

HARPENDEN RURAL PARISH COUNCIL HERTFORDSHIRE

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Bell Room, St Mary's Church, Kinsbourne Green, on Wednesday 20 March 2019 starting at 7.30pm

Present: Parish Councillors Barrett (Chairman), Mrs Ayres, Holder and Newby-Ricci

Also in attendance: Andrew Reading (Parish Clerk)

1. Apology for absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Bell.

2. Declarations of interest

No interests were declared.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2019 were approved.

4. Matters Arising

Minute 12 - The Clerk said that a direct debit had been set up in order to pay the Annual Data Protection Registration fee.

Councillor Mrs Ayres said that she had obtained agreement for the £1 peppercorn rent for the triangle of Common land to be paid by standing order. The Clerk would organise the bank arrangements.

Minute 14 - The Clerk said that he had agreed with T P Jones, that the quarterly HRPC payroll fee be paid by standing order, as this was the most efficient way of making the payments.

It was RESOLVED that the Chairman and Vice Chairman sign the Standing order form to make quarterly payments of £19.50 including VAT, to T P Jones and Co.

5. Cheque Authorisations and review of expenditure

The Parish Council noted that expenditure to date during the financial year totalled £6,620 against income of £4,759. The Clerk said that as mentioned at the last meeting, moving to an arrangement whereby the Clerk was paid in year meant that a deficit had resulted due to the 2017/18 and 2018/19 salaries being paid in the same year.

The Clerk said that he had restated the budget for 2019/20 taking into account decisions taken at the last meeting. This now showed a small deficit of c.£250 was now anticipated, although it was possible that not all the projected expenditure would materialise.

The following cheques were approved and authorised.

	Cheque	Description	£
(i)	100611	Clerk Salary 2018/19	1621.94
(ii)	100612	HM Revenue and Customs	405.40
(iii)	100613	Clerk expenses April 2018 to 20 March 2019	236.85
(iv)	100614	St Nicholas PCC Room hire 20 March 2019	10.00

6. Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan

The Chairman reported that the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan had been approved at the Referendum held on 7 February 2019, with 89.39% voting in favour and 10.6% against. The St Albans Local Plan was still in draft form and would shortly be submitted to the Secretary of State. Once approved then the Harpenden Neighbourhood Plan would form a detailed part of the District Plan. However, planning applications in Harpenden would be considered in the context of the Neighbourhood Plan.

7. Application for Incinerator Plant at East Hyde

No planning application had been made to date.

8. St Albans District Association of Local Councils

The Chairman reported on the meeting held on 7 February 2019. This had been the last meeting of Councillor Weaver who was retiring at the forthcoming local elections. Representatives from St Albans District Council were in attendance to answer questions about the forthcoming elections.

9. London Luton Airport expansion

It was noted that London Luton Airport Limited (LLAL) had announced plans to increase the number of passengers to 32m per year, up from the current 18 mppa. LLAL would be working up a preferred option to develop proposals that would form the basis of a Development Consent Order application to the Government. This would be followed by a statutory consultation in the Autumn of 2019.

10. Trees on triangle of Common Land

The Clerk said that it would be a good idea to spend some of the £500 in the budget for special projects to inspect the trees on the triangle of Common Land to see first, that they were healthy and second, to see whether any pruning was required. Several of the trees had branches that overhung The Common.

The Parish Council agree that this was a prudent course of action and should be pursued. The Clerk said he would contact the District Council's Trees and Woodlands Officer in the first instance.

11. Planning applications and decisions to March 2019

The Parish Council considered a list of planning applications and decisions to February 2019. There were considered to be no significant matters within in the District. Councillor Mrs Ayres said that Luton Borough Council had recently given permission for a Business Park at junction 10 on the M1 adjacent to Stockwood Park Golf Club. This would help finance the new Luton Town football stadium. It was a huge development which included leisure facilities, shops, an 1800 capacity live venue, a hotel and car park with 3500 spaces and 550 apartments. There had been no consultation with the Parish Council on this matter. The Chairman said he would contact the Clerk at the Town Council to see if they had been informed.

Note: Subsequent to the meeting, following the Chairman's approach to the Town Council, it was clear that the Town Council was fully aware of the planning issue, and that this was being monitored.

12. HRPC Financial Regulations

The Clerk said that there were no changes that he wished to recommend to the Parish Council's Financial Regulations following on from the changes to permit internet banking approved in September 2017. The existing Financial Regulations were noted.

13. Standings Orders

The Clerk said that there were no changes that he wished to recommend to the Parish Council's Standing Orders. The existing Standing Orders were noted.

14. Parish Council elections- May 2019

The Clerk circulated a nomination paper, home address form and candidate's consent to nomination form to each Parish councillor to complete. The Clerk said that he would deliver the completed forms to the District Council at the end of March although the deadline was 3 April. The Clerk said he would deliver papers to Councillor Mrs Bell.

The Parish Council considered possible candidates who might replaced Councillor Newby-Ricci (minute 15 refers)

15. Tony Newby-Ricci

The Chairman said that this was Tony's last meeting, as he would not be standing for re-election, and thanked him on behalf of the Council. He said that Tony had joined the Council in 1998 and been Vice-Chairman since 2005.

16. Kinsbourne Green Common litter pick

The Chairman said that a litter clearance organised by local residents would be taking place this coming Sunday on Kinsbourne Green Common.

17. Fly tipping

The Chairman reported on instances of fly tipping in Kinsbourne Green Lane and Kennels Lane.

18. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting be held on 20 May 2019.

There being no other business the meeting ended at 8.30 pm

Clerk to the Council

Chairman