

HOLWELL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL
ZOOM MEETING
HELD ON 27TH APRIL 2021

Present:

Ms Yvonne Hart (Chairperson)
Mr Colin Everett
Mr Nigel Eaton
Mr Martin Thurlow
Mrs Wendy Harris
Mrs Ann Warner (Clerk)

Parishioners attending:

Mrs Rosemary Gainsford
Mr Colin Cropley
Mr Nick Jones

1. Apologies: No apologies were received

2. Minutes:

The Minutes of the previous meeting which had been circulated to all the Parish Councillors were agreed to be a true record and were duly signed by the Chairperson Ms Yvonne Hart.

3. Matters to report:

3.1. Police Update: no Police report was received.

3.2. County and District Councillors Reports: There were no Councillors at the meeting.

3.3. Recreation Ground Issues:

Pavilion: Ms Hart and the Clerk met with the Local County Football Association representative for a pre application meeting to discuss the requirements for a grant towards the proposed New Pavilion. After inspecting the building and discussing our other grant offers, Mr Steve Maker agreed that this was a viable project. Mr Maker discussed this further with another colleague Mr Greg Hardman at the Football Association. They agreed it was viable and Small Grants was the best solution for this application due to the level of funding required. The Parish Council are waiting for further communication.

Container: The purchase of another container was discussed and it was agreed that another container was necessary to house all the equipment. Mr Mick Kelly our groundsman has agreed to arrange the delivery.

Recreation Ground Maintenance: Due to Mr Mick Kelly moving in the near future, Mr Kelly is currently training Alex Thurlow to take over the mowing, maintenance and care of the recreation ground. Mr Nigel Eaton will also be involved, learning how to use the tractor and gang mowers etc as a reserve if needed.

- 3.4. Children's play area:** CPM Playgrounds have completed most of the repairs and those remaining (the painting of the springer seat and gate) are to be carried out when the weather improves.
- 3.5. Rights of Way:** Access to play area from Holwell road (Definite Map clarification) It was agreed that this should be more forcefully pursued as this has been going on far too long. A decision was made in favour of the Parish Council but an appeal was made which is holding up the proceedings.
- 3.6. Highways Matters:** Removal of Hedgerow – Waterloo Lane. Update- It was reported that Hedgerow along Waterloo Lane has been completely removed when planning permission was given for an entrance splay only. After many complaints this matter has been referred back to the Planning Department at NHDC. They are investigating whether a breach of Planning Permission has occurred.

4. Finance:

The clerk reported that preparations are being made to complete the Audit for the financial Year ended 31st March 2021.

There will be a fee from PKF Littlejohn the Auditors as the insurance claim brought the ceiling for exempt Parish Council fees of the £25,000 limit. This should be approximately £200.

The accounts have been sent to the Internal Auditor for a review.

The clerk has contacted Carina Helm at HATPC asking if they can advise the PC regarding the claiming back of VAT on the proposed new build Pavilion.

The first instalment of **Precept** £4,731.40 was received on 10th April.

VAT claim has been sent £1,166.11

The following payments have been made:

BHIB	£1,200.46	insurance
Mr Kelly	£1,948.04	maintenance of recreation ground
BULB	£59.00	electricity supply
Mr Thurlow	£16.00	wild flower seeds
HAPTC	£188.06	subscription
Mrs Warner	£500.00	wages

5. Correspondence:

All correspondence has been circulated:

Letter from Gary Pinkey asking for permission to shoot rabbits on land opposite Deblin Green. The clerk was instructed to e-mail Mr Pinkey to inform him that the Parish Council do not own this land and that he must seek permission from the land owner.

6. Planning Applications

The following planning applications have been received:

Sunvale, Bedford Road, Holwell, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 3RX – Ref: 21/00810/FP

Full Planning Permission – erection of one detached 5-bed dwelling including associated car parking, cycle parking, bin storage and amenity garden space.

The Parish Council were against this application on the grounds that it was outside the village boundary.

Glebe Lodge, Pirton Road, Holwell, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 3SS - Ref: 21/01179/FP

Full Planning Permission: erection of one detached 3-bed dwelling following demolition of existing farm building.

The Parish Council were against this application on the grounds that it was outside the village boundary.

7. New code of Conduct: It was agreed by all the Parish Councillors that the Hertfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils revised Code of Conduct should be adopted Mr Eaton proposed the motion and Ms Hart seconded. Mr Eaton agreed to put this on the website.

8. Rands Meadow – New Development and grass verges

It was reported that the grass verges have been badly damaged due to the flow of traffic around this area. Lorries entering the site have had to mount the verges to get passed parked cars. Settle agreed to repair these once the construction was finished. They have done remedial work but this is not enough. Work is needed to raise the level to as it was before and lay turf. In addition, there are a number of potholes and damage to the pavement and entrance to Farm View that is a hazard and needs to be reinstated by Settle. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Mr Thomas Batt at Settle.

It was raised that there was a need for more litter bins in this area and that perhaps these could be purchased by Settle and installed. This has possibly arisen due to the 24 extra parking bays.

Fencing: The houses backing on to the new development in Rands Meadow -The Parish Council have been informed that the fencing put up by the construction company is lower than the original 2 metres high which was on the planning application. The residents are contacting the Planning Department regarding this.

Ms Hart suggested we contact Sam North for help in the above-mentioned issues.

9. Matters to be placed on the agenda for next meeting;

Replacing bench on Gurney Lane

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Parish council will be held on Thursday 27th April this will be the Parish and Annual General Meeting and will start at 7.00 p.m.