

## Ashwell Parish Council

### Minutes of a meeting of the Ashwell Parish Council held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2012 in the Parish Room at 8.00pm

**Present:** Councillors W P Long (Chairman), M W Berry, E J Buxton,  
M G Hoffman, B Macey, D M Mathews, C V Schwick, M N White.  
The Clerk was also in attendance. Members of the public: PC Marina.

#### 99. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs D Cook (family commitment), J Connolly (work commitment), G K Scott (work commitment).  
Cllr Hoffman apologised for late arrival.

#### 100. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2011

It was *resolved* that these be approved and signed.

#### 101. CODE OF CONDUCT/DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None.

#### 102. MATTERS OF REPORT

**102.1** (December 91.1) Hertfordshire Police Authority consultation on Draft Strategic Policing Plan 2012. Cllr Macey reported that she had reviewed the document and was of the view that there were no significant issues or changes to policy. It was agreed to respond that the draft document was acceptable. (See also 110.1 below re other police matters). **Clerk**

**102.2** (December 91.3) NHS Hertfordshire consultation on proposals for (i) re-provision of bed-based Intermediate Care Services currently provided at Hitchin Hospital, Royston Hospital and Bulwer Lytton House, (ii) relocation of outpatient and community services at Royston Hospital. Invitation to 'a conversation café' on Wednesday, 18 January 2012, 12.30pm – 2.30pm at Benslow Music, Hitchin. Cllr Hoffman explained the background to the consultation and proposed that a response be made (i) re proposals affecting Hitchin – 'acceptable', (ii) re proposals affecting Royston – 'the Parish Council is aware that a number of parishioners have strong feelings about the proposals and do not want to see the hospital closed, and thus wishes to await the outcome of public consultation before commenting further'. **Clerk**

It was *resolved* to respond accordingly.

**102.3** (December 91.5) Veolia consultation on Draft Drought Management Plan. Cllr Buxton reported that she had reviewed the document; she had some concerns in relation to the Springs. Cllr Hoffman reported that flow rates and silting had been discussed with representatives of Natural England at a recent site visit; Natural England were investigating possible courses of action.

It was *resolved* to respond to the consultation accordingly.

**102.4** (December 98.2) Rural broadband grant fund. Cllr Mathews reported that he had made enquiries and understood that various requirements made it financially unviable for a community the size of Ashwell although this should be checked with Herts County Council. It was agreed to forward the information to relevant local IT businesses. **Clerk**

#### 103. OTHER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

**103.1** Email from insurers, Came & Company Parish Council Insurance, advising appointment of Chris Edwards as a Regional Account Executive. It was agreed that the Clerk make contact to discuss the current arrangements. **Clerk**

**103.2** Letter from HCC re Hertfordshire Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Document. Following end of public hearing, proposed minor changes and Sustainability Appraisal now published; representations on these must be made by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012. Details on [www.hertsdirect.org/examdetails](http://www.hertsdirect.org/examdetails).

#### 104. REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE

**104.1.1** Application no. 11/02619/1TCA (Tree in Conservation Area) 5 Bacons Yard  
Remove one Rowan tree.

No objection.

**104.1.2** Application no. 11/02428/1HH 61 Back Street  
Full Permission Householder: Single storey rear extension.  
Standard Conditional Permission.

**104.1.3** Application no. 11/02459/1HH 32 Lucas Lane

For Mr C Self

Full Permission Householder: Two storey side extension.

Conditional Permission.

Granted by NHDC Planning Control Committee 15<sup>th</sup> December. Conditions included - first floor window overlooking adjacent property disallowed and permitted development rights withdrawn 'Reason: Given the nature of this development, the Local Planning Authority considers that development which would normally be "permitted development" should be retained within planning control in the interests of the character and amenities of the area.'

**104.1.4** Application no. 11/02386/1. Land rear of 48 Ashwell Street

For Alexandre Developments

Full Planning Permission: Increase of roof height and addition of one front dormer window to plot 1. Addition of two rear dormer windows to plots 1 and 2 to accommodate additional bedrooms in roof. Replacement of two first floor side windows with one first floor side window and inclusion of first floor window in other side elevation (as a variation to planning permission ref no. 02/01927/1 granted 21 October 2003).

Refused.

Considered by NHDC Planning Control Committee 15<sup>th</sup> December.

'By reason of the proposed increase in height to the dwelling on plot 1 and the addition of the front and rear dormer windows to both dwellings the resultant height, mass and appearance of the dwellings would be of a design which is inappropriate in its context and which fails to maintain or enhance the character and visual quality of the village. As such the proposal fails to comply with the provisions of Planning Policy Statement 3 Housing and Policies 7 and 57 of the North Hertfordshire District Local Plan No.2 with Alterations.'

The Chairman thanked all those who had supported the Parish Council's objection; it was noted that 221 parishioners had signed the petition.

**104.2 Correspondence**

**104.2.1** Email from HAPTC re countywide partnership with CPRE for planning training, 'Free events to help individuals, communities and neighbourhoods understand more about planning and how to influence and participate in decisions affecting your local areas'. Various dates/venues Feb to March, 7.30 to 9.00pm. Booking essential by 18<sup>th</sup> January.

**104.2.2** Re Application no. 11/02885/1 (see Planning Committee 12 December 2011)

Land adjacent to 92 Ashwell Street

For North Herts Homes

Outline Planning Permission: Erection of detached bungalow (all matters reserved).

Copy of petition from neighbours and letter sent to NHDC Planning Officer. Representative of residents of adjoining property informed that (i) North Herts Homes had agreed to erect a fence between the adjoining property and the new property, but (ii) local residents still had concerns in relation to the lack of space for large vehicles to turn.

