

PCM January 2013

Date posted

1 Feb 2013

Minutes of the Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd January, 2013 in Hurstbourne Priors Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Mr P Smail – Chairman
Cllr Mrs S Wyatt-Tilby – Vice Chairman
Cllr Mrs C Read
Cllr Mrs S Sorby
Cllr Mr M Williams
Borough Councillor Mr K Watts

Members of the Public: Mr G Finlayson, Mrs Jo Burrell and Mrs Barbara Carrodus

Apologies: Richard Waterman, Cllr Mr J Beech, County Councillor Mr T Thacker and PC Paula Deery

Welcome: Cllr Mr P Smail welcomed everyone to the meeting

Declaration of Interest: There were no declarations of interest

Parish Council Vacancy: Cllr Mr Smail said that he believed there was still a vacancy and he was not aware of any applicants. Cllr Mr Williams said that he had one or two people in mind who would be interested in joining. The Clerk was asked to confirm how many vacancies there were and how many applicants would trigger an election.

Tufton: There was no report from Tufton.

Cllr Mr P Smail reported that he had attended the meeting set up by a Whitchurch resident raising the concerns about the Tufton A34 junction. It is hoped that the slip road will be narrowed to one lane and that the speed limit will be reduced, currently traffic comes off the A34 at 60mph. Cllr Mr Watts explained that the situation was further exacerbated by the crossover of responsibility between the Highways department and Hampshire County Council.

Police Report: There was no Police report

Minutes of the Previous Meeting: There was an error in the minutes recorded in Hill & Valley as it had gone to press before the correction was received. The signed minutes and those displayed on the village notice boards are correct.

Matters Arising From The Minutes: Mr Finlayson asked that the minutes be got to him a week earlier so that they could be included in the following month's Hill & Valley to avoid them being out of date.

OAK TREE: The Jubilee Oak Tree delivery had been delayed by bad weather and is now due in February. Cllr Mrs Read agreed to arrange for its planting once it had been received.

SPEED SIGNS: The Clerk sent a note to say that the cost of the speed camera will be £2,625 (including a 5% discount). The Parish Council would have one camera, with adjustable speeds ie: 30, 40 or 'slow down' which would be moved between the four different roads in the village. The posts would be fixed permanently. The camera records how many times it has 'flashed' a vehicle (though not the licence plate) and that information can be sent to Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary.

Cllr Mrs Read reported that it now appeared unlikely that the Vitacress Charitable Trust would be

able to make a grant, but that she would approach Vitacress to see if there were any other grants available. Cllr Mrs Sorby and Cllr Mr Williams said that money from the May Fair would also not be available for this purpose. A further discussion on the costings for this will take place at the next meeting when the Clerk will be able to report on whether Cllr Thacker can still make a grant of £1,000. It may be that a specific event be held to help raise the extra money, Cllr Mr Smail felt that it was in the interest of the whole village that traffic speeds be controlled.

SIGN ON THE ST MARY BOURNE ROAD: The moving of the village sign, with an integral 30 mph notice, nearer the iron bridge is in hand. There is a lot of red tape to go through but it is hoped that this will be moved before the end of the year.

MARQUEE POLES: Cllr Mrs Read has again been asked by a resident about the poles being moved as they continue to be an eyesore. Cllr Mr Williams apologised and assured the meeting that they would be moved by the end of the month.

CRESSINGTON: Cllr Mr Smail reported that Vitacress had now received a credible offer for the premises from a Property Developer and it was likely to be turned into 2 or 3 bedroom flats for the rental market.

MUD ON THE ROAD: This continues to be a problem. The Clerk to confirm what response he had had from the owners of the site. It was requested that all correspondence on this topic be copied to Cllr Thacker as he had undertaken to monitor the situation. Cllr Mrs Sorby also requested that all correspondence, on any topic, sent by the Parish Clerk on behalf of the PC be copied to members.

