

ST. IPPOLYTS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of St. Ippolyts Parish Council held on Monday 8th January 2024 at St Ippolyts Parish Hall.
Welcome to the Meeting of St Ippolyts Parish Council.

ATTENDANCE DETAILS

Cllrs. Mrs Pamela Skeggs (Chairman), Mrs Rebecca Elliott, Mr Peter Hobson, Mr Robert Moore, Mrs Jane Lintott, Mr Daryl Hayler and Mrs Louisa Knapp.

In attendance: Four members of the public with clerk Mrs Susan Mears.

Also present: NHC Community Partnerships Officer Ms Laura Hartley, HCC & NHC Cllr Mr Richard Thake and NHC Cllr Mrs Claire Strong.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Mr Jon Marsh and NHC Cllr Mr David Barnard

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda should be declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Copies of the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023 have been circulated to each member of the Council.

Resolved. The minutes be approved as a true and accurate record of the procedures and be duly signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Residents discussed concerns over vehicle speed on Waterdell Lane, see also item 6. Cllr Mr Thake advised there is no current budget for a speed survey, but concerns have been noted for a future survey. A discussion on obtaining neighbour support took place and Cllr Mrs Strong discussed the "Community Speed Watch" Police initiative. Cllr Mrs Skeggs mentioned item was in a previous Parish Council Newsletter and council supports campaign for 20mph limits.

A resident discussed difficulties in crossing Stevenage Road near Blackhorse Lane and requested a signal-based crossing, clerk noted the residents name and will refer matter to HCC Cllr Mr Keith Hoskins.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, POLICE AND OTHERS

NHC Community Partnerships Officer Laura Hartley introduced herself and her role within the Southern Rural Area, support and connecting through networking groups discussed. Southern Rural Area Forum meets every three months including online. Cllrs Mrs Skeggs and Mrs Elliott suggested a tour of the parish can be arranged.

Cllr Mrs Strong advised Air Ambulance at next Area Forum meeting. Matters from NHC discussed new leisure contract and new waste management contract with once every three-week collections. Cllr Mrs Strong discussed removal of some roadside litter bins has taken place and staff shortages. NHC Local Plan process to start to be reviewed. The refusal of the proposed solar farm on land south of Wymondley Substation and Sperberry Hill discussed, scheme at Breachwood Green under consultation.

Cllr Mr Thake referred to "white line refreshing" discussions with Highways.

Resolved Clerk to collate list.

Cllr Mr Moore referred to previous discussion on a traffic sensor, Cllr Mr Thake advised no justification at present.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

The Bull PH. Telephone message received regarding previous sign. Emails circulated regarding short term rental of rooms, clerk contacted NHC Planning Thomas Howe and received reply that decision to be made by NHC.

Resolved Clerk to chase decision.

Email received regarding ownership of unofficial parking area, junction Waterdell Lane and High Street, Gosmore, clerk responded this is not parish council land and had been advised it belonged to Herts County Council. Gary Henning HCC confirmed it is shown on records as public highway. Clerk requested plan.

Email circulated to councillors regarding a contribution to the proposed Herts County Council Gosmore Footpath scheme. Cllr Mrs Skeggs responded as HCC scheme it may better to have legal document between Developer and

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HCC.

Resolved It was agreed council happy to support and endorse the HCC Gosmore Footpath Scheme.

Resident on-going concerns regarding speeding along Waterdell Lane referred to Cllr Mr Thake, response circulated to councillors and resident and noted matter referred to police. See item 4.

23/02399/EC Mast and equipment. Email sent to NHC Thomas Howe to retrospectively request that the mast is disguised and to minimise visual impact of any equipment. Cllr Mr Moore referred to equipment to be painted green.

Email received regarding possible funding for toddler group, clerk replied and referred to NHC website Community Grants no parish council funding available.

Clerk contacted NHC IT Services Kevin Abbiss who advised to save attachments then send to avoid encryption issues.

7. UPDATE ON ON-GOING MATTERS AND AGREE NEXT ACTIONS

a) Chairman's update.

Parish Hall Christmas Fair was well attended and successful event. The next Parish Hall management meeting is on 24th January. Nativity Crib Festival wonderful display with stories to tell about them.

St Ippolyts school children are using the Parish Hall for indoor PE lessons while their hall is not available due to roof works. There has been a suspicious individual coming into peoples' gardens late at night, please report sightings to the Police.

b) Consultations

HCC Budget Spending 2024-25. Deadline 28.01.24. www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/budget24-25

c) Maintenance and repairs

St Ippolyts Football Pavilion. St Ippolyts Football Club reported issue with side door but have now paid for a contractor to repair it.

Annual inspection reports from NHC:

Dell Field:

Spring Horse - paint has worn off metalwork. Rub down and repaint.

Slide - Graffiti

Flat Swing - bushes missing or worn.

Safety matting - Clean

Recreation Ground:

Safety matting - Clean

Steel Fence - repair damaged section

Spring hedgehog - Graffiti. Remove weeds on safety matting.

