



W E S T B E R G H O L T P A R I S H C O U N C I L

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held in the John Lampon Hall on 25th January 2012 at 7.30p.m.

Chair John Gili-Ross
 Parish Councillors Present Jenny Church, Bernard Colbron, Andrew Savage, David Short, Chris Stevenson, Harry Stone and Bob Tyrrell
 Parish Clerk Val Walsom
 Borough Councillors Present: Councillor Harrington and Councillor Willetts (arrived 8.10p.m.)
 Present: 2 members of the public who expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council

- 1 **Apologies for Absence** Apologies were received from Liz Harrington.
- 2 **Declaration of Interest** Chris Stevenson declared an interest in the planning application for Heathlands Primary School. Andrew Savage declared an interest in the planning application for Patten's Yard.
- 3 **Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2011 were approved as a true record with no amendments.
- 4 **Public - 'Have your say'** Rachel Young advised that Heathlands PTA would consider joining with the Parish Council in arranging Jubilee Celebrations this summer. A meeting to be organised
- 5 **Borough Councillor's Report** Councillor Harrington advised that:
 - Members of the public can report potholes directly to Councillor Harrington or Highways
 - Funding is available from the North East Parking Partnership. The PC will provide Councillor Harrington with a 'wish list' of areas for parking restrictions. It is not sure how much funding will be available after the backlog of work is completed. The end of January is the cut off point for requests
 - Chapel Lane will be closed for 3 days from 14/02/2012 for highways maintenance.
- 6 **Progress Reports for Information** Forthcoming courses, workshops and events:
 - EALC
 - 15/02/12 - Larger Council's Forum
 - 22/02/12 - How to Raise the Profile of Your PC
 - 07/03/11 - Councillor Training Day 1
 - 15/03/12 - Law and Procedures Course
 - 28/03/12 - Council Finance Course
 - Short style modular courses - Parish Councillors can chose from a number of topics to be delivered in short courses during the course of 1 day
 - ECC - Notification of Chitts Hill closures overnight in February
 - NALC - The Localism Act - EALC will be asked about the possibility of an in-house training session on this

- Planning Day to be held at Marks Tey Hotel on 07/02/12

7 **Finance and Policy Advisory**

Parish Precept

The Rate Support Grant this year is the same as last year. However, it is believed that this will be reduced to zero next year. Also, the Localism Act will prevent Councils from raising their Council Tax levels above a specified amount. This may be extended to Parish Councils, restricting how much they can increase their Tax levels. It was, therefore, proposed by AS and seconded by CS to increase the Precept by 5.3% to £42,208 - £1,369.50 equivalent number of Band D properties. This will give the Parish Council a budget of £50,595 for 2012/2013. This was agreed by 4 votes for and 3 against.

Orpen Memorial Hall hire rates are to increase by 2.5%.

The accounts for December 2011 were presented as follows:

The General Account showed 95% income, 39% general expenditure, 58% environment expenditure and 46% expenditure overall.

The Hall Account showed 76% income and 63% expenditure.

- Grants - The acoustic work in the John Lampon Hall has been completed. The £2000 grant from ECC Community Initiatives Fund will be claimed. We are still awaiting the outcome from the grant application for a youth shelter.
- County Broadband has now been connected to over 100 properties. We should start to receive a return on the investment. This will be chased.
- It was agreed to fund a County Broadband connection for the Clerk plus 50% of the monthly connection charge.
- It was agreed to purchase a laptop specifically for David Short's use but for ownership of the Parish Council. The budget is £500.
- Any Parish Councillor or employee who has specific use of equipment will have the option to buy or return it once they leave the Parish Council.

Expenditure

It was proposed by CS and seconded by DS to make the following payments:

Payment Details	Expense Purpose	Amount
GENERAL ACCOUNT		
David Kingaby	Webmaster	212.50
BTCV	Pond management	648.00
David Short	MUGA door closer and paint brush	51.64
Playquip Leisure	Play equipment repairs	2121.60
Inland Revenue	Tax/NI	80.60
ORPEN HALL ACCOUNT		
Hillaldam Coburn	Hall acoustic tiles	4140.00
Performing Rights Society	PRS/PPL Licence	799.45
V Walsom	Green bags/batteries	40.02
Elanar Technical Services	Boiler repairs	94.80
June Mayhew	Green bags/cleaning	66.86
Mike's Cleaning Services	Cleaning	500.00

Salary payments were made to Val Walsom, Gary Walls and Stephen Cook from the General Account and June Mayhew from the Hall Account.

