

ST. IPPOLYTS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of St. Ippolyts Parish Council held on Monday 11th January 2021 a virtual meeting on Zoom.

Welcome to the Meeting of St Ippolyts Parish Council. There are a few housekeeping things to note.

This is a formal Parish Council meeting and will be held, just like those held in St Ippolyts Parish Hall using the Agenda that has been published.

As with our usual meetings, members of the public will be given opportunity to speak during Item 4 Public Participation. It is impossible to hear if everyone speaks at once. So that we have some order, I shall be pleased if you would speak one at a time and give your name. To facilitate this please use the 'reactions' button at the bottom on the Zoom screen and raise your virtual hand if you would like to speak or wave so that Clerk can see you.

The Clerk can mute and remove anyone who causes a nuisance, but of course, we hope this will not be necessary.

ATTENDANCE DETAILS

Cllrs. Mrs Pamela Skeggs (Chairman), Mrs Barbara Thomas (Vice-Chairman), Mr Trevor Smith, Mrs Rebecca Elliott, Mr Peter Hobson, Mr Robert Moore, and Mr Paul Thapar.

In attendance: clerk Mrs S. L. Mears.

Also, present: NHDC & HCC Cllr Mr R. Thake.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mrs Sulu Pike, NHDC Cllrs Dr Simon Harwood and David Barnard.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda should be declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Copies of the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th November 2020 have been circulated to each member of the Council.

Resolved. The minutes be approved as a true and accurate record of the procedures and be duly signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, POLICE AND OTHERS

Cllr Mr Thake referred to waiting times at the Stevenage Covid Testing Centre, Trust directors notified. Cllr Mrs Skeggs referred to Bancroft Medical Centre, Courtenay House, Hitchin.

Cllr Mr Thake referred to uncertainty over the May elections.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

Government Guidelines for Lockdown 3 circulated and added to parish council website. HCC "Play your part leaflets" distributed and added to Parish Council noticeboards.

Invitation to NHDC Transport Forum meeting 12th January circulated. Cllr Mrs Skeggs to attend.

Asset of Community Value nomination received by NHDC for the Bird in Hand PH. NHDC grateful for any comments on this nomination by 21st January 2021.

Licence for construction access to Gosmore Village Green 5 month period now ceased, clerk to obtain update from developer. Councillors referred to fencing still there.

Parish council website upgrade, clerk to check information. Cllr Mrs Elliott reported email issues using a new device, now resolved with Neil Pfister, Parish Website Ltd. Cllr Mrs Elliott reported password upgrade.

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Email circulated from Mark Hindmarch on street naming site formerly known as Paul Bromfield Aquatics on Maydencroft Lane, Gosmore. Maydencroft Gardens agreed by councillors and resolved by NHDC.

NHDC Gary Henning confirmed two locations for Speed and Volume Survey as agreed by councillors on B656.

Resident email regarding inconsiderate parking at St Ippolyts School, clerk referred ongoing issue to PC Gary Pugsley. St Ippolyts School communicate this issue with parents regularly.

Resident email received regarding exercise classes on Gosmore Village Green, conditions of hire and fee to be agreed. Clerk circulated draft documents, resident in the parish. A discussion took place. Cllr Mr Smith to draft conditions of use of open spaces for future enquiries.

Resolved. One-year fixed fee £25.00 agreed for resident request of use for exercise classes on Gosmore Village Green.

7. UPDATE ON ON-GOING MATTERS AND AGREE NEXT ACTIONS

a) Chairman's update.

Attended various Zoom meetings including CDA AGM and Halls Networks but HAPTC Chairman's meetings have been discontinued.

During Christmas break checked our documents also updated website and found numerous errors with links etc. Directory needs updating, list sent to Clerk. Site now live, looks good but contains errors.

Due to current lockdown the Parish Hall is closed again.

b) Consultations

London Luton Airport – Arrival flightpaths - Airspace change consultation. Deadline 05.02.21 Cllr Mrs Elliott attended virtual meeting. A discussion took place on possible impacts.