Flat Swing - Rust treat, bushes missing or worn.

Double fitness station – Replace instruction label.

Step up Station - Provide instruction label.

5 a side goal posts - Rub down and repaint, re-instate ground. Cable ties have been used on the item and there are sharp projecting ends, remove if not required or replace with a more appropriate alternative fixing method if used as a fixing.

Gosmore Village Green:

Safety Matting - Clean

Swings – bushes missing or worn

St Ippolyts Village Green:

Grass Area path to side of school at entrance, Vegetation, Brambles need cutting back.

Trees, require crown lifting to above head height, especially large Prunus by path and over bench low branches need crown lifting well above head height.

Resolved Clerk to obtain quote.

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d) Play areas, equipment and pavilion visual inspection

Councillors received the play areas, equipment and Football Pavilion visual inspection rota 2024 and requested the visual inspection rota is signed at the meeting.

Resolved Agreed by councillors.

8. PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

23/02593/FPH at 87 Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts. Single storey side/rear extension following demolition of existing attached garage and workshop.

Resolved It was agreed between meetings adopting scheme of delegation there was no objection.

23/02784/FPH at Grassways, Newlands Lane, Hitchin. Installation of one freestanding air source heat pump.

Resolved It was agreed there was no objection.

23/02695/FPH at 41 Stevenage Road, St Ippolyts. Erection of one detached 2-bed dwelling including creation of vehicular access off Stevenage Road.

Resolved It was agreed to raise the objection, it is incongruous overdevelopment for this location.

23/01659/LBC at Brookend Farm House, St Ippolyts. Replacement front door, door case and pediment.

Resolved It was agreed to support.

b) NHC Planning Decisions

22/00709/FP at Land To The South Of Wymondley Substation And South Of Sperberry Hill St Ippolyts. Proposed solar farm measuring 35.5 hectares with associated battery storage and ancillary infrastructure (as amended by revised and additional information November 2022). Refused 22.11.23.

23/02593/FPH at 87 Waterdell Lane, St Ippolyts. Single storey side/rear extension following demolition of existing attached garage and workshop. CP 15.12.23.

23/02795/EC Telecommunications Equipment On Grass Verge Between London Road And 3 Chestnut Walk London Road Hitchin. Installation 20m monopole supporting 6no. antennas, 1no. cabinet and ancillary works thereto following removal of 12.5m pole with three antennas. No objection 19.12.23.

23/01560/FP Erection of one detached 2-bed dwelling including creation of vehicular access off Stevenage Road 41 Stevenage Road St Ippolyts. Withdrawn 27.11.23.

23/02801/TCA The Village Green High Street Gosmore Ash - 30% reduction, remove all deadwood. No Objection 20/12/2023

9. FINANCE

a) Payments and Receipts

The following payments were requested:-

- a) £83.82 (inc £13.97 VAT) from John O Conner (Litter bins November)
- b) £6205.80 (inc. £1034.30) from Richard Dawes (Grounds Maintenance 2023)
- c) £240.00 (inc. £40.00 VAT) from North Herts Council (four annual inspection reports)
- d) £83.82 (inc £13.97 VAT) from John O Conner (Litter bins December)
- e) £5.20 from Clerk (Travel Allowance)
- f) £121.47 (inc £6.62 VAT) from Clerk (Admin-ink, stationary, IT support, postage zoomx2)
- g) £54.06 (inc. £9.01 VAT) from Talk Talk (Phone and broadband)
- h) £782.32 from Clerk (January Salary)

Additional item received:

£54.06 (inc. £9.01) from Talk Talk (phone and broadband December)

Resolved The total payment of £7630.55 was approved.

No receipts were submitted.

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b) Orders and Quotations

Quote received and circulated from Stephen Westwood for Dell Field to replace 3 wooden posts and supports and 2 rails £210.00 To re-generate the steps by raking the wood bark and removing the weeds, £30.00. (Exc. VAT)

Resolved Agreed, order placed.

Further information regarding the quote received for replacement Football and Bowls Pavilion architectural services obtained as requested and a discussion took place.

Resolved It was agreed to instruct Lobs Design Architectural Services.

Quotes received and circulated for tree survey.

Resolved It was agreed to accept Maydencroft Ltd quote

d) Budget 2024-2025

Draft circulated to councillors. A discussion took place.

Resolved Councillors unanimously agreed approval of the 2024-25 draft budget. The Clerk will issue the final version to Councillors and add to the Parish Council website. A copy will be sent to NHC to request a precept of £35,000 by precept submission date 26th January.

10. DATES OF MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7:30pm at St Ippolyts Parish Hall.

Meeting dates for 2024 agreed as follows: -

Monday: 11 March, 8 April (inc. Annual Parish Meeting), 13 May (AGM), 10 June, 8 July, 9 September, 14 October, and 11 November.

All meetings start at 7.30pm, except for the April meeting which starts at 7.15pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.36pm.