



## BRICKENDON LIBERTY PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Laura Brooks-Payne  
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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm at Fanshaws Room, Brickendon Lane, Brickendon Liberty.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Tony Roberts (Chair), Cllr Alistair Whitaker, Cllr Hannah O'Donnell, Cllr Amanda Whitaker

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Laura Brooks-Payne (Clerk), 7 members of the Public, County Cllr Jonathan Kaye

- 1. To receive apologies for absence and approve:** Cllr Cosford, District Cllr Tim Hoskin
- 2. To receive declaration of interest and dispensation:** none
- 3. To approve minutes of Parish Council meeting on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023:**  
Unanimously approved
- 4. To receive a report from District Cllr Tim Hoskin:** Cllr Hoskin not present due to other commitments

### **Standing orders suspended for public participation**

- 5. Comments from members of the public:**

A resident reported cars seem to be parked overnight in the village green car park. It was noted that the cars belong to a local resident (present at the meeting). The resident had been having work done on a driveway who had authority to park there for a short period after liaising with Cllr Roberts regarding the matter.

### **Standing orders reinstated from here**

- 6. OPEN SPACES**

#### **6.1 To update on Defibrillator locations:**

Cllr Roberts reported that he has visited Highfield Farm residents and as a result now needs to arrange an electrician to visit site and quote for installation. Cllr O'Donnell will progress the matter.

#### **6.2 To discuss the sale of the Village Green:**

Cllr Roberts advised that the Clerk had recently received correspondence from solicitors acting on behalf of the owners of the village green. It was noted that the owners wish to sell the land. Cllr Roberts has since met with a representative from the solicitors

representing the owners and has been advised that first refusal will go to the PC. The PC have already advised the solicitor that the PC may have an interest in the purchase. It was discussed that the village green land is in the green belt, and in a conservation area, building is not likely to be permitted on the land and the ability to make funds from the land is extremely limited. Cllr Roberts suggested a public meeting to discuss resident's opinions. This was discussed but concern was expressed regarding the land going out onto the open market, hence the possibility of the land being potentially purchased and subsequently used for other purposes and not for use as a public open space. It was also noted that another landowner could charge an increased fee for the PC to lease it or/and cease allowing events on the green. It was discussed that FRC have funds that could be used towards the purchase.

It was unanimously agreed that it would be preferable for the PC to buy the land. It was agreed that the PC would speak to the land-owners solicitor to seek a realistic price for the land and ask for time to purchase it along with exclusivity. It was noted that the PC would require 2/3 months to organise the funds. Cllr Kaye suggested that crowd funding could help to raise the funds to pay any future loan back.

### **6.3 To agree a date for a litter pick:**

Cllr Roberts proposed 24<sup>th</sup> March, this was approved and agreed.

## **7. FANSHAWS ROOM COMMITTEE**

### **7.1 To receive the latest minutes:**

No meeting had been held since the last PC meeting. The next meeting is likely to held on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

## **8. LOCAL CRIME**

### **8.1 To receive a report on incidents of local crime:**

The Clerk advised that the crime report stated no crimes reported for the month of December 2023. The local rural Police had also advised for residents to ensure that their vehicles are locked at night.

## **9. PLANNING**

### **9.1 To receive the latest planning report & discuss applications:**

The Clerk had circulated the planning summary prior to the meeting. Cllr Roberts briefly went through the current outstanding applications.

### **9.2 To discuss recent applications, any new planning enforcements & progress on any outstanding:**

Cllr Roberts went through outstanding enforcements. It was noted that the Clerk had received correspondence relating to the long standing enforcement on the Land adjacent to Long Leys Barn. There was no further progress resulting from a backlog of workload at EH and a change of planning officers. A new senior enforcement officer has been allocated to the case and will be visiting to site to see if there is anyone still residing there.

### **9.3 To update on the Neighbourhood Plan:**

A meeting had not been held, a new date of 28<sup>th</sup> February was agreed.

## **10. TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS**

### **10.1 To discuss and report on any issues arising:**

Cllr Amanda Whitaker advised that from the 12-28<sup>th</sup> February there will be a detour in place on Brickendon Lane for roadworks.

Cllr Roberts advised that a large pothole has been repaired in Pembridge Lane.

Cllr Roberts advised that several highways flood related issues have recently been reported on the Herts Council portal. Cllr Kaye is continuing to support and help the PC in having the repairs done in a timely manner.

## **11. ENVIRONMENT**

### **11.1 To update on the PC registering for ownership of Brickendon lane village verges:**

Cllr Roberts reported no progress on this.

### **11.2 To update on progress on fencing surrounding the Village green & green on Fanshaws Lane:**

Cllr Roberts reported that funds have been included in the precept to start the work. The fence around the green in Fanshaws Lane is currently in progress.

### **11.3 To update on installing Electric car charger points in the Parish:**

Cllr Roberts advised that EH are still in process of going out to contract for charging points to be installed across the Council's area. It was noted that the smaller villages are likely to be low on the list to receive one.

### **11.4 To update on the Environmental Improvement Grant Scheme:**

Cllr Amanda Whitaker advised that Cllrs will discuss the matter on the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

### **11.5: To update on the potential "naturalisation" of areas on the village green:**

Cllr Roberts advised that he has asked a resident to lead on the project. Cllr Whitaker advised that the environmental improvement grant could potentially be used for this project too.

### **11.6 To update on celebration for D day 80 in June 2024 & beacon purchase:**

Cllr Roberts reported that this will be held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Cllr Alistair Whitaker reported that he has spoken to a supplier who can make the beacon, this will be progressed.

## **12. FINANCE**

### **12.1 To approve the financial statement and payment of accounts:**

The Clerk had circulated the accounts summary prior to the meeting. Cllr Roberts went through the accounts briefly indicating areas of overspend for projects so far this year.

### **13. Matters for future consideration: none**

### **14. Confirmation of the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Thursday 28th March 2024 at 7.30pm: date approved.**

### **15. To close the meeting: Cllr Roberts closed the meeting at 9pm**

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