Committee on Standards in Public Life. Standards of Conduct Consultation. Response submitted.

Stevenage Borough Council Draft Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document. Deadline 25.01.21.

Resolved Cllr Mrs Elliott to review.

Consultation on a Proposal to Open a 'Specialist Resource Provision' at The Priory School, Hitchin.

Deadline 01.02.21. Cllr Mrs Thomas reviewed and discussed.

Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan - Draft Plan Consultation. Deadline 19.03.21.

Resolved. Cllrs to review at next meeting.

c) Maintenance and repairs

There was none.

d) Play areas, equipment and pavilion visual inspection

The visual inspection book was not signed at the meeting.

Following Government Coronavirus Covid-19 guidance play equipment and open spaces are open, signage advising use and social distancing measures, due diligence taking place.

Non play equipment inspection has been carried out by Cllr Mr Thapar, report to follow. Cllr Mr Thapar discussed removal of bus shelter at Little Almshoe.

Resolved. Agreed by councillors, quote to be obtained.

8. PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

20/02412/FP Land between 53 and 81 and Land rear of 7-53, Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts. Erection of 62 dwellings including open space, landscaping, local area for play, and associated highway works.

Resolved. St Ippolyts Parish Council agreed the following comments, questions, and objections below:

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1. The proposed housing number of 62 homes is too high for this edge of settlement development (the emerging Local Plan shows a dwelling estimate of 40 homes).
2. The development should be set back from southern and western boundaries to allow landscape buffers along rural Half Handkerchief Lane and land outside site SII.
3. There should be more open space within the site, currently a children's play area and an open space near London Road.
4. The site plan incorporates open space to the south-west which is not part of site SII.
5. What are the plans for the adjacent retained land? Future development should not be allowed.
6. To convert rural FP11 into a footway/cycleway alongside the proposed road is not appropriate.
7. The proposed new homes are two storey but some are too tall, some bungalows also one and half storey homes could have been included, the latter perhaps along Half Handkerchief Lane.
8. The housing design black weather boarding is not part of the local vernacular.
9. There are concerns on infrastructure, environmental and sustainability issues, public utilities, water drainage, school places and traffic, etc.
10. There is concern about the listed double icehouse and how it is going to be preserved and managed, good to have interpretation board.

Further comments:

1. Pleased the proposed vehicular access to the site is from a junction with London Road with no vehicular access onto Half Handkerchief Lane and Waterdell Lane.
2. Note shared footway and cycleway along London Road with improvement to Waterdell Lane, London Road and Brookend Lane crossroads.
3. Note Planning does not intend to determine the application until the Local Plan Inspector has at the very least concluded the hearing sessions and provided follow-up reports so that there would be greater certainty over the suitability of the site for the development proposed.

20/02680/FPH at 49 Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts. Conversion of chalet bungalow to two storey dwelling involving raising and replacement roof incorporating three front dormer and two rear dormer windows, single storey rear extension and replace garage door with window to facilitate conversion of existing attached garage into habitable accommodation.

Resolved. It was agreed at this meeting there was no objection.

20/02933/FPH/ 20/02934/LBC at Olive Branch, Stevenage Road, St Ippolyts. Single storey rear orangery extension.

Resolved. It was agreed between meetings there was no objection.

20/02962/FPH at 4 Langbridge Close, Hitchin. Single storey rear extension.

Resolved. It was agreed between meetings there was no objection.

20/03027/FP at Pound Farm, London Road, St Ippolyts. Installation of concrete ring beam to anchor seasonal airdome over an existing tennis court.

Resolved. It was agreed to seek extension of time for councillors to respond.

20/03026/S73 at Pound Farm, London Road, St Ippolyts. Detached garage and tennis court with perimeter fencing - Section 73 application variation of condition 2 of planning permission 14/00934/1HH granted 04/06/2014 relocation of tennis court, amended plans A04- 2075-01 and A04-2075-02.

