

Herongate and Ingrave Parish Council



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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at St. Andrews Hall, Herongate on Monday, 22nd September 2014 at 7.15pm

In the Chair: Cllr A. Kingsford

Present: Cllr D. Harman (Vice Chair), Cllr N. Amor, Cllr A. Bayless, Cllr P. Hawkins, Cllr M. Hannush, Cllr K. Pegram and Cllr S. Theobald

Officers: Mrs T. Grainger (Clerk)

Members of the public: Fourteen plus Cllr J. Squirrell (Ward Councillor – BBC) and Joe Sturdy, Brentwood Gazette Reporter.

Guests – Police Crime Commissioner Nick Alston and PCSO Debbie Powis

14/15.092 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that are of mutual interest

A contingency of residents attended the meeting to voice their concerns regarding the recent illegal incursion of Travellers on Button Common. They felt that the new design project, currently underway, of fencing and gates round the Common would be insufficient to stop Travellers gaining access yet again. The Chairman and Members assured the residents that safety and security had been taken into account and that even though their concerns had been taken on board, the project was now almost complete but steps would be put in place to make sure the gates are kept locked when the Common is not in use.

Police Crime Commissioner, Nick Alston took the stand to answer questions as to why it took so long to remove the Travellers from the Common. PCC Alston explained that Travellers present a real problem for the Police in Essex and the process to remove them is complicated and he is still learning all the processes. He was also asked why it took so long for the Police to attend the three 999 calls made by a resident who discovered Travellers on his land. PCC Alston assured the public that there are enough Police in Essex and that 92% of 999 calls are responded to within the recommended time frames. He also mentioned that designated sites have been provided for Travellers in other areas. Cllr Jo Squirrell stated that a transit camp is being considered by BBC. Members were dubious that transit camps would help because when they are full then the Travellers will just move onto private land as usual.

Cllr Kingsford thanked PCC Nick Alston for his attendance to discuss a very emotive subject.

14/15.093 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr S. Murphy and Cllr R. Hirst (BBC). Apologies were accepted.

Proposed: Cllr A. Kingsford

Seconded: Cllr D. Harman

All agreed

14/15.094 Minutes

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd July 2014 were accepted as a true record. Minutes were signed by the Chairman, Cllr A. Kingsford.

Proposed: Cllr A. Kingsford

Seconded: Cllr D. Harman

All agreed

14/15.095 Progress Report from the Clerk

Report on matters arising from Minutes dated 22nd July 2014

- *I have ordered the NO PARKING signs for Peartree Pond however I made the dimensions smaller as I realised the larger signs would not be supported in the middle once fixed. This brought the cost down from £124.20 to £104.81.*
- *Regarding the H&IPC Annual Return, a report has come back from the Auditor with no comments and the relevant forms have been displayed on the Parish notice boards.*

14/15.096 To receive Members' declarations of interest in items on the agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest.

14/15.097 Finance

a) Cheques signed since the last meeting:-

Payee	Cheque No.	Amount
Administration	203	£658.96
Administration	204	£372.64
HMRC	205	£69.06
Essex Pension Fund	206	£257.71
A Kingsford	207	£59.95
EALC	208	£67.00

Proposed: Cllr A. Kingsford

Seconded: Cllr D. Harman

All agreed

b) Cheques signed at this meeting –

Payee	Cheque No.	Amount
D Harman (Compila)	209	£26.39
Cut Above	210	£1,784.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP (audit)	211	£240.00
Administration	212	£643.36
Administration	213	£372.41
Essex Pension Fund	214	£263.10
HMRC	215	£74.06

Proposed: Cllr A. Kingsford

Seconded: Cllr D. Harman

All agreed

c) To approve accounts/bank reconciliation for August and September 2014.

Current Account	£20,791
30 Day Investment Account	£3,847
Fixed Term Deposit Account Maturity Date 02.02.15	£25,000

Proposed: Cllr P. Hawkins

Seconded: Cllr N. Amor

All agreed

d) Cllr A. Kingsford updated the PC on our application to BBC for a Discretionary Grant.

14/15.098 Button Common Project

a) Members to retrospectively approve:

- the estimate of £8,000 including VAT from Greenstow Foliage Ltd. dated 24th June 2013.
- signing of the Contract for the work dated 14th June 2014.

Proposed: Cllr A. Bayless

Seconded: Cllr N. Amor

All agreed

b) Members to consider the additional cost of approximately £300 for a hard standing area at the gate entrance plus £500 to concrete in the posts.

Proposed: Cllr M. Hannush Seconded: Cllr N. Amor All agreed

c) Members to approve a charge being made by the Contractor (as per the Contract) of 3 days loss of labour and hire of equipment.

Proposed: Cllr A. Bayless Seconded: Cllr M. Hannush All agreed

d) Members to review the recent incursion and ongoing implications:

- Members were delighted to note that the committee which organised the Jubilee Wedding has generously offered to cover the cost of the new trees.
- Future security was discussed in the Public Forum..

Cllr S. Theobald mentioned that at least £600 would be needed for the second internal gate. This will be added to the next Agenda.

14/15.099 Museum/Heritage Centre

820 surveys were sent out to residents regarding the future of the Museum. 43 replies were received – 42 in support and 1 not. Cllr D. Harman, who is on the Museum Working Party, reported that after careful consideration it had been decided that it was not possible to put forward a business case to make the future of the building maintainable as there is no source of regular income. It was recommended that the building be sold to remove the crippling ongoing costs and there was the possibility of free storage locally for the artifacts.

With a unanimous show of hands the Parish Council decided not to support the Museum building

14/15.100 Lighting of the Christmas Tree Event

Members noted that due to the Parish Councils dissatisfaction with last year's tree, Elvedon will supply a tree this year free of charge.

Members to consider:-

- Members were happy that the event should take place on 6th December 2014 at 6.00pm.
- Cllr A. Kingsford will arrange for the power supply to be checked once the stand is installed and again before the tree goes up.
- Members felt that the Christmas Card Competition should go ahead and the Clerk has asked Ingrave Johnstone to find a parent who will run it. However it was decided that Christmas cards would not be printed from the winning entry but the winner will still be able to turn on the lights.
- No Member at the meeting came forward to take the lead on the refreshments so Cllr S. Murphy will take on the role yet again. Appreciation to Cllr Murphy was noted.
- The Clerk reported that the Ingrave Johnstone School choir was not available.

Cllr S. Theobald advised that we need a new banner to advertise the event. The previous banner had a spelling mistake and when the supplier was asked to reprint it they refused. This will be on the next Agenda.

14/15.101 Peartree Pond Maintenance Contract

Cllr A. Kingsford reported that he had spoken with Greenstow and there would be a 2.5% increase in the maintenance cost for the next Contract. Members agreed to renew the Contract for a further two years with 10 monthly visits and a break for 2 months. Cllr Kingsford to progress this matter.

Proposed: Cllr N. Amor Seconded: Cllr A. Kingsford All agreed

14/15.102 School Lane

Cllr K. Pegram advised that the Parish Council was unable to do anything about the pot holes in School Lane due to S.137 legislation. Cllr S. Murphy had made enquiries with the Legal Department at BBC who advised that the residents are responsible for the repairs. Cllr Jo Squirrell stated that she is in discussion with BBC regarding the state of Park Lane which has Council properties and BBC has a duty of care towards their tenants