MEMORIAL TO ROBERT SELBIE: It was agreed that a plaque should be erected in the Cricket Pavilion in memory of his great contribution to the village through his work on both the Recreation and Parish Council. Cllr Mr Williams offered to get a layout and quote for this for the next meeting.

GRASS VERGE: The Clerk reported that owing to the weather Mr Burden has not been able to quote for the pipe work on the verge. It is hoped that this will be received before the next meeting.

CARAVAN SITE AT FAULKENERS CROSS: The Planning Enforcement Officer has now visited the site but unfortunately has yet to file a report. The Clerk will forward it to Councillors when it is available.

Cllr Mrs Read reported that there had been signs that at least one of the Caravans was being lived in just prior to Christmas and that there were fresh vehicle tracks in the snow on Tuesday.

Members of the Public: Mr Finlayson circulated information regarding a new host for the Hurstbourne Priors village website (copy attached) following the decision by B&DBC to stop providing the website. It was agreed to take up the Vision ICT facility subject to Mr Finlayson confirming that the B&DBC grant was still available to cover the first year's cost and to check how long the Parish Council would be locked in.

The key to the chosen host would be their ability to transfer all the information currently on the Hurstbourne Priors pages but that Mr Finlayson could update it on a regular basis himself.

Mrs Carrodus asked what the Parish Council was doing about the proposed Windfarm at Bullington Cross. Cllr Mrs Wyatt-Tilby explained that planning permission had not, as yet, been applied for and therefore the Parish Council were not in a position to do anything until it was clear what was being applied for. The response to the scoping document had been submitted and it was hoped that the points made would be included in any future planning application. The scoping document is available on the B&DBC website or alternatively from Cllr Mrs Wyatt-Tilby.

It was agreed that, subject to a planning application being made by eDF Energy, the Parish

Council would ask all residents for their views to ensure a fair reflection of feelings. Two letters of objection from residents have already been received by the Parish Council. In addition, should a planning application be made, it would be helpful if the Parish Council knew how many residents had responded directly to the Planning Department – it may be that a flyer or article in Hill & Valley would be able to satisfy this.

Planning: Planning application BDB/77430 from the owners of Clock Barn for the conversion of a further barn for use as part of their wedding venue business. There was no objection.

Councillors Reports: Cllr Mr K Watts reported that he had received a request for intervention from a resident at the Chapmansford development regarding rising water levels. He had contacted the Environment Agency on her behalf and it was his understanding that they had now visited her and provided sandbags.

The Local Plan is now back on the planning agenda and the next meeting is on Thursday 31st January. Cllr Watts did not expect much change to the previous document.

The proposed new station car park on the Northern side of the station was progressing slowly. There are issues surrounding the ownership of the railway tunnel, the access road cost and who would be responsible for the upkeep and the fact that the land in question is owned by two different bodies – Zurich and SW Railways. Cllr Watts has had an indication from the Stakeholder Manager of SW Trains that they are very keen on a joint development of industrial units and a car park and that they may pay or make a substantial contribution to the access road. This project is likely to take many, many months before it reaches a viable planning stage. Cllr Watts assured those present that he would be pro-active.

Lengthmans Scheme: Following the letter from Cllr Thacker which was circulated by the Chairman prior to the meeting (see attached *Richard please?*) this was discussed. Cllr Mrs Wyatt-Tilby expressed concern that the £1,000 allocated to Hurstbourne Priors should be ring fenced and not just lost in the 'pool' of the Scheme. There were also questions about contractors' details and contactability of the Lengthman representative. Cllr Mrs Wyatt-Tilby offered to pick up on these points with Cllr Thacker and, subject to being happy with the answers to indicate that Hurstbourne Priors would like to join the scheme.

Councillor's Reports:

CLLR MR WILLIAMS reported that there had been a break in of the shed behind the Cricket Pavilion. Nothing appeared to have been stolen and he has now purchased and fitted two strong padlocks for the bolts on the door.

