

Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council



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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at St. Nicholas Church Hall, Ingrave, on Tuesday, 27th March 2012 at 7.15pm

In the Chair: Cllr A. Marsh

Present: Cllr A. Bayless Cllr K. Pegram
Cllr K. Marsh Cllr S. Theobald
Cllr S. Murphy Cllr R. Watkins

Officers: Mrs. T. Grainger (Parish Clerk)
Mr. D. Tooke-Kirby (RFO)

Members of the public: Three plus Cllr. Linda Golding

11/12.185 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest

- Cllr A. Marsh referred to the matter of the proposed development of the landfill site at Courtauld Road, Basildon and impact on traffic on the A128 which was raised by Cllr Roberts last month. As the Clerk had not received any comments from Members, a letter would now be sent requesting the lorries take a longer less intrusive route to and from Coxtie Green.
- Cllr A. Marsh offered his congratulations to Cllr Sheila Murphy on her selection as a Conservative candidate to represent Herongate and Ingrave when Cllr Gordon Maclellan retires in May.
- Cllr A. Marsh referred to the donation acknowledgement letter from Essex Air Ambulance offering Members the opportunity to visit and see their aircraft first hand. Any Councillors interested please contact the Clerk.
- Cllr A. Marsh referred to a recent letter from Anglian Water regarding the draught situation and imminent hosepipe ban.
- Cllr A. Marsh referred to a letter from the Brentwood Club for the visually impaired seeking volunteer drivers. Any Councillors or members of the public interested in offering their services should contact the Clerk.
- Cllr A. Marsh referred to an email from Stuart Anderson, BCC, regarding the Playing Fields. Now that the parish Council is aware of what the Borough is prepared to pay for regarding maintenance of the Playing Field, the contractor can be instructed to clear the edges of the pathways and install the bases and two new benches.

11/12.186 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr David Harman who was on a family holiday, Cllr Maclellan who was also on a family holiday and Cllr. John Roberts who had a prior engagement.. **Apologies were accepted.**

Proposed: Cllr Bayless **Seconded:** Cllr Thurgood **All agreed**

Cllr Murphy advised the Council that there had been a misunderstanding regarding the cost of the Sunday Bus Service and the bill for the first year was £4,000 and not £3,000 as previously stated. She asked Members for approval for an additional £1,000. Cllr A. Marsh had spoken with the bus provider and offered £3,000 for this financial year and would look at the possibility of paying the additional £1,000 in the next financial year. West Hordon Parish Council have since contacted this Parish Council with a view to joining us in this venture, however, it is believed that they will not be able to join for the first 6 months of the scheme. Cllr Murphy will contact Tina Tickner to ask if this rule can be waived in order for West Horndon to join earlier. Members agreed that this matter be put on hold until Cllr Murphy has spoken with Tina Tucknell and we know the outcome. The bus service is now due to start in May 2012 and a timetable will be printed in the next Parish Newsletter.

11/12.192 St. Nicholas Church Burial Ground

Cllr A. Marsh gave a brief resume of the history of the burial ground and the Parish Council's involvement. Rev. Paul Hamilton, who was present at the meeting, put forward his idea of how part of the ancient burial ground could be reused thus providing approximately 60 more graves. Cllr. A. Marsh, Cllr Harman and Rev. Paul had been in discussion regarding the possibility of the Parish Council supporting the cost of the re-leveling work and providing regular maintenance through a contractor. The burial ground provides an important amenity to the community and it is important that it is maintained with a neater appearance. Initial work has been priced at approximately £1,000 to re-level and move the ancient headstones. The Parish Council has asked a consultant to survey the Churchyard and provide a plan and specification for tender but nothing has been received so far. Cllr A. Marsh asked Members if they thought this project was worthwhile. Rev. Paul pointed out that residents from the East Ham Estate had a right to be buried at St. Nicholas. He also mentioned that it is currently cheaper to be buried at St. Nicholas than at other cemeteries, however, he is going to increase the levy in line with normal burial charges. It was agreed that an initial payment of up to £1,000 should be paid to clear the site for additional burials. With regard to taking over the maintenance, it was deemed a good idea and this should be investigated further.

Proposed: Cllr Bayless **Seconded:** Cllr Murphy **All agreed**

11/12.193 Salt Bins

- (a) Salt bins for Billericay Road and Priests Field – still under investigation. Cllr A. Marsh to approach ECC as the bins would be situated on County Council land. It was agreed that the bins would remain unlocked.
- (b) Grit spreaders for use in the villages – Cllr Theobald circulated a comprehensive list of grit spreaders obtained from the internet. Discussion took place but no decision was made. This matter will be progressed with a view to having something in place by October 2012.

