the appeal.

ML stated that planes were most definitely flying lower.

2712 Emergency Response Plan

Clerk revised and updated a draft plan. The previous emergency plan was in 2007. ML suggested a zoom meeting with the emergency plan subcommittee which consist of SS/KF/TC/JD. ML and PB said they will attend the zoom meeting to be arranged for next week.

2714 Reports from Members on meetings attended

None attended

- 2715 Agenda items for the next meeting**
Emergency response plan
Possible crowning of parish owned trees
Highways 30mph scheme
Community Policing

- 2716 Date of the next meeting**
The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2nd September 2020

The meeting closed at 9:40pm