

South Mimms Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Thursday 7th October at South Mimms Village Hall

Present: Councillor Ian Dempster Chairman
Councillors Paul Binstead, Mark Edwards,
Yvonne Harverson and Kenneth Swayne
Mrs H. Rook Clerk
16 members of the public

75/10 APOLOGIES

All members were present.

76/10 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2010

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 2nd September 2010 were approved and signed as a correct record.

77/10 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Edwards declared an interest in planning application number TP10/1199 Ingham Lodge, Greyhound Lane EN6 3NU, and also as a member of St Giles, South Mymms Parochial Church Council. Councillor Ian Dempster declared an interest in planning application number TP10/1919 Cottage, Knightsland Farm, St Albans Road, EN5 4RE

78/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following applications were previously considered by the Parish Council and decisions reached by Hertsmere Borough Council:-

TP/10/0191 – New Grange, Blanche Lane, South Mimms, EN6 3NZ - Insertion of 3 x dormer windows to front & 3 x dormer windows to rear elevations at ancillary residential block (retrospective application).

Hertsmere Borough Council Decision – Permission Refused.

TP/10/0905 – The Green Dragon, St Albans Road, South Mimms EN6 3PJ – Change from customer car park to children's play area together with soft and hard landscaping to front of public house and alterations to existing access.

Application withdrawn.

TP/10/1271 – Land Adjacent to Connect Plus Services, St Albans Road, South Mimms EN6 3ND – Construction of a 50m long 1.2m wide footpath to provide a safe means of access for staff between car parking area and the office building with associated street lighting.

Hertsmere Borough Council Decision – Permission Granted.

TP/10/1600 – Clare Hall Laboratories, Blanche Lane, South Mimms EN6 3LD – Variation of condition 3 attached to planning permission TP/10/0196, so the development can be used for medical research only.

Application not yet decided.

TP/10/1199 – Ingham Lodge, Greyhound Lane, South Mimms EN6 3NU – Replacement of existing boundary fences with wooden fence panels and concrete posts (Retrospective Application).

Application not yet decided.

The following application was considered at the meeting:-

TP/10/1919 – Cottage, Knightsland Farm, St Albans Road, EN5 4RE – Alterations to roof to single storey side extension from a flat roof to a mansard style roof and alterations to windowsill heights, positions and fenestration details.

RESOLVED that no objection be made.

79/10 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

Schedules of accounts as follows (attached) were **RECEIVED** and **CONFIRMED**:-

27 th September 2010 – Cheques 54-55	-	£601.91
7 th October 2010 – Cheques 56-57	-	£ 53.23

80/10 AUDIT FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2010

The Conclusion of Audit had been received from the External Auditor, BDO and the Notice of Conclusion had been displayed on the two village notice boards since 16th September 2010. The relevant sections of the Annual Return and the Auditors Report were appended. The Council NOTED the report of the External Auditor. There were two issues arising:

Fidelity Guarantee – The Council does not have fidelity guarantee cover. A local council, under S114 of the Local Government Act 1972, must take security as it considers sufficient in the case of any of its officers likely to handle its money. A council does not have to have fidelity guarantee insurance if it considers that no security is 'sufficient' but there must be objective grounds for such a conclusion.

Consideration was given to a quotation obtained from Tennyson Insurance Ltd which included Fidelity Guarantee cover of £25,000 at an annual premium of £220.00. The insurance also covers public liability, official's indemnity, employer's liability and All Risks for the two council owned benches. It was AGREED that the quotation be accepted.

Fixed Assets – The Council has disclosed its fixed assets at a £nil value.

A Fixed Assets Register would be created for the two benches purchased at a total cost of £900.

The Chairman reported that Mr Peter Cameron had been approached and he had confirmed he was willing to perform the Internal Audit for the year ending 31st March 2011 and the council AGREED this unanimously.

81/10 WARD INITIATIVE FUNDING

The application to Hertsmere Borough Council for a grant under the Ward Initiative Scheme to fund the Senior Citizen's Christmas Outing had been turned down, the reasons given that the proposal would only benefit a small section of the community and did not give any long term benefit to the community. It would be possible to put in a new application and ideas/suggestions were sought that would fit the criteria of providing long term benefit to the community, accessible to all and there being a demonstrable need.

82/10 ST GILES CHURCH

A meeting had been held between members of the St Giles South Mymms Parochial Church Council and South Mimms Parish Council to discuss ways of improving the security of the churchyard. A proposal to install lighting in the churchyard and also to light up the church itself were considered. Councillor Edwards reported that although a majority of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) were in favour of the proposed lighting, concern had also been expressed that this might encourage rather than deter the nuisance behaviour in the churchyard. It was suggested that funding could be sought from the Ward Initiative Scheme for churchyard lighting and quotations were needed from the PCC in order to submit an application to Hertsmere Borough Council. Councillor Edwards would ask the PCC to obtain quotes.

Consideration was also given to writing to The Burns Trust requesting the entrance to the Mausoleum be blocked off to prevent youths gathering. It was also suggested that a letter be sent to McMullen's asking for improved lighting at the back of the White Hart pub car park, the trees along the fence to be pruned and repairs/replacement of the fence between the pub car park and the churchyard. It was proposed these two letters be sent jointly from both councils (church and parish) as this would represent a wider section of the community.

