

WARESIDE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held at 8.00pm on Thursday 11th February 2016 in the Village Hall, Wareside

Present: Lynda Baker (Clerk) (LB), Councillor S Beavis (SB), County Councillor R Beeching, Councillor P Goodman (PG), Councillor R Northcote (RN), Councillor M Ryan (MR) (Chairman), Councillor G Sheridah (GS)

1. Apologies for absence.

Councillor S Richards and District Councillor R Brunton.

2. Open Forum

Attended by: Maureen Dunn, William Dunn and Mary Hicks.

WAR MEMORIAL An update on the upkeep of the War Memorial was requested by William Dunn. MR advised that two quotations had been received for the cleaning and maintenance of the Memorial and Base (Inspire Conservation £1,170.43 and Clive Smith Landscapes £1,410+ VAT), unfortunately although both companies were given the same brief the quotations were not similar in content so it was not possible to fairly compare the two. After much discussion, it was agreed that MR and William Dunn would meet with both companies on site and confirm the work required to be quoted for, i.e. including brickwork repair/replacement, and request updated quotations if necessary. GS had obtained information re a possible up to 50% Historic Building Grant for the maintenance of the War Memorial, and it was agreed that LB would apply for the grant based on the two existing quotes as it was understood that the grant availability was time restricted.

STREET LIGHTING Mary Hicks raised a concern re the number of street lights, in particular at Hillside Cottages, not functioning. LB advised that the street lamp at Hillside Cottages had not been working for sometime and that the residents had elected not inform Highways that it was not working as they preferred to have no light pollution. SB advised that she was aware of other street lights in the village also not working. MR informed those present that it was the responsibility of the residents to advise the Hertfordshire Highways of a fault via on-line reporting via East Hertfordshire District Council website. LB advised that she had recently received the annual invoice for street lighting and it was questioned as to which lights we were actually paying for, as the invoice did not state specific details LB was requested to find out.

SCHOOL PATH County Councillor R Beeching had been contacted by Mrs. Margaret Homewood re the safety of the school path, her concerns were registered. MR stated that he was aware that it was being inspected by an engineer two weeks ago.

3. Approval of minutes of parish annual council meeting held on 17th September 2015

Approved, signed by Councillor M Ryan.

4. Matters Arising

- a. **Traffic** re traffic from B1004 into the village driving far too fast, LB has contacted the Safer

Neighbourhood Team (Sgt Duncan Wallace and PCSO Karen Broad) and requested that they check vehicle speeds through the village. MR has contacted the Highways department to request that the "Give Way" markings are repainted as these are now practically non-existent (Fault Report 201007185/31). MR has also noticed that the 30mph signposts have faded significantly, MR has contacted the Highways department (Fault Report 201007527773). ***Update on status of faults required, MR to progress.***

- b. **Website** Agreed to discontinue progression of separate website for Wareside Parish Council. Usage of Wareside Community website (www.wareside.org.uk/council) meets our legal obligations and as we currently have a page already set up, it was agreed to post all relevant documents on there. LB to forward copies of minutes, financial data and details of meetings to Reverend Mark Dunstan to upload. All councillors to provide a photograph and short paragraph on self to upload to website. ***LB advised that the information had recently been passed to Reverend Mark Dunstan for uploading and that he would ask LB to approve prior to going 'live'.*** ***GS raised concern that the Webmaster (Reverend Mark Dunstan) was not a member or Clerk of the Wareside Parish Council.*** ***PG to review the Transparency legislation to ascertain whether this was a requirement, and also to ascertain if the council required a specific separate website.***
- c. **Allotments/Playing Field** LB advised that Zurich Insurance had confirmed that the leased land was covered by our existing insurance. SB asked if this meant that the Allotment Association did not require separate insurance for usage of the site, LB advised that they would still require separate insurance to cover their specific usage of the allotments.
- d. **Ware Charitable Trust** Tony Taylor-Moran represented us previously, SB volunteered to represent us going forward. MR to provide details of contacts and meeting dates to SB. **C/F**

5. Reports from members representing the Parish Council on outside organisations and attending meetings on behalf of the Council

a. County Councillors Report:

Following a high-level meeting between Hertfordshire's chancellor and the Government, the County Council has managed to secure additional funding in the Local Government Finance Settlement. However, the next few years will still be among the toughest Hertfordshire County Council will face as they balance the books while continuing to deliver services that are essential to supporting residents. This year, the Government grant has been cut by a third from £119m to £80m. So, even though the final Local Government Finance Settlement has offered additional funding of £7.8m in both 2016/17 and 2017/18, this grant reduction combined with the additional cost pressures from a growing and ageing population has resulted in a huge funding gap. To help bridge this, we are proposing a modest 1.99 per cent increase in council tax. Residents of the average Band D properties will see the county council's portion of their bill rise by £22.71 from £1,141.09 to £1,163.80. To help meet the growing cost of care for older and vulnerable adults, which is by far our biggest spend at £311m, we are also proposing to take up the Government's suggestion of a separate two per cent council tax increase to directly fund adult social care. This will add an extra £22.82 to the average Band D bill (bringing the total bill to £1,186.62) and raise a further £10m, which will directly support older people and those with physical disabilities, mental health needs and learning disabilities. Despite these increases to our income, we still have to save £124m over the next four years. This is on top of the £211m we have already saved since 2010 by being more efficient, innovative and working more closely than ever with our partners. We are always looking for ways to get the best value for your money, and over the next few years we will carry on finding innovative ways to reduce spending while ensuring the needs of residents are still met.