8 **Village Bulletin, Website and Communications**

- 7 advertisers have left the Village Bulletin but there are 9 on the waiting list. We are currently awaiting the outcome of RCCE's Newsletter

- competition. The Village Bulletin has been shortlisted in the final. The cost of printing will increase by 1% this year. The deliverers' 'get together' will take place on Sunday 12/02/12 at 12p.m. in the hall.
- The website report had been received. There is no move forward on advertising on the website. This will be pushed after March.
 - There was nothing to report on Communications.
- 9 **Planning and Development** Minutes of the Planning and Development Committee meetings held on 08/12/11 and 18/01/12 were received.
- Following 3 objections to ECC application for the expansion of Heathlands Primary School John Gili-Ross has a slot to speak for 3 minutes at a meeting of the Minerals and Waste Planning Environmental Planning Committee on 27/01/12. He will speak about traffic issues and the Parish Council's view on the aesthetically poor design of the east facing view of the extension. Councillor Ann Brown will also be present.
 - Now that the Parish Council's Village Design Statement has been adopted by CBC, a Neighbourhood Plan could be the next step.
- 10 **Parish Plan** **Parish Plan Monitoring Report**
The Parish Plan Update - Monitoring of activities between 2009 and 2011 was received. This 8 page document will be an insert in the next Village Bulletin.
- Broadband Update**
A meeting will take place next month.
John Gili-Ross has produced a top 10 guide based on the Parish Council's broadband experience for NALC's magazine.
- 11 **Environment and Highways** Minutes of the Environment and Highways committee meeting held on 12/01/12 were received.
- Ducks have returned to the Queens Head pond. The pond needs clearing out. The main issue with this is getting rid of the waste. The committee will look at the possibility of chemical treatment.
 - Anti dog fouling posters put up near the old church have disappeared. New posters will be available shortly. The Dog Warden will be invited to the old church at 8a.m. when most incidents of dog fouling seem to occur.
 - It was agreed to order 2 dog bins at a cost of £375 each.
 - It was agreed to invite EALC to brief the Parish Council about the Localism Bill, at a time outside the Parish Council meeting.
 - Colchester Borough Homes will be carrying out a Neighbourhood tour of Bradbrook Cottages on 27/01/12. Councillor Harrington and David Short will attend.
- 12 **Traffic Working Party** There was no report.
It was felt that a one way system around Heathlands Primary School would not work. Parking restrictions would be a better option.
- 13 **Premises and Recreation** Minutes of the Premises and Recreation committee meeting held on 12/01/12 were received.
- Gary Walls will decorate the John Lampon Hall during a school holiday. Repairs to the entrance porch of the Orpen Memorial Hall will also be carried out at this time.
 - It was agreed that the Police Commissioner Election, to be held on 11/11/12 can be held in the John Lampon Hall. £200 will be charged for the hire of the hall.

- Heathlands PTA wrote to thank the PC for use of Poors Land for the Fireworks event. £10,480 was raised for the school. It was agreed that the event can be held again next year on 10/11/12.

MUGA

Harry Stone reported that the facility is being well used. Receipts and payments for the flood lights need to be carefully monitored.

- 14 **2012 Jubilee Celebration** Heathlands PTA would like to collaborate with the PC. A meeting will be organised as soon as possible. The PC will explore the possibility of having one of the 2012 beacons in the village.
- 15 **Correspondence** There was no further correspondence.
- 16 **Consideration of Items for the Next Agenda** Requests for donations. Expense claims for the year to be received before the next meeting
- 17 **Date of Next Meeting** Wednesday 22nd February 2012 - 7.30p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.25p.m.

Signed:

Date:

Position on Parish Council: