



HATFIELD HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

Held remotely via Zoom link

7:30pm on Wednesday 3rd June 2020

Present: Cllr M Bissell (MB) (Chairman), Cllr R Breavington (RB), Cllr T Copeman (TC),
Cllr M Lemon (ML), Cllr N Robley (NR), Cllr Mrs S Saban (SS) Cllr P Brown (PB)
C Cllr S Barker (SB) PC S Sharman (PCSS)
Mrs Julie Davies (JD) Parish Clerk
8 members of the public

2641 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor C Overton and Cllr K Fox.

2642 Declaration of Interests

Councillor M Bissell declared a non-pecuniary interest as a Member of the Village Hall Committee.
Councillor M Lemon declared a non-pecuniary interest as a District Councillor.

2643 Public Participation

A resident of Cox Lane asked the Parish Council for support in an application to temporarily close the road (up to 18 months) which passes through the cricket field in Hatfield Heath. They have written to the MP, County Councillor and Highways already, citing the Government Covid-19 initiative to selectively close roads on a temporary (eighteen month) basis to promote walking and cycling. They further cite that this is a narrow road that is unsuitable for large vehicles who often cause damage to the grass verges and there is no pavement to allow pedestrians to walk safely into the village and to and from the primary school. ML declared an interest as an affected resident..

ML said he could not support this application as traffic would be diverted to the even narrower road that runs outside his house and is single lane in places and traffic coming to and from the Sheering direction would have to come out onto the A1080 and then back in again to pick up the B183 or Matching road (depending on the direction of travel), that it would cause traffic congestion and that it would be a danger to occupants of properties opening directly onto this road. A formal pavement was suggested but carries its own issues.

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. A lower speed limit may be a better option. This subject will be on next month's agenda.

A resident spoke of her farm near Down Hall having ongoing issues with young adults often in large groups, on their land using alcohol and Nox and leaving rubbish and canisters in their wake.. More concerning is that some people have been swimming in their 2 very deep and dangerous reservoirs there are 2 reservoirs on site. The resident has asked them to leave the property, some go without an issue and others have been rude. The resident has only experienced this problem since lockdown and feels the teenagers have been moved on from elsewhere and are now going to the farm. Resident has erected signs no swimming in reservoir and does not want to close off the land as dog walkers enjoy the walk. The resident has not reported this to the police, but understands neighbouring farms are undergoing similar issues.

PCSS stated that they are inundated with social distancing calls. The canisters that the youths are using are not illegal to purchase, unfortunately they get in to the wrong hands. Intelligence suggests that the harder drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are harder to get now because of reduction in traffic, and more cars are being stopped by police.

PCSS suggested that resident must report to the police either 101; where a police car will attend. If people are swimming in the reservoir this is a 999 call, as a danger to life.

Resident of Cox Ley reported the poor state of their road. SB to investigate if this is a County,

District or unadopted road to enable a review by the appropriate authorities.. ML to visit the road.

Ivan Cooper was pleased to inform Parish Council that even during lockdown they were able to present year 6 students with a certificate for completing their project. The subject was their favourite hobbies' which ranged from photography to skateboarding.

D Parish asked the council to consider cutting the heath slightly longer in height at spring and summer. And would like to ask the council to look at the bulrushes in the ponds.

On behalf of the History Committee he has applied to Heritage England for the United Reformed Church to be listed as quickly as possible. This includes the full curtilage associated with the URC. Their initial consideration will be this coming Thursday.

Resident in Cox Ley will be applying for permission to cut by 1/3 a listed tree in their back garden. By the playground on Parish land there is another two unlisted trees which hang over their property cutting out light. These are owned by the parish council. They ask the PC if they could crown these trees also. If the resident just cut down the branches hanging over the garden, it would make the tree look very uneven and unsightly. **NR and ML** said they would look on Thursday. On the agenda for next month.

2644 Minutes of the meeting of 13th May 2020

The minutes were approved.

2645 Report from the District and County Councillor

SB described the situation at County level, that most people are working from home. Major issues are the very large budget gap(although the Government have provided very large sums to the County and District), Public Transport (that must be kept going despite lack of use), parking in beauty spots (in the forests for example) and lots of roads shut for resurfacing and/or broadband installation. On the other hand, the main libraries will be reopening on 6th June and Births and Deaths registration service will be reopened and County parks will be reopened

SB pleased to announce the donation of £500 towards the war memorial restoration but warned that all discretionary money allocated to Councillors has now been withdrawn.

Reported she was working closely with NR on the Stortford Road flooding issues.

ML reported that the District Council were also mainly all working from home. The same budget issues apply as with the County Council. Green Skip service has been re-introduced and the rubbish collection service has continued without interruption, including a special clean up after the Bank Holiday weekend. His grant capability has been revoked as part of the budget measures.

2646 Financial Report

a) Budget Report

The budget report to be provided at next meeting.

b) Approval of Expenditure

The following items of expenditure were approved;

PW May Contracting – Heath grass cutting contract - £449.77

2647 Correspondence Report

The report provided by the Clerk was noted.

2648 To discuss the benefits of a Community Police Officer

ML thanked PCSS for attending the meeting. PCSS stated that the cost the present existing community police officer was approx. £38,500 for 2019, shared between three parishes. This would be

for a full time dedicated police officer. The alternative was for a 'special' officer who would typically only work a couple of shifts a week after finishing their 'day job'. It was agreed that this was not an option we wanted to pursue. The PCSS stated there were 18 reported incidents in Hatfield Heath between 1st January to 31st May 2020. PCSS and NR believe it is a lot more, due to people not reporting incidents. All Cllrs agree it would hugely benefit the village, but the cost is very high. It was decided the Clerk to contact other parishes to see if they would want to share the cost. To be on next month's agenda. (JD)

2649 Clerks Report

JD reported that the Green waste skips are now again in operation open and a schedule would be posted on the website and in the Village Magazine..

