

HOLWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2019
IN THE BOWLS CLUB AT 7.15 P.M

Present:

Ms Yvonne Hart (Chairperson)
Mrs Rosemary Gainsford
Mrs Keeley Sparrow
Mr Colin Everett
Mr Ken Jordan
Mrs A Warner (Clerk)

North Hertfordshire District Councillor Mr Harry Spencer-Smith
Sergeant Guy Westwood
PC Chris Hayward
Community Heart Beat representative Mr Michael Hearn
Michael Goddard –standing for Conservative candidate for Cadwell
Sam North – standing for Liberal Democrats for Cadwell
6 Parishioners

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from PCSO Heather Burrows and PC Matt Jenkins.

2. Minutes:

The minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting which have been circulated to all Parish Councillors were agreed to be a true record and were duly signed by the chairperson Ms Yvonne Hart.

The meeting was opened for representatives from Community Heart Beat, Police and parishioners to address the Parish Council and to ask questions of those present.

Community Heart Beat representative Michael Hearn addressed the meeting explaining the type of defibrillators available and passed around the two models he had with him and explained how they worked. A number of questions from the PC and parishioners were answered and Mr Hearn informed the Parish Council that there would be two training sessions for the parishioners and any interested parties to attend when the defibrillator is purchased. These would likely take place a week or so before the defibrillator goes live. Running costs are minimal but it is important that the defibrillator is inspected weekly to ensure that it has not been tampered with or damaged in any way. There are easy instructions on how to operate the defibrillator and access is given by ringing 999, the access code is then given and an ambulance sent. Mr Hearn advised the Parish Council that the defibrillator would be better housed in the telephone kiosk as this would have a light above it

rather than outside the Bowls club. The clerk was instructed to make enquiries about “adopting a kiosk” for this purpose. Ms Hart thanked Mr Hearn for attending the meeting.

Sergeant Guy Westward representing the Hertfordshire Constabulary addressed the meeting. Sergeant Westward was disappointed that there was no representative from Cala Homes as the sole purpose of his attendance was to try and mediate between the Parishioners, Parish Council and Cala Homes. The main concerns are regarding the construction traffic travelling through the village and the damage which has occurred to the grass verges, footpaths and driving along the raised footpath to get past traffic coming in the other direction, as most of the roads in Holwell are only one vehicle wide.

Sergeant Westward listened to the Parishioner’s reports of incidents which have happened but explained the Police can only manage the traffic problems but are not able to Police the road to manage the traffic. Their main concern is road safety. He has been informed by Cala Homes that they are looking at traffic management by placing traffic marshals at each end of the village to manage the flow, so that they are not travelling through the village at the same time to lessen congestion.

Sergeant Westward agreed to make contact with Cala Homes again to see what provisions they intend to put in place if any.

Sergeant Westward emphasised that it was important to carry on with the speed awareness work and that along with the special constables there would be a Police presents.

3. Matters to report:

3.1. Police report: as above

3.2. County and District Reports:

District Councillor Harry Spencer–Smith reported that Gladmans had run of time for a further appeal for the extra 99 houses on the neighbouring site in Pirton. The Inspectors report was very detailed and comprehensive and so there seemed no grounds for an appeal.

The Bus company have been very helpful regarding both the recent closures and the proposed closure of the road through Holwell at very short notice. There has been no further information for the proposed 4 months closure for sewage works to be carried out and no set date has been issued. There is issues raised regarding working a 7 day week to shorten the time closed but Cala Homes are against this.

There is grant money available for the Football Club to apply for, and Ms Hart would inform them regarding this.

3.3. Recreation Ground Issues:

Ms Hart and Mrs Gainsford have inspected the Pavilion and the issues raised are as follows:

Electrical Pat test – clerk to arrange this for May

No exit signs in changing rooms – Ms Hart agreed to source these

Fire extinguishers – ok

Fire Blanket – ok

Cleaning to be done – Ms Hart will speak to Paul Males at the Football Club

Ladies Toilets – tiles cracked – Mick Kelly to do temporary repairs
Garage doors faulty and building falling down – this needs to be budgeted for
Moles in recreations ground – to be dealt with

3.4 Children's Play area:

Mr Jordan reported that he had looked at the Inspection Play Report and has highlighted those items that need to be done and suggested that a quote from the company that installed the equipment might be appropriate. The clerk was instructed to make enquiries and acquire quotes. It was also suggested that the Parish Council apply to The John Rands Foundation for a grant towards the cost of repairs.

3.5 Rights of Way: Access to play area from Holwell Road (definitive map)

The clerk reported that she had been unable to contact Helen Denton the Rights of Way Officer on this case. The clerk will continue to make enquiries about the Inspectors report and will report back to the next meeting.

3.6 Highways: - yellow lines

Between meetings the clerk had a meeting with PC Matt Jenkins and PCSO Heather Burrows. The issue with the yellow lines was brought up and the advice from the Police was that this was not now considered a crime and unenforceable by the Police unless the vehicles are without tax and insurance and any other infringements should be dealt with by Hertfordshire County Council, Highways (they may send out traffic wardens if they are pressurised by the Parish Council). They advised against notices placed on windscreens as this could be classed as criminal damage etc.

3.7. Speeding/Cala traffic –dealt with above.

4. Finance:

The clerk presented a financial statement for the Parish Councillors perusal.
It was agreed that the following cheque be signed:

Mr N Eaton £72.00 printing of village magazine

The precept for the forthcoming year was confirmed as £8,776.96 plus CTRS grant of £410.24 = £9,187.20.

5. Correspondence:

NHDC - Planning information
Bim Afolami MP - Redevelopment of Churchgate, Hitchin, letter of support requested
NH Local Plan -2011-2031 has been extended. Consultation period to run until 11th April 2019

6. Matters for special consideration:-

Planning applications – none

NALC – Standing orders – Ms Hart, Mr Jordan and the clerk to review these between meetings and present to the Parish Council.

Village Hall – The Parish Council have been informed that a new committee should be formed to manage the village hall bookings and maintenance. Mr Martin Thurlow has expressed an interest and would welcome others who may be interested in joining the committee.

Community Assets Register – pending

Neighbourhood Plan – to be discussed after the Parish Elections in May

Notice Boards- the clerk presented another quote for the proposed new notice boards made from manmade material which looks like wood with no maintenance required. The Parish Council have grant money to purchase one of these as they are quite expensive. A discussion followed as to whether we need two as we now have a website with most of the Parish information on. Half of the material on the notice boards has information from lost cat to contractors offering services and to village events. Further discussion on this subject was needed to determine the need. It was also agreed that we may try for further grants towards the cost of the second notice board as funds are low in the Parish Council accounts and other commitments have priority.

Matters to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting:

Village fete

Scarecrow festival

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 9th April 2019 in the Bowls Club at 7.15 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