**104.2.3** Planning Application 11/02901/1HH

52 Station Road, Ashwell for Dr W Fletcher

Remove the paint, repoint and render in lime mortar the front and side elevation of the house.

It was *resolved* that no objection be made.

**Clerk**

**104.3** Scheduled meetings. (i) with NHDC planning officers Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 8pm, (ii) Planning Committee Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 8.30am.

**105. REPORT FROM STREETS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

(Committee Chairman Cllr Berry) Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**105.1** Cllr Berry reported on the problem of overgrown hedges in Cow Lane; it was understood that Herts Highways was pursuing the matter.

**106. REPORT FROM RECREATION & FACILITIES COMMITTEE**

(Committee Chairman Cllr Mathews) Next meeting scheduled for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

**106.1** Cllr Mathews reported on good progress with the Cemetery landscaping project.

## **107. REPORT FROM CHARACTER AREAS COMMITTEE**

(Committee Chairman Cllr Hoffman) Next meeting scheduled for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012.  
Nothing further to report.

## **108. REPORT FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE**

(Committee Chairman Cllr Long) Next meeting scheduled for Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2012.

### **108.1 Approval of January Accounts and Bills for Payment.**

It was *resolved* that these be approved and paid.

**Clerk**

## **109. REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES**

**109.1 Website Group** (Chairman Cllr Mathews) Cllr Mathews reported that a meeting was scheduled to consider options for future maintenance.

**109.2 Quality Status Group** (Chairman Cllr Hoffman) Cllr Hoffman reported that a response from NHDC to proposals made in mid-December was awaited.

**109.3 Yearbook Group** (Chairman Cllr Long) Cllr Long reported that all was on schedule.

**109.4 Design Statement Review Group** (Chairman Cllr Long) Cllr Long reported that a meeting was to be scheduled.

**109.5 Community Housing Group** (Chairman Cllr Buxton) Cllr Long reported that the new contact at Howard Cottage Housing Association was now in post.

**109.6 Jubilee 2012 Group** (Chairman Mrs Jill Powell). Cllr Long reported that it was hoped to incorporate the unveiling of the new village sign in with the celebrations.

**109.7 Olympics 2012 Group** (Chairman Mrs Margaret Budgen). Cllr Long reported that he still had hopes that the torch route might come through the village.

## **110. PARISH AFFAIRS, REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES AND OPEN FORUM**

It was *resolved* that Standing Orders be suspended for this item.

**110.1 Police matters** The Chairman and police representative Cllr Macey thanked PC Marina for his attendance. PC Marina gave a brief report on local issues including the recent spates of damage to parked vehicles. He gave advice on parking issues, metal thefts, thefts from sheds and fraud by rogue traders who targeted the elderly. With regard to the recent case of the latter in the village, he was hopeful of a prosecution. Re metal thefts he informed that local scrap yards were regularly monitored and all those within this area had a good record of ensuring the good credentials of those they did business with. One out-of-county facility was regularly monitored using vehicle number plate recognition. The Chairman thanked PC Marina for his valuable assistance with the Ashwell Show and the Remembrance Sunday parade. It was agreed to forward details of upcoming events in 2012 including the Jubilee and Olympics celebrations.

**Clerk**

**Meeting closed at 9.10pm**

## **Appendix 1 – General material received**

### **Items on the table**

**1.** North Herts District Council ‘Members Information’ w/e 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> December.

### **By Email**

**2.** HAPTC Weekly Briefings. (15/12/2011 included information on planning training –see 104.2.1 above)

**3.** NHDC Baldock & District Area Committee meeting agenda for 9<sup>th</sup> January.

**4.** *Rural News* for January from PC Marina.

*Chairman's  
signature*

*Date*

Appendix 2							
ACCOUNTS AND BILLS FOR PAYMENT - January 2012					Date	4th January 2012	
Proposed by Cllr Mathews		Seconded by Cllr Hoffman		Declared interest -none			
				£	£	£	£
	Receipts			Grants	Precept	Other	Total
77	Neville Funeral Service	chapel rent December				68.75	68.75
78	Santander interest a/c	bank interest				3.49	3.49
79	Ashwell Show	Jubilee group grant		200.00			200.00
80	various	yearbook advert				990.00	990.00
-96							
				200.00		1062.24	1262.24
				Committees			
	Payments		A&O	CA	S &E	R&F	VAT
	By Direct Debit						Total
131	Veolia (01/01/12)	Allotments water				61.45	61.45
132	Veolia (01/01/12)	Pavilion water				68.11	68.11
133	British Gas (19/12/11)	pavilion electricity				451.36	22.56
	By Cheque						
134	J C M Porter	Clerk's salary	1,055.20				1,055.20
135	M Fox	Environmental Cleansing		38.92	144.14	58.38	241.44
136	M Chandler	Duties at Pavilion and Rec				60.12	60.12
137	Post Office	tax&NI to Inland Revenue	299.67		31.00		330.67
138	Clements Play Management	Quarterly inspection				75.00	15.00
139	Maydencroft Rural Ltd	Cemetery project (part)				6,885.00	1,377.00
			1,354.87	38.92	175.14	7,659.42	1,414.56
	Outstanding Accounts						
	Yearbook 2011 adverts -misc					105.00	
	Total						105.00
	Money at bank	29th December 2011					
	Current Account					11,653.40	
	Deposit Account					42,493.15	
	Total						54,146.55
	Cheques banked after/BACS transfers after and Santander error of £6.00						46.00
	Cheques drawn but not cleared/DD's outstanding						200.12
	Total						53,992.43
	Total after paying this months cheques						43,349.52
	Total in current a/c after paying this months cheques						856.37