Resolved It was agreed to not respond.

20/02592/FPH at 17 Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts. Part two storey, part single storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing rear conservatory.

Resolved It was agreed at this meeting there was no objection.

20/03068/FPH at Newstead, Newlands Close West, Hitchin. Single storey front extension following demolition of existing front canopy.

Resolved It was agreed at this meeting there was no objection.

20/03074/FPH at 27 Blackhorse Lane, Hitchin. Erection of detached timber clad garden annexe.

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Resolved It was agreed to review.

20/03049/AG at Hunters Gate Farm, Preston Road, Gosmore. Application to determine if prior approval is required for erection of steel framed agricultural storage building adjoining existing agricultural building. Location plan circulated.

Resolved. It was agreed no response.

21/00015/FPH at The Barn, Preston Road, Gosmore. Single storey rear extension and replace existing front elevation and existing rear elevation rooflights with dormer windows.

Resolved It was agreed to review.

b) Planning Decisions

20/02113/FPH at 2 Kingsoak, Hitchin. Insertion of windows and doors to existing detached garage to facilitate conversion of garage into habitable accommodation. CP 19.11.20.

20/01641/FPH at 53 Stevenage Road, St Ippolyts. Erection of front porch, two storey rear extension, single storey side extension, hip to gable roof extension and insertion of dormer to facilitate conversion of loft space into habitable accommodation, following demolition of existing single storey rear element. CP 18.11.20.

20/00835/FPH/ 20/00835/FPH at The Old Bakehouse, Stevenage Road, St Ippolyts. Rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory, internal and external alterations (amended by plans received 21.10.20). CP 16.11.20.

20/02047/FP at Thistley End, Thistley Lane, Gosmore. Erection of two-storey rear and side extension and front porch. Insertion of dormer window and roof lights to front roof slope to facilitate loft conversion. Installation replacement windows. Removal of existing render to reveal brickwork beneath. Demolition of rear wooden balcony and three outbuildings. Change of use of existing menage to residential garden land and erection of a detached swimming pool building on part of the existing ménage. CP 26.11.20.

20/02269/FP at Oakfields Farm, Stevenage Road, Hitchin. Erection of one pair of 4-bed semi detached dwellings following demolition of existing dwelling (revision of planning permission 20/00733/FP granted 12.08.2020. CP 02.12.20.

20/02056/FP at 2 Thistley Bungalow, Thistley Lane, Gosmore. Conversion of redundant agricultural building into one detached 3-bed dwelling and one pair of semi-detached 2-bed dwellings. CP 08.12.20.

20/02637/FPH at Greentrees, Newlands Lane, Hitchin. Retention of close boarded fence erected on the boundary with the adopted highway on Newlands Lane. UP 05.01.21.

20/02729/AG Maydencroft Manor Farm, Maydencroft Lane, Gosmore. Application to determine if prior approval is required for erection of agricultural building. Decision prior approval is not required 10.12.20.

c) Planning Appeal

Appeal Ref: APP/C1570/W/20/3256619 Stansted Airport. St Ippolyts Parish Council, a Parish in North Hertfordshire some 30 miles from Stansted airport, wish to make you aware that we in our parish are adversely affected by operations at Stansted airport, particularly by aircraft noise at unsociable hours. The freight and private mail operations at Stansted airport utilise older, noisier aircraft (which are banned from other airports) and use take off slots late at night.

The aircraft routed to North America pass directly over our parish and cause disturbance. Fully laden, older aircraft flying at intermediate height before reaching their cruising ceiling emit noise that not only is obtrusive but lingers far longer than the noise made by aircraft from nearby Luton airport when they are climbing out following take off. Please add these concerns to your objections to this unwelcome application along with our objection.

