

ST. IPPOLYTS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of St. Ippolyts Parish Council held on Monday 8th March 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, please would you speak one at a time and give your name. To facilitate this please 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 (part), Mr Peter Hobson, Mrs Rebecca Elliott, Mr Robert Moore, and Mr Paul Thapar

In attendance: 12 members of the public with clerk Mrs S. L. Mears. (part)

Also, present: HCC & NHDC Cllr Thake

Also, present: Simon Hoskin JB Planning Associates, Robert Parker Osprey Homes and Henry Lamprecht CCP.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mrs S. Pike.

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 8th February 2021 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

a) Presentation by JB Planning Associates and Osprey Homes re: Planning application ref: 21/00434/HYA Land North of Pound Farm London Road St Ippolyts. Website www.north-herts.gov.uk and website www.poundfields.com

Mr Hoskin led the presentation assisted by Mr Parker and Mr Lamprecht. A discussion with question and answer session followed. Residents referred to concerns regarding parking provision and footpath linking to Broadmeadow estate. Mr Lamprecht referred to a site visit discussing footpath concerns with resident and modification submitted. Mr Parker explained having footpaths links is NHDC requirement. Resident discussed traffic analysis and referred to rat run routes to avoid London Road, Mr Hoskins referred to HCC Highway report. Resident referred to right of light study and Mr Parker agreed to carry out. Cllr Mrs Thomas referred to recent laurel planting. Residents referred to overdevelopment, traffic, and infrastructure issues. Resident referred to education provision and Cllr Mr Thake discussed S106 funding for primary and secondary education.

Cllr Mrs Skeggs asked for any further questions and as no further questions were raised thanked the developers for presenting and taking questions, and residents for attending. On-going discussions to take place.

b) Resident requested information on Concrete Batching Plant, Langley. Cllr Mrs Skeggs referred to clerk's report see 6). HCC Cllr Mr Thake advised that he has offered to be the HCC representative on that body.

Cllr Mrs Skeggs asked for any further questions and as no further questions were raised thanked residents for attending.

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

Cllr Mr Thake discussed despite the fact that during the Covid Pandemic, average traffic levels have fallen across the county by more than 25%, vehicle speeds and volumes, heavy goods vehicles and 'inconsiderate' driving remain the leading concern in the rural areas and St Ippolyts and Gosmore are no exception.

The SID located along the London Road is not operating and has been reported. A similar problem exists with the SID on the east side of the B656 at Langley and vehicle speeds along that road continues to be a huge worry to residents. Cllr Mr Thake discussed continuing to argue for an extension of the 40 mph limit out to the Almshoebury/Whitwell Road junction, but to date, this is not supported by the Police. Cllr Mr Thake advised he would support a southerly extension of the existing signage to the Little Almshoe/Preston cross roads, but would prefer the greater increased control zone outlined above. Sadly, neither currently enjoys support outside of the Parish, Cllr Mr Thake will carry on seeking this much desired improvement to community safety.

The Breedon Concrete Batching Plant will shortly go online at Rush Green. Both St Ippolyts and Codicote Parish Councils have expressed concerns over the proliferation of heavy lorries along the very busy B656, which often serves as an A1 (M) bypass when accidents occur along that major route.

Past experience around the paucity of planning condition enforcement, at all authority levels, has taught us all many hard learned lessons, not least that the burden of evidencing breaches frequently falls heavily, or as some might believe 'entirely' on the benighted residents who suffer from these excesses. Lorry movement control is first amongst equals in these matters it seems.

Breedon seem to be concerned to coexist peaceably with the communities, in which, and through which their plant outputs and inputs will operate and are offering to set up a liaison/monitoring body with Parish Councils and residents representatives, which is a very positive action. Cllr Mr Thake is the HCC representative on that body, seeking to ensure that we get the best possible consideration conducive with their absolute right to operate at the maximum levels permitted by the planning consent they hold.

Now entering the period of Purdah, required ahead of the forthcoming May elections. Cllr Mr Thake advised it has been his privilege to be the representative since 2006.

Cllr Mrs Skeggs thanked him for his report and for all the work he does.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

Parish Council Elections 6th May 2021. Notice of Election will be posted Friday 19th March and nominations can be accepted via appointment thereafter until 4pm on Thursday 8th April. Link to nomination papers, nomination pack, guide and briefing circulated to councillors.

