

## South Mimms Parish Council

### Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in South Mimms Village Hall

**Present:** Councillor Ian Dempster - Chairman  
Councillors :- Paul Binstead, Yvonne Harverson, Kevin Solly and Kenneth Swayne

Ms B M Levy	Interim Clerk
PC Peter Godden	
Councillor John Usher	Divisional Councillor Hertfordshire County Council (for part of the meeting – arrival 8.20pm)
	17 members of the public

#### 1/09 APOLOGIES

All Members were present.

#### 2/09 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2008

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2008 were approved and signed as a correct record.

#### 3/09 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Members' interests.

#### 4/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following planning applications

**TP/08/1732** – Highway Agency ER Control, St Albans Road – Refurbishment of existing Highways Maintenance Depot. New glazed entrance, minor alterations to provide new windows and new mess room to be created within the existing maintenance vehicle parking area.

**TP/08/1763** – NIBSC, Blanche Lane – construction of emergency service access from Crossoaks Lane to an access road within the site

**TP/08/1792** – New Grange, Blanche Lane – Proposed conversion of existing garage into residential unit

**TP/08/1854** – St Teilo, St Albans Road – proposed two-storey rear extension

After considering the plans it was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to the applications for the Highways Agency ER Control (TP/08/1732) and St Teilo (TP/08/1852), to make no objection to the plan for NIBSC (TP/08/1763) provided that the proposed access was used solely for emergency service access and to object to the proposal for New Grange on the grounds of encroachment into the Green Belt.

The Chairman reported that the Parochial Church Council of St Giles, South Mimms was about to submit a proposal for alterations inside the church to the Diocese of St Albans. The alterations were to provide facilities for disabled people, better access and removal of unsightly equipment. The Parochial

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Church Council had the support of the congregation and, as it was required to consult widely, it was also seeking the support of the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED** that a letter of support be sent to the Church

**5/09 SCHEDULES OF PAYMENTS**

Schedules of accounts in the sum of £442.41 (attached) were **RECEIVED** and **CONFIRMED**

**6/09 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT**

**NOTED** that under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 it was the duty of every public authority to adopt and maintain a publication scheme. The Information Commissioner who was responsible for overseeing the provisions of the Act had changed the emphasis in the approval and operation of publication schemes to a generic model which needed to be adopted and operated by all public authorities from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009. The model committed a public authority to produce and publish the method by which specific information would be available so that it could be easily identified and accessed by members of the public. A local council would be in breach of the Act if it had not adopted the model scheme and/or was not publishing in accordance with it by that date

As the Parish Council was only created on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 the number of documents produced so far and therefore available to the public was very limited.

**RESOLVED** that the publication scheme (attached at APPENDIX A) be approved and adopted.

**7/09 HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

The Local Highways Manager had responded to all the matters raised with him. Some items were due to completed in the current financial year, some in the next financial year and he had requested further information on some issues.

**RESOLVED** that the list be reduced and prioritised and that a further meeting with the Highways Manager be sought.

**8/09 BUDGET 2009/10**

The Council considered and **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for 2009/10 (attached at APPENDIX B) and to request a precept of £10,000 from Hertsmere Borough Council.

**9/09 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED** that the schedule of meetings for 2009/10 be approved and that the Annual Parish Meeting be held prior to the Council Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> March commencing at 7.30pm

**10/09 MINOR WORKS**

It was **NOTED** that Hertsmere Borough Council had not yet replaced the 'No Dogs' sign on the Glebeland and that the temporary earth mound to prevent a further encroachment of Gypsies needed to be replaced with a permanent barrier. **RESOLVED** that Hertsmere Borough Council be requested to expedite these works.

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It was also NOTED that many of the footpaths were still covered with leaves and it was agreed that a volunteer be requested to sweep them up.

**11/09 HERTFORDSHIRE CONSTABULARY – CRIME STATISTICS**

PC Godden reported that since November there had been one assault causing actual bodily harm, 8 thefts from motor vehicles, 2 burglaries, and 6 cases of criminal damage and a number of number plate thefts.

**12/09 PUBLIC SESSION**

The Chairman invited questions from members of the public about items on the agenda.

A member of the public described an incident where a dog which was off the lead had attacked another animal. He enquired whether it was a legal requirement for a dog to be on a lead as there had been a number of cases where aggressive dogs had appeared out of control. PC Godden reported that it was not illegal for a dog to be off the lead. It was suggested that an item be placed in the Parish Newsletter about responsible dog ownership.

Reference was made to the disgraceful state of the churchyard and PC Godden agreed to enquire whether some people who had been sentenced to community service could be employed to clear it.

Following a discussion about traffic speeding along St Albans Road PC Godden agreed to arrange for a speed check to be carried out between the chicane and the roundabout.

A Member of the public pointed out that a manhole cover in the passageway by the Murco garage was in a dangerous state. Councillor Harverson said she had a contact at Hertsmere Borough Council and would follow it up.

Reference was made to the vandalism in the area, particularly to the Christmas Tree, as a number of lightbulbs had been removed and strewn along the ground, and also to the telephone box. PC Godden reported that he had arrested two people for damaging the phone box and that the situation was being monitored

**13/09 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held at 7.30 pm on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009 in South Mimms Village Hall

**14/09 CLOSURE**

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chairman .....

Date .....