JD reported working closely with Craig Cardross Grant from UDC. All shops and businesses must carry out a risk assessment in line with Govt/HSE guidelines before they can reopen. All information for shop keepers including leaflets are now on our website. JD to also hand deliver letters to shop keepers advising them of this information.

2650 Key Task Monitor

The report was noted as being a 'start'.

2651 Planning Matters

a) Applications determined by the Planning Authority;

Ref - UTT/20/0730 - CLP 24 West Hayes Hatfield Heath Bishops Stortford CM22 7DH
Construction of 2 no. gable end windows with obscure and non-opening glass, 1 no. rear dormer with obscure glass

Approved

Ref: UTT/20/0622/HHF - 4 Chestnut Drive Hatfield Heath Bishops Stortford CM22 7EZ
Erection of single storey rear extension

Approved

Ref: UTT/20/0867/HHF - Carinya Matching Road Hatfield Heath CM22 7AL
Addition of a rear dormer and front gable to add a bedroom & bathroom, alterations to the existing front dormer, change fenestration and clad with timber.

Approved

Ref: UTT/19/1244/OP - Heritage Cottage Friars Lane Chelmsford Road Hatfield Heath Bishops Stortford Hertfordshire CM22 7BG Outline application with all matters reserved except for access for the formation of new access and erection of 1 no. 3 bedroom residential dwelling.

Refused

b) Planning applications to consider;

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. **No Objections**

Ref: UTT/20/1161/HHF - Maple Cottage 1 Foxglove Farm Dunmow Road Hatfield Heath Bishops Stortford CM22 7BL

Proposed new front porch and s73A retrospective permission to retain the single storey link between main dwelling and ancillary office

OBJECT STRONGLY. This is a rerun of UTT/193080/HHF, which does not address

any of the issues raised in the refusal to that (also retrospective) application.

c) Planning Enforcement Issues

None received

2652 Highways Matters

2653 Parking Management and maintenance of the Council car parks

Works to be carried out by Kings urgently. **JD** to call and give go-ahead to fix:

Broken grid – close to the ‘hump’

Sunken manhole cover

Once date is known **JD** to contact shop keepers with car park closure for the day.

Drain Blocked – **JD** to contact Essex Highways and report the blocked drain. If Essex Highways are not responsible a quote shall be obtained.

NR also reported that there needs to be urgent repairs to the path by the playground, ML will ask Kings to have a look.

2654 Allotment Report

RB reported that the grass outside the allotment has been cut.

PB reported that there is a leak on the tap by the gate. **JD** to ask P Graves to have a look.

Rabbits are getting into the allotment with the wire fence having a hole. **NR/PB** to have a look and make recommendations.

2655 Major flooding in Stortford Road

NR reported that he was working with SB to try and accelerate resolution to all of the flooding aspects. The owner of the Croft was submitting a scheme which we would try and fast track, Highways were looking at alternative schemes (including reopening the old ditch system) for the top of the road to cure a potential health hazard and MB will get back in touch with the parties involved in the issue with draining the ditch outside Subsequent to the meeting NR confirmed that the works opposite Palo Alto undertaken last week were to clear the ditch on the opposite side of the road and provide increased drains and drainage to prevent accumulation of water in ‘the dip’ in the Stortford Road.

2556 War Memorial

JD informed the council the war memorial grants requested more detailed photographs, which were provided.

Clerk to formally write to Cllr Barker thanking her for the grant of £500.00.

SS stated that KF and his wife looked at the box hedging around the war memorial and confirmed it is a caterpillar infestation. There is a treatment which can be used it is very time consuming. **SS** to approach a village resident to see if they would be interested in a one-time clean-up and deinfestation and then monthly maintenance and if so to obtain quotes.

2557 Village Green

ML stated that the grass cutting contract needed reviewing urgently.

A formal contract of works is required for the cutting the green and the rural verges, which was agreed to be one contractor only. **ML NR and MB to talk to KF** and see where we are on this.

A time limit was put in place for end of June to get contract ready and tender for 2 weeks. The existing or new tender will be in place by August 2020 on a 3-year rolling contract.

PB reported flower bed outside the White Horse needs clearing. Subsequently cleared by PB and will be replanted during this month.

2658 Website Update

ML stated that the new website is up and running and is pleased with it. JD stated that Heath Computers who designed the website; are offering a maintenance contract of £50+vat pcm to upload all documents, new pages, 123 reg issues, website and laptop issues. **Council all agreed to have Heath computers maintain the website.**

2659 Stansted Airport

ML reported that if Stansted Airport appeals the planning decision, they have until the end of July 2020 to appeal. The District Council has set aside substantial funds to fight any appeal

2660 Insurance renewal

JD reported that the current insurers are insisting lighting to be installed at the car park and have given 3 months to do so. The 2 other quotations also required lighting in the car park. JD has contacted Zurich for another quotation but because of the two claims in 2019, this has to be underwritten and should hopefully hear in the next few days of quotation and terms. The insurance company has also requested a quarterly risk assessment of car park and play ground. The risk assessments NR previously circulated were agreed to be adopted. Send to broker immediately **(JD)**..

2661 Reports from Members on meetings attended

MB stated that he will be having a social distancing meeting of the Village Hall Committee in the Village Hall car park. Although not confirmed the village hall may offer their facilities to the school in order to help with social distancing.

2662 Agenda items for the next meeting

Maintenance of the Ponds
Community Police Officer (yes or no).
British Legion
Cricket ground road actions?
Crowning of Parish owned oaks.

2663 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st July.

The meeting closed at 9:50pm