Clerk met with developer regarding construction access to Gosmore Village Green, invoice paid for an additional month. Photographs circulated by Cllr Mrs Elliott. Gregg Rust advised and confirmed by email access no longer required. Replanting to take place early April, clerk to view site.

Development in Orchard Close, developer using recreation ground for access. Clerk emailed confirmation of verbal discussion with Cllr Mr Smith. Developer Mr Dean Elgar advised reinstatement of an improved path and replanting will take place and proposed a fee in addition of £1000.00. Councillors agreed and clerk emailed Mr Elgar to accept proposal, with conditions outlined, to permit access for the next 12 weeks and accept the offer of £1,000.00, plus creation of a driveway from Orchard Close to the Football Pavilion. Clerk circulated further email on developer decision to not require access to put a fence up and plant a hedgerow at the end of development and make good the driveway from Orchard Close to the Football Pavilion where overgrown hedgerow removed. All vehicles to be parked on Orchard Close and then the development when possible.

Resident emailed regarding vehicle movements on Waterdell Lane.

Clerk emailed Richard Dawes for removal of tree cuttings on recreation ground following agreed pruning at rear of 72 Waterdell Lane.

Clerk forwarded information to Maydencroft Cottage from Netherdown regarding reporting damage to Water Authority following water leak.

Litter and Countryside Code posters to be put up in the parish, including website. Overflowing litter bin, with takeout containers at Gosmore Village Green, resident emailed photographs, clerk reported bin on the highway to NHDC contractor and bin emptied.

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Resolved It was agreed to increase collection to weekly until June.

Codicote Parish Council sent joint letter to NHDC Simon Ellis on monitoring vehicle movements at the Concrete Batching plant, Langley. Clerk contacted Graeme King from Breedon regarding Liaison Group, meeting scheduled early May, terms of reference circulated. Clerk provided contact details for Langley Parish meeting.

Clerk attended LGA Code of Conduct HAPTC meeting 11.02.21 with Herts Monitoring Officers guidance to be released in April recommended to be adopted in May. Slides circulated. Clerk attended 18.02.21 HAPTC meeting dealing with Freedom of Information requests. Clerk discussed training notes.

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

a) Chairman's update.

Attended North Herts District Council - Highways Liaison Meeting on 15 February 2021 and NHDC Southern Rural Committee on 4 March.

Parish Hall AGM on Tuesday 23 March on Zoom. Government UK Coronavirus response spring 2021 allows the hall to be open on 12 April for some permitted activities and further activities on 17 May.

b) Consultations

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

Resolved. Councillors agreed on amended response emailed from Cllr Mrs Elliott.

c) Maintenance and repairs

Cllr Mrs Elliott circulated proposal for tree reduction for two trees on Gosmore Village Green. Contractor obtaining further information.

Cllr Mrs Elliott discussed with contractor Little Almshoe bus shelter see 9b)

d) Asset of Community Value

The Bird in Hand PH, Clerk circulated notification from NHDC.

e) 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.

8. PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

21/00297/FPH at 45 Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts. Erection of Outbuilding in rear garden.

Resolved It was agreed between meetings there was no objection.

21/00434/HYA at Land North of Pound Farm Hybrid application for a residential development to provide a total of up to 84 dwellings together with associated access from London Road, including provision of a roundabout, associated parking, landscaping, open space and ancillary works comprising: Phase 1 - Application for full planning permission for the erection of 36 dwellings; Subsequent Phases - Application for outline planning permission all matters reserved except for access on the remaining part of the site for the erection of up to 48 dwellings. Extension of time given by Tom Rea NHDC.

21/00458/FPH at 5 Orchard Close, St Ippolyts. Single storey side extension and insertion of dormer windows to existing front and rear roof slopes to facilitate conversion of loftspace into habitable accommodation.

Resolved It was agreed to raise objection on the design of the second floor extension with its large dormer out of character with other properties.

21/00582/FP at Land Adjacent to Brookend Farm House, St Ippolyts. Erection of detached garage and store to serve 1 no. dwelling previously approved under planning permission 18/00194/FP.

Resolved It was agreed to comment on the size and height of this detached garage and stores with first floor storage, adjacent to two listed buildings and partly within the conservation area in the greenbelt.