9. FINANCE

a) Payments and Receipts

The following payments were requested:-

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- a) £30.00 (inc £5.00 VAT) from John O Conner (GM) Ltd (litter bins November)
- b) £5740.80 (inc £956.80VAT) from Richard Dawes (grounds maintenance 2020)
- c) £240.00 (inc £40.00 VAT) from PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit fee)
- d) £11.99 (inc £2.00 VAT) from Zen Internet Ltd (office back up 08.12.20-07.01.21)
- e) £41.94 (inc £6.99 VAT) from Talk Talk (December phone and broadband)
- f) £30.00 (inc £5.00 VAT) from John O Conner (GM) Ltd (litter bins December)
- g) £180.00 (inc £30.00 VAT) from NHDC annual play equipment inspection)
- h) £130.00 from SLCC (annual subscription)
- i) £40.00 from ALCC (annual subscription)
- j)£36.00 from CPRE (annual subscription)
- k) £5.20 from Clerk (Travel Allowance)
- l) £42.49 (inc. £4.82 VAT) from clerk (Admin-stationary and Zoom Monthly fees)
- m) £620.28 from Clerk (January Salary)

Resolved. The total payment of £7118.90 was approved.

The following was deposited to the bank: -

- a) £65.00 from Bird in Hand PH (Parish Council Magazine sponsorship)
- b) £65.00 from Dollimore & Christie (Parish Council Magazine sponsorship)

The total receipt of £130.00 deposited.

b) Orders and Quotations.

Treadaway quote £220.00 exc VAT for electrical inspection of Football Pavilion. St Ippolyts F C advised.
Resolved. Quote agreed.

Boxap prices received and circulated for cycle racks.

Quote requested for signage at Recreation Ground, Dell Field and Gosmore Village Green:

Signage –including the site address, contact information for maintenance issues and emergency contact details to be provided

Quotes requested from Clements Play Management for:

Gosmore Village Green

Bench - 1 The paintwork on this item has been damaged or worn exposing the metal underneath which is rusting -
Treat any rusting components and repaint. Remove graffiti.

Tree debris – to be removed

Recreation Ground

Bench 1 - The paint is flaking off the metalwork - Rub down and repaint.

Step up system – Instruction label needed. Provider Wickstead.

Roundabout - paint is flaking off the metalwork - Rub down and re-paint.

Basketball Post Rubber Tiles – trip hazard on outer edge loose tiles need to lift and re-glue

Basketball Post – replace missing inserts

Seesaw – remove graffiti, treat rust and repaint.

Hedgehog – tree overhang needs lift to 2metre clearance, remove graffiti, remove algae or moss.

Tree debris – to be removed

Safety tiles - Areas or parts of the timber edging that have rotted or are missing to be replaced.

Dell Field

Signage – Recommended information including the site address, contact information for maintenance issues and emergency contact details are provided for this facility.

Bench – Area around bench eroded and needs reinstating

Swings – tighten shackle pins

Tree debris – to be removed

Safety tiles – algae or moss to be removed.

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c) Budget 2021-22

Final draft circulated. A discussion took place.

Resolved Councillors unanimously agreed approval of the 2021-22 draft budget. The Clerk will issue the final version to Councillors and add to the Parish Council website. A copy will be sent to NHDC to request a precept of £28,000 by precept submission date 29.01.2021.

Planning Contributions S106: Informal Open Space - £543.06, Sustainable Transport - £2,324.81, Waste & Recycling - £515.07. Discussion on sustainable transport fund used for cycle racks took place. Locations discussed. Cllr Mrs Skeggs reported Parish Hall trustees would like a cycle rack in car park as it clearly meets “green” objectives.

10. DATES OF MEETINGS

The next meeting to be held on Monday 8th February 2021 at **7:30pm** on Zoom.

Meeting dates for 2021 agreed as follows:-

Mondays of 8th March, 12th April (Annual Parish), 10th May (AGM), 14th June, 12th July, 13th September, 11th October, 15th November at 7.30pm except for the April meeting starting at 7.15pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.22pm.