11/12.194 Queens Jubilee Orchard

Cllr Murphy reported that the previous Commemorative Book had been located and a decision regarding the quality of the book for the Jubilee Orchard could now be made. There is a nice photograph of the planting day on the Parish Council's Facebook page. Cllr Murphy attended a meeting at the Borough Council where the Mayoress expressed her delight at attending the planting. Cllr A. Marsh has inspected the trees and they are looking healthy. Future events at the Orchard are in discussion with the possibility of a National Apple Day and a Working Picnic event are a possibility.

11/12.195 Olympic Flame

Cllr Thurgood gave an interesting report regarding the progress of the Olympic Flame Event. She has experienced several problems, however, with the help of Kim Anderson at the Borough Council, plans are now in place and all parties in agreement. It has been decided that there will be two separate parts to the day, with a fete starting at 3.30pm until 6.30pm and a free concert at 7.30pm. The event will be advertised and there will be an opportunity for local and outside residents to have a stall at the fete. Cllr Thurgood has secured a Localism Grant of £1,080 to be used for the infrastructure and the cost of providing toilets will come out of this. Cllr A. Marsh congratulated Cllr Thurgood for an excellent job in pulling this all together

and he also gave a vote of thanks to Kim Anderson for her support. Cllr A. Marsh suggested the Parish Council put funds into a code to be drawn on if necessary and it was agreed that this should be £1,080 to match the Localism Grant.

Proposed: Cllr A. Marsh **Seconded:** Cllr K. Marsh **All agreed**

11/12.196 Administrative Responsibilities

Cllr A. Marsh spoke of a revised Budget for 2013/2014 where there would be fewer codes and at least three Councillors, as a working party, would be responsible for allocating money from these codes to their projects. This will spread out responsibility for decision making and give resident a group to contact to deal with problems. Cllr A. Marsh will meet with Members to discuss this idea further.

11/12.197 Herongate and Ingrave Museum

(a) Cllr Murphy advised that the Museum roof will be repaired in the next few weeks. She had also had a very good meeting with a local resident who was volunteering to scan all the paper documents and photograph artifacts. This information can then be put on the Parish Councils new website. The Brentwood Gazette is going to do a piece on the Museum to raise awareness of the need for funding/volunteers.

(b) Cllr Murphy requested funding of approximately £80 - £100 for an external hard drive to store the scanned information.

Proposed: Cllr Bayless **Seconded:** Cllr Thurgood **All agreed**

11/12.198 Herongate Village Hall

Cllr A. Marsh reported that an informal meeting would be convened of all the interested Representatives of the Hall in order that a decision can be made regarding the future of the building. It is not the Parish Council's responsibility to make a decision, however, Members are aware of the ongoing dilapidation of the Hall and are anxious to have the matter resolved. This matter will be discussed at the next meeting.

11/12.199 Essex Air Ambulance

The possibility of supporting this worthy Charity will be discussed at a later date.

11/12.200 Planning

A list of applications received and determined during March was received and agreed.

9 Donovans Gardens

Cllr Watkins spoke of the retrospective planning application received by BCC to which the Parish Council would object.

The Barn, Salmonds Grove

Cllr Watkins also mentioned that Parish Council had objected to this application because the proposal constitutes an inappropriate development in the Green Belt and produces an excessive extension of the floor area of the barn.

Proposed: Cllr Watkins **Seconded:** Cllr Bayless **All agreed**

11/12.201 Correspondence

A list of correspondence, having been previously circulated, was noted.

11/12.202 Training

The Council Finance Course booked for 28th March 2012 was noted.

11/12.203 Reports from Councillors

- Cllr Thurgood reported that a resident from Herongate Tye was not happy that the school bus is still not going to this part of the village. Cllr A. Marsh said that this matter had not been resolved yet. The Parish Council is prepared to make the road to Herongate Tye more presentable, however, the

Rangers have not undertaken the work to clear the pathways for children to walk along. Cllr Linda Golding said that she would take this matter up with the Borough Council.

- Cllr Thurgood also mentioned that workmen have been driving over the grass in the Meadows, churning up the ground and making it look unsightly. Cllr A. Marsh asked Cllr Thurgood to try to find out which homes were responsible for employing these contractors. Discussion also took place regarding the lack of a “dog poo” bin in The Meadows.

11/12.204 Items from Councillors to be added to the next Agenda

None.

11/12.205 The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25th April 2012 at St. Andrews Methodist Church Hall, Herongate, commencing 7.15pm.

11/12.206 Exclusion of the Public

Council approved that pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussions relation to personnel matters.

Proposed: Cllr Marsh Seconded: Cllr Murphy All agreed

Cllr A. Marsh was asked to investigate this matter further and report at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed:..... Chairman

Date:.....