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21/00682/FPH at 96 Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts. Detached timber framed rear garden gazebo.
Resolved It was agreed there was no objection.

b) NHDC Planning Decisions

20/03068/FPH at Newstead Newlands Close West, Hitchin. Single storey front extension following demolition of existing front canopy CP 10.02.21

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. CP 12.02.21

21/00256/LDCP at 9 Grange Close Hitchin. Single storey rear extension. Granted 18.02.21

20/02933/FPH & 20/02934/LBC at Olive Branch Stevenage Road St Ippolyts. Single storey rear orangery extension and external alterations (as amended by plans received on 15/02/2021). CP & CC 18.02.21

20/03074/FPH at 27 Blackhorse Lane Hitchin. Erection of detached timber clad garden annexe (as amended by plans received 10 February 2021). CP 24.02.21. (*Parish Council Objected*).

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. CP 08.03.21.

c) Planning Contributions

Planning Contributions S106: Informal Open Space - £543.06, Sustainable Transport - £2,324.81, Waste & Recycling - £515.07.

NHDC Stephanie Blunt approved S106 Waste and Recycling for replacement litter bin at Rowan Grove. See 9b).

9. FINANCE

a) Payments and Receipts

The following payments were requested:-

- a) £11.99 (inc £2.00 VAT) from Zen Internet Ltd (office back up 08.01.21-07.02.21)
- b) £5.20 from Clerk (Travel Allowance)
- c) £42.38 (inc. £2.40 VAT) from clerk (Admin-ink cartridge and Zoom Monthly fee)
- d) £41.94 (inc £6.99 VAT) from Talk Talk (March phone and broadband)
- e) £620.28 from Clerk (March Salary)

Resolved. The total payment of £721.99 was approved.

The following were deposited to the bank: -

- a) SJ Scott Ltd £25.00 for use of Gosmore Village Green and St Ippolyts recreation ground for fitness training
 - b) Simmons Ltd £300.00 January monthly rental fee construction access to Gosmore Village Green.
- Total deposited £325.00.

b) Orders and Quotations.

Quote received £30.00 for 50 Litter and 15 Countryside Code posters.

Resolved. Agreed by councillors.

Quote to be requested for closed litter bin Rowan Grove.

Equipment on open spaces quote from Clements Play Management:

Dell Field:

Bench, add soil, turf and 2x grass mats with the edges buried to match existing levels £240.00 plus vat.

Bench under the trees sand wooden planks and wood treat £180.00 plus vat.

Gosmore Village Green:

Seat, sand wooden slats and wood treat, Smooth green metal frame and repaint £200.00 plus vat.

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Recreation Ground:

Bench rub down and repaint £180.00 plus vat.

Bench 2 remove graffiti £10.00 plus vat.

Roundabout, rub down and repaint £180.00 plus vat remove and dispose 18 linear metres of rotten timber edge and replace £180.00 plus vat

Seesaw, rub down and repaint £120.00 remove and dispose 16 linear metres of rotten timber edge and replace £160.00 plus vat

Flat swings, remove and dispose 16 linear metres of rotten timber edge and replace £160.00 plus vat.

Cradle swings, remove and dispose 18 linear metres of rotten timber edge and replace £180.00 plus vat.

Basketball, replace missing inserts £10.00 plus vat remove and dispose 15 linear metres of rotten timber edge and replace £150.00 plus vat

Hedgehog springer, lift overhanging tree branches £30.00 plus vat, remove graffiti £10.00 plus vat

TOTAL - £1990.00 exc VAT.

Resolved Quote agreed by councillors with the exception of painting, additional contractor to quote.

Bus Shelter Little Almshoe quote with options received from James Roger, CCS Contracts.

Resolved. Option 1 agreed with the addition of part fencing, further quote to be requested.

c) Audit Preparation

Internal auditor to be appointed.

Resolved. It was agreed to appoint Jeff Chapman.

10. NEW ISSUES

a) Review & Approve Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment & Management documents

Clerk circulated the Financial Regulations, Risk Assessment & Management documents to be reviewed.

Resolved. Agreed by councillors.

11. DATES OF MEETINGS

The next meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Monday 12th April 2021 at **7:15pm** on Zoom, followed by the Parish Council meeting.

Meeting dates for 2021 agreed as follows:-

Mondays of 10th May (AGM), 14th June, 12th July, 13th September, 11th October, 15th November at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 10.27pm.