

A Meeting of the Parish Council was held in the Village Hall at 8pm on Thursday, 26th. August, 2004.

PRESENT

Cllr. Draper in the Chair, Cllrs. Harris, Palmer and Mrs. Tilby. The Clerk, Borough Cllrs. Poulter and Saunders, and four members of the public were in attendance.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Williamson, and Cllr. Applegate had indicated that his arrival would be delayed.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes were signed as a true record of the Meeting held on 22nd. July, 2004.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Village Hall Liaison (MA p352)

The Action Report from the meeting on 28th. July was noted. The Clerk reported that the updating of the CCTV quotes had identified that digital recording now made the management of the system easier, and there was no longer a need to change tapes, so it looked as though it was a more viable proposition than previously.

The next Liaison Meeting will be on 20th. October, depending on the availability of youth advisers who would be invited to attend.

Village Hall Project (MA p.352)

Warranty list has been forwarded to Oakwood and some of the work has been completed. The Countryside Agency has been in touch asking for an update, because they are ending their Vital Villages grants and will not be paying out for much longer. Once PC has paid the retention it should be possible to claim £2641.02 in grant, if time has not run out.

Affordable Housing for Local People (p355)

Sandra Howard could not attend this evening, but attended an informal meeting last week to discuss tenure issues and explain procedures etc. Liz Best from CBC Housing was also present. All issues had been resolved to the satisfaction of those PC representatives present.

CORRESPONDENCE

a) Flood Siren Testing

It was noted that tests would take place on Tuesday, 7th. September between 11 and 11.50am.

b) P3 Social Events

There was no interest in attendance of the events at Galleywood and Hadstock.

c) Mark Francois MP

It was noted that Mark Francois MP had been in touch with CBC Planning by telephone and arranged for the comments in his letter, on the previous gypsy site planning application, that apply to the latest application, to be carried forward.

d) Correspondence from Residents to CBC Planning

Letters copied to PC had been circulated.

e) Smart Planning

Russell Forde of Smart Planning had written to request a meeting to discuss his planning application for affordable housing. As he was present at the Meeting it was unnecessary to consider this item.

f) Steve Packham, Chief Executive at CBC

An introductory letter was noted.

FINANCEa) Clerk's Salary

The pay rates from 1st. April 2004, and 1st. April 2005 as recommended by the National Joint Council were adopted as follows.

	From 1 st April 2004	From 1 st . April 2005
Hourly rate	£9.923 (2.85% rise)	£10.216 (2.95% rise)
Monthly rate	£575.53	£592.53
Annual salary	£6906.41	£7110.37
Office allowance	£182.38 (2.85% rise)	187.76 (2.95% rise)

b) Account Balances 31st. July, 2004

The cash book figures against budget were noted. The Account balances were noted as follows.

PO Savings Account	Deposit Account	Current Account
£7831.44	£11415.94	£9689.66

It was noted that there is £2992.32 retention to pay on Village Hall project.

c) Society of Local Council Clerks Annual Conference 16th-18th. October

It was agreed to contribute half of the delegate fee (RBPC having paid the other half), which would amount to £132.50 plus travel expenses to a maximum of the rail fare .

d) Village Hall Car Park Resurfacing

This item was deferred until the end of the Meeting

e) Payments

The following receipt was noted:

From	To Account	Amount £	Explanation
HM Customs & Excise	Current	1065.26	VAT refund 1/2/04-31/7/04

The following deduction from the 2nd half of the Precept, due in September, was noted:

Amount £	Explanation
1.00	Rent for allotment.

The following direct debits were noted:

To	Date	Amount £	Explanation	Power
Public Works Loan Account	11/09/04	435.47	Hall loan	LGA 1972 Sch 13 S1b
Public Works Loan Account	11/09/04	2376.45	Extension loan	LGA 1972 Sch 13 S1b

The following cheque signed between meetings was noted:

To	Cheque	NET £	VAT £	TOTAL £	Explanation	Power
The Printing Place 21/5/04	101387			206.00	Autumn Newsletter	LGA 1972 S142

The following cheques were signed:

To	Cheque	NET £	VAT £	TOTAL £	Explanation	Power
Hannas Field Charity	101384			12.50	Rent for July meeting	LGA 1972 Sch 12 S10
John Daldry Partnership	101385	3915.00 30.60	684.25	4629.85	Consultancy work & expenses	LGA 1972 S111
Derek Wybrow	101386	225.00 33.77 25.00 5.91		289.68	Seat repairs labour & materials, Noticeboard repairs labour & materials	LG(MP)A 1953 S4,CA1968 S27(5)
See above	101387					
Chelmsford Borough Council	101388			90.00	Two sports coaching sessions	LG(MP)A 1976 S19
K. Plumridge	101389			654.50	August salary & back pay, office allowance, back off.all., reimbursements, expenses	LGA 1972 S112
Hanna's Field Charity	101390			62.00	Rent for summer holiday activities	LG(MP)A 1976 S19
Chelmsford Borough Council	101391			45.00	Sports coaching in Whitsun break	LG(MP)A 1976 S19
SLCC	101392			132.50	Annual conference	LGA 1972 S111