Princess Alexander Hospital is no longer offering stroke care, the unit has been closed. All East Hertfordshire patients will have to use the Lister Hospital in Stevenage. A stroke or suspected one needs looking at in one hour. If using an ambulance this may prove impossible. However, the unit at Lister Hospital will be very good, and hopefully will be able to compensate for delays.

b. District Councillor Report: No report received.

c. Policing Report: No report received.

6. PhoneBooth/Notice Board

LB to add phone booth to insurance once Wareside Parish Council takes ownership. Awaiting response from BT.

7. Neighbourhood Plan

Minutes of meeting held on 2nd November 2015 distributed. PG distributed document on "How to designate a neighbourhood area" for information. An article requesting parishioners interested in joining a steering group to assist in the process had been included in the Christmas 2015 Waresider, Mary Hicks was the only volunteer to date. Agreed that Steering Group would consist of LB, PG, Mary Hicks, RN and MR; date of next meeting to be arranged by LB.

8. Little Oak Heath (Allotments/Playing Field)

Finalised versions of Allotment documents agreed. Agreement between Wareside Parish Council and Wareside Allotment Association to be signed by both parties (each party to have a copy). The Tenancy agreement and Constitution and Rules documents to be forwarded to Tracey Brighty.

LB to obtain signed lease from Emmajane Taylor-Moran. ***Emmajane Taylor-Moran has been emailed and requested to forward to LB, LB to obtain duplicate from East Hertfordshire District Council if not received.***

GS distributed plan of layout of the site, he had also agreed with Nicholas Buxton to have the area highlighted on plan as "Playing Field" leveled. GS was requested by MR to put into writing specifically what he has agreed with Nicholas Buxton, and what, if anything, he proposes to do to the "Playground". GS had contacted Kevin Steptoe (Planning) and was advised that we would require "Change of Use" planning permission for the site. MR suggested that an article be included in the Waresider requesting member of the parish to get involved in the Playground development, MR to draft. LB to contact Julie MacLeod re to obtain feedback obtained from the community and to ascertain if she is still interested in being involved. Next step is to put together a proper planning document to progress funding applications. County Councillor R Beeching advised that Julia Davis (Stansted Abbots Parish Council) would be a good contact re progressing development of the Playground and Playing Field.

9. Planning

See attachment for details of planning applications.

Noted that 3/15/1910/FUL and 3/15/1911/LBC had been granted planning permission and that neither decision notice had addressed the concerns raised by the council over increased traffic on locals roads except at the entrance.

Despite three follow ups (2nd December 2015, 11th January 2016 and 11th February 2016) the East Hertfordshire District Council Planning department had still not responded to application X/15/0725/XTRA (raised on 6th November 2015); RN to continue to chase up.

10. Finance

- a. Spending for approval: Approved by all Councillors present, signed for by Councillors M Ryan and P Goodman.

Hertfordshire County Council (Invoice 1801848935) re Maintenance/Energy charge	£208.84
Zurich Municipal (Annual insurance premium)	£251.85

Wareside Village Hall (Invoice 82) re Hall hire for Council meetings	£60.00
Lynda Baker (Salary 01/08/14 to 29/02/2016)	£2,280.00
HMRC (Tax)	£570.00

Grant request received from Holy Trinity Church, Wareside for financial year 2016/2017. It was noted that the request was for a significant amount over that requested in 2015/2016, LB to contact Sarah Hart for an explanation re increase.

b. Bank Statement: Current Account £8,989.01, Reserve Account £5,517.74, Petty Cash: £9.30.

11. Litter Picking – Clean for the Queen

This will take place at 2pm on Saturday 5th March 2016. MR is liaising on behalf of Nicholas Buxton with Wendy-May Foster, Headteacher of Wareside C of E School.

12. Correspondence

The Sele School, 17 December 2015 re Proposed changes to admission rules 2017-2018. For information only, no action

East Herts Council, December 2015 re Consultation on the draft East Herts Environmental Crime Enforcement Policy 2015. Consultation ran until 24 January 2016. LB to scan document and issue.

13. AOB

- a) **Installation of a Bus Shelter at Kingham Road junction bus stop:** PG has written to Hertfordshire County Council (Highways).
- b) **Local Paper** It was suggested that Wareside raise its profile by including details of events being held in the village in The Mercury, Village section. LB to contact them to see how this can be accomplished. **C/F**
- c) **Wareside sign** LB to contact Highways department to see if they can replace the sign at the entrance to the village (on B1004 from Ware) as it went missing a few years ago. **Highways department is not responsible for Street/Village/Town name plates, it is the District Councils responsibility. LB has emailed relevant department at East Herts Council requesting that the missing sign be replaced.**

Next meeting date Thursday 17th March 2016 at 8:00pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 10.00 pm

Signed..... Date.....