The Cricket Club fees were discussed. Having spoken with Mr Mark Hamson it had been agreed that the booking fee should be raised from £75 to £80 per match. In addition a reduced fee could be offered for those wanting to play limited over, evening matches if they were happy to re-use a wicket (which would be rolled) at a cost of £60. The Cricket Club are looking into the purchase of a second hand set of covers which would enable the wicket to be prepared on Thursday but then protected from the elements until Saturday – this had been a problem in the 2012 season and resulted in the cancellation of several matches. Cllr Mr Williams will investigate the costs with Mr Hamson and report back at the next meeting. Cllr Mr Smail enquired into the possibility of charging a small booking fee but Cllr Mr Williams felt that this was not viable and would be hard to manage.

CLLR MRS SORBY reported that the bookings for the Village Hall in January and February were poor but that this was not uncommon at this time of year.

Cllr Mrs Sorby was concerned about the continuing traffic coming from the Hirst site at Hurstbourne Station. Does the Clerk have a copy of the letter that Mr Goodall sent to them following our meeting last year? It was suggested that it was just one driver who may not realise that he is not supposed to use this route and Cllr Mrs Sorby will try and get the registration

number of the vehicle. Cllr Mrs Sorby offered to get in touch with Mr Goodall to see if there was anything else that could be done.

CLLR MRS WYATT-TILBY offered to organise a date for the annual village tidy-up and to put a flyer through everyone's doors. It was agreed that it would be held on Saturday 6th April.

Cllr Mrs Wyatt-Tilby also offered to organise the Quiz Night once again with her husband. She will liaise with the pub to find a suitable evening and circulate possible dates with Councillors. Cllr Mr Smail thanked her.

(Note: since the meeting the Quiz has been arranged for Thursday 4th April. More details to follow in due course)

CLLR MRS READ reported that, apart from flooded areas, all footpaths were passable as far as she was aware. There is a broken stile at Tufton which she has reported.

Once again the hedging around the electricity substation is overgrown and blocking the pavement and Cllr Mrs Read offered to arrange to get this cut back.

Mr Philip Chalk had written to thank the Parish Council and to say what an improvement the new white picket fence by the bridge was and that it had certainly appeared to 'calm' the traffic. Cllr Mrs Read wondered whether the fence supporting the signs at the top of the hill on the A3400 should also be painted white. It was agreed that Brian Pearce would be approached to do this.

At Christmas and New Year the bin collection rota was changed and Cllr Mrs Read wondered if Mr Finlayson could include the dates in Hill & Valley so that residents knew the changed dates and did not put bins out on the wrong day or miss the changed day. This would also apply to Easter.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The Clerk had forwarded a copy of the Financial Report

CHEQUES AND PAYMENTS ISSUED DECEMBER 2012 AND JANUARY 2013

Dave Haggart Pest control £80.00 Ray Chant Service of mower £59.00 Hurstbourne Priors VH Hire of hall for meetings £96.00 St Johns Ambulance Bonfire Cover £52.80 Mr B Pearce New fencing at bridge £350.00 Mr B Pearce Repairs to Scouring Hut £375.00

Standing Orders

Aviva Insurance December and January £267.40 R.N. Waterman Wages December £139.00 R.N. Waterman Wages January £139.00

INCOME. No income since last meeting

BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE AFTER ABOVE £3,991.01

Cllr Mrs Read asked why the cheque from the Bonfire to the Church had still not been cashed. Cllr Mr Williams had the cheque with him and reported that in future all cheques to the Church need to be made out to Hurstbourne Priors P C C and not St Andrews Church as previously. The Clerk will re-issue a cheque as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDENCE: As previously mentioned two letters had been received in objection to plans for a Windfarm at Bullington Cross, and Mr Chalk had written with regard to the bridge fencing.

CLOSE OF THE MEETING: The Chairman thanked everyone for coming and closed the

meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm.