TRAFFIC CALMING

a) Progress to Date

The antiskid surface had been laid. CBC had been unable to match the red surface, which runs through the rest of the village, so went for a 'neutral' colour. Pubs and shop are complaining that the Saturday road closures had not taken place but their business had suffered because customers were expecting the road to be closed. The 'button' for the mini roundabout had been laid, but the associated road markings had not. No work appeared to have been done for a week. A path was being laid joining the School Chase with the footpath opposite the Horseshoes and the new crossing in front of Endymion. Pooling was occurring in the road on the north side of the Bicknacre Road pinch point which the Clerk had already reported to CBC.

b) Encroachment on Village Green

Norman Robinson had written to the occupier of Endymion requesting that the fence be removed within a timescale. This has not happened so Highways will write a final demand for its complete removal. The ultimate sanction have is to remove it themselves and recover the costs from the occupier. N. Robinson has written, "Due to our failure, to date, to persuade them to remove the fence, the Parish Council's help in this might bring forward a more positive response".

c) Action to be Taken

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Rodney Bass and ask for a site meeting within the next week because of the lack of activity on site, the dangers of the unmarked mini roundabout and the need for completion before the school reopens and school buses resume. Rodney Bass is to be asked to contact the Chairman direct as the Clerk will be away.

The Chairman undertook to visit the occupiers of Endymion about the encroachment of the fence on the registered village green.

BROADBAND

a) Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report on the comparative costs and offers from a range of broadband providers was noted. Also, the Clerk's warning that it might soon be necessary to purchase extra memory for the computer was noted.

b) Action to be Taken

It was agreed that PC should pay half the monthly rent, amounting to £13.50 per month, for BT Yahoo Broadband. This will be a cost of between £26.80 and £42.45 above what might be expected for pay-as-you-go internet charges, and will be vired from reserves.

REASSESSMENT OF GROUNDWORK SCHEDULE

a) Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was noted.

b) Action to be Taken

Due to the number of options proposed in the Clerk's report, it was agreed that a Working Party should be formed to bring back a recommendation to the next Meeting. The Working Party should consist of Cllr. Harris, Palmer and Mrs. Tilby.

Cllr. Applegate arrived at this point.

VILLAGE FETE/FAIR

It was agreed that after the fete on 11th. September, PC should ask the Fete Committee for an informal feasibility meeting to discuss the possibilities.

PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

Cllr. Harris declared his prejudicial interest in the following two planning applications and left the Meeting.

04/01531/OUT Part OS Field 7783 North of Old Church Road (Outline application for provision of 12 dwellings for local affordable housing needs).

It was agreed to object to the application by sending the report compiled by the Clerk and Cllr. Amos, and distributed in the Cllrs. Agenda papers.

04/01586/FUL Land Opposite Alands Farm, Back Lane (Change of use from agriculture/grazing to private gypsy site incorporating access road, 3 hard standing plots and 3 amenity blocks).

It was agreed to object to the application and send the report compiled by the John Daldry Partnership as the Parish Council's response.

Cllr. Harris returned to the Meeting.

04/01476/FUL 20 & 22 Industrial Estate, Old Church Road (continuation of use of units without complying with condition 6 (personal condition) of application CHL/1591/87)

There was no objection to the removal of the personal condition.

b) TPO

It was noted that CBC has granted consent for the following works to take place on a protected tree at The Lawns.

TPO No.	TPO Ref:	Species	Location	Specification
2001/91	T2	Weeping willow	Eastern end of pond.	Remove up to 5 major secondary laterals over pond to balance canopy. Crown reduce & reshape remaining canopy by up to 2m to shape into mean canopy spread. Remove crossing branches.

FINANCE

d) Village Hall Car Park Resurfacing

This item had been deferred from earlier in the Meeting.

HFC had received three quotations for the work to the Chase and car park. It was agreed to contribute 50% of the cost of the lowest quote which was from Anderson. This would amount to £3747.50 plus VAT.

MATTERS FOR REPORT

a) Broken Street Lamp

The Clerk undertook to report to CBC the broken lamp by 24 Pease Place.

b) Ashley Wall

It was noted that Ashley Wall had attended the previous PC Meeting but had had to leave before being able to speak, and that he should be invited to speak first the next time he comes.

c) Hedge beside Horseshoes Garden

It was noted that although some earth had been cleared from the base of the hedge, more could be removed. Cllr. Amos undertook to attend a site meeting if the Clerk would arrange it with a CBC officer.

d) September Meeting

The Chairman and Cllr. Mrs. Tilby gave their apologies for absence from the next Meeting.

e) Planning Committee Meeting 14th. September

The Chairman undertook to represent PC at the Meeting.

f) Church Yard

There had been complaints received by councillors about overgrown graves. Complainants should be advised to make contact with the churchwardens, whose names would be on the Church noticeboard.

There being no further business the Meeting closed at 10.14.