83/10 HIGHWAYS

A meeting had been held with Patrick McKeown, Assistant District Manager (Hertsmere) to discuss whether it would be possible for Highways to install a width restriction at the entrance to the lay-by in St Albans Road by the gate to St Giles Churchyard. This proposal had previously been discussed at a meeting between the St Giles South Mimms Parochial Church Council and South Mimms Parish Council and Church Wardens were supportive. Although a 'No Overnight Parking' sign had recently been installed in the lay-by, HGV's were still using this area at night. This proposal would come under the Highways 'development' budget for which there was a long waiting list, and the proposal would be added to the list. It was not expected that anything would happen in the near future.

Other highways issues discussed at the meeting were the resurfacing of Blanche Lane. This is in the Integrated Works Programme for 2010/11, although a start date was not yet available. The vent in Greyhound Lane (by Cedar House) has now been pumped out and the drains unblocked and it appears this issue has been resolved.

The road surface in Brookside requires repairs/patching and this was noted. Salt Bins have been requested at the top of Blackhorse Lane and along St Albans Road by the entrance to St Giles Avenue, although the parish council had been advised that orders for this winter had already been placed and we may be too late.

The central white lining in St Albans Road from the Service Station into the village was reported as needing repainting, however, the Highways representative did not feel this was a priority.

Weight Restrictions on village roads, and in particular Earls Lane and Blanche Lane, had been raised prior to the parish council meeting and an email from a local resident had been circulated to all councillors. Concern was also expressed regarding activities at Earls Farm and a constant flow of HGV's to/from the Farm.

It was AGREED to contact the Planning Enforcement Officer and also the Traffic Enforcement Officer to establish if and how weight restrictions are legally enforceable.

84/10 CRIME REPORT

Hertfordshire Constabulary had apologised for not being able to attend the meeting but had sent a report based on all calls logged to the police via both the emergency 999 and non-emergency 0845 3300222 numbers for anti-social behaviour related incidents in South Mimms village. In the 90 days up to 6th October 2010 there were 16 logs on the police computer system which referred to youth related anti social behaviour directly affecting or caused by local residents. This included nuisance mopeds and vehicles, youths hanging about, and nuisance behaviour. The police were organising diversionary activities over the Halloween period to help reduce anti social behaviour and details were provided to residents at the meeting and would be posted on village notice boards.

Councillor Dempster had attended the Shenley Community Safety Partnership meeting in September when it was reported that anti social behaviour in South Mimms was being prioritised.

85/10 LITTER BINS

Following a meeting with Street Scene Services of Hertsmere Borough Council, three new litter bins had been installed in the village - in the alleyway into Brookside, at the bottom of Blanche Lane and outside St Giles Church. Residents were encouraged to use the bins. There was also weekly litter picking by HBC.

SM15

86/10 SENIOR CITIZENS OUTING

The grant applied for under the Ward Initiative Scheme to fund the outing had been refused. A list of expenditure had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting and it was AGREED unanimously that the parish council fund the Christmas Outing which would be open to all residents of South Mimms over the age of 18 years. It was proposed and AGREED unanimously that Councillor Harverson run the outing.

87/10 APPLICATION FOR GRANTS

An application had been received from The White Hart Pub for funding towards new equipment and shirts for players taking part in The Annual Village Cricket Match held on the Sunday of the August Bank Holiday. Although the council was sympathetic to the application it was suggested in the first instance, a letter be written to the pub suggesting they ask the brewery for funding as it was the brewery that benefited from the event.

An application for funding had also been received from the South Mimms Mother and Toddler Group held at the South Mimms Village Hall for £500 towards a new bookcase and a supply of art and craft materials. It was AGREED to grant £500 to the Group to be spent on those items listed and receipts be obtained for the Parish Council records.

88/10 LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEM FOR VILLAGE HALL

The Village Hall had a microphone system that had recently been used at the Village Hall Quiz Night and the SMVHMC would be asked if they could make provision for the parish council to use it if necessary.

89/10 WEBSITE

A quotation for £150 development fee and an ongoing £100 annual hosting fee had been obtained from parishcouncil.net to set up and host a basic website. The basic package includes domain name, website hosting, 10 email accounts, content management system, secure document archive, minutes and agendas, calendar of meetings and events, news editor, website links editor, 2 ordnance survey maps, live local travel report feeds, live local weather feeds, councillors details, 7 day technical support and updates, fully automated site monitoring. The package also includes one additional website feature eg. online newsletter. It was AGREED unanimously to go ahead with the website package as outlined.

90/10 PUBLIC SESSION

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

Continuing traffic problems in Blanche Lane were reported partly caused by parked cars.

It was requested that Cancer Research be contacted to explore whether an entrance could be opened for traffic directly from the A1.

It was suggested that the primary school might consider building a second entrance into the school from St Albans Road.

It was reported that a new water main was to be installed in Blanche Lane and the proposed resurfacing works should not be carried out until the water main work was completed.

The vent in Greyhound Lane would need to be checked again after all the leaves had fallen to see if the drains needed unblocking.

It was reported that Countryside Management Services (CMS) had organised a walk along the bridle path from Brookside at the beginning of October to try to encourage volunteers to help clear up the area. CMS had proposed various work including upgrading the bridge into the play area to make it wheelchair

SM16

accessible, improving the Dutch bridge at the entrance to the bridle path, removing various dead trees and generally improving the area particularly the meadow at the back of Brookside. CMS also proposed that the gate and fence at Brookside into the bridle path be removed. Concern was expressed as the gate and fence were a good deterrent to motorbike users and also acted as a 'pen' for horses in the event of a fallen rider. The Clerk would make contact with CMS to try to obtain further information and a time scale of the proposed work.

91/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for Thursday 4th November 2010 at 7.30 pm in South Mimms Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Chairman

Date