



Shenley Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 2 FEBRUARY 2021, AT 7.30PM REMOTELY, VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Councillors Justine Ash, Rosemary Gilligan, Annie Keen, Gavin O'Sullivan, Anthony Spencer, Natalie Susman and William Susman

In attendance:

- Amanda Leboff, Clerk to the Council
- 32 members of the public were present at its most

89/20.21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were submitted from County Councillor Morris Bright

90/20.21. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Councillors Gilligan, Keen and Spencer declared a personal interest in the item concerning Shenley Park Trust. Councillors N Susman and W Susman declared a personal interest in questions relating to Shenley Playing Field and item 98/20.21.

91/20.21 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5th JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting, held on the 5th January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record, and to be signed by Cllr Susman and adopted by the Council.

92/20.21 REVIEW OF ACTION PLAN FROM ABOVE MEETINGS

The Action plan was **NOTED**.

93/20.21 MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26th JANUARY 2021

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting, held on the 26th January 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and adopted by the Council.

94/20.21 PUBLIC ISSUES

The chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee updated the meeting with regards to the Neighbourhood Plan. On the 4th December 2020, Hertsmere Borough Council released regulation 18 statement. The decision statement confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan will be going to Referendum on 6th May 2021. The community are encouraged to support the referendum. The Plan is already a significant consideration for the whole of the Shenley Parish. The chair thanked everyone involved for all their support.

The chairman took the opportunity to thank the chair and vice-chair of the Neighbourhood Plan committee for all their hard work in getting the plan to its current stage.

At this point, the chair of the meeting was handed over to Councillor Gilligan.



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Councillor Gilligan then invited the Clerk to read the questions that had been submitted in advance of the meeting. Followed by statements submitted by both County Councillor Morris Bright (Appendix 1) and William Susman (Appendix 2). Several other members of the public were invited to ask questions.

The questions asked related to updates regarding the purchase of land by two of the Parish Councillors, in their private capacity. Residents are still passionate about this matter.

At this point the Chair was handed back to William Susman

A question was asked why there was a section of the meeting excluding the press and public. This was answered by the Chairman and the meeting was assured that the section mentioned would of course be minuted for all Councillors to approve.

The meeting was then asked if there had been any development regarding the Christmas lights and the condition of the lamp posts that resulted in half the Christmas lights not being able to be used as the lamp posts were not deemed safe enough to hold their weight. The chairman updated the meeting with regards to replacement lamp posts that County Council have said will happen. The meeting went on to discuss the quality of work being produced by Ringways on behalf of County Council. The meeting **AGREED** that Ringways will be contacted and this will be passed on.

It was also suggested by a member of the public, that if money were needed for Christmas Decorations, perhaps this could be put to the Community for support.

The meeting was asked for an update regarding the derelict police station on Harris Lane. They were told this is privately owned by an offshore company, therefore very difficult to get hold of.

The chairman thanked everyone for their questions.

95/20.21 REPORTS OF COMMITTEE, MEMBERS AND CLERK

(i) Keep Tidy Signage

The meeting was addressed by a resident who suggested several slogans. The meeting agreed this was a great idea, but that the wording had to be correct. It was AGREED that this would be put on the Facebook page to allow residents to decide on the most appropriate wording. It was also suggested that the local schools be contacted once the slogan is agreed and the children should be asked to design a poster to be used in a local campaign.

(ii) Update on Hertsmere Local Plan
Nothing to report

(iii) Salt Bin Filling



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The chairman informed the meeting that County Council only fill the salt bins that they have supplied. The Parish Council have some stock of salt for other bins and if people want the salt, they can contact the Parish Council to arrange this.

(iv) Allotments

The meeting **NOTED** there will be an allotment committee meeting in March.

(v) The Spinney

Nothing to report.

(vi) Action for a Cleaner Shenley – Update

The meeting was informed that the team will be going out on Sunday 7th February, and that the number of volunteers has grown. The meeting thanked the team for their continued hard work.

(vii) Community Payback Scheme – Update

Nothing to report.

(viii) Harris Lane/Rookery Field/Pursley Field

The meeting was informed that the sub-lease for Pursley Field is being finalised. The meeting appreciated that the clubs funding is dependent on the lease. The meeting went on to discuss a more secure gate being installed at the field following the break in. It was **AGREED** that the cost of the new gate be put on the March agenda, with the suggestion that the Parish Council contribute towards half the cost.

(ix) Media Committee

Nothing to report.

(x) Shenley Community Activities Group

Nothing to report.

(xi) Police Update

Nothing to report.

(xii) Shenley Park Trust

The meeting was informed that the carpark is often full, as is the children's playground, and this was worrying due to Covid-19 and the current restrictions. It was then discussed whether the car park should be closed as it was on the previous lockdowns and that it was suggested that this was put to the Trustees.

(xiii) Shenley Village Hall

Nothing to report.



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96/20.21 FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (i) The Accounts for payment for January 2021 were received and it was: -
Following a proposal and seconder, it was: **-RESOLVED** that the monthly Accounts for payment in January 2021 totalling £7,802.79 be **APPROVED**.
- (II) Following a proposal and seconder, it was: **-RESOLVED** that the monthly budget monitoring reports for December 2020 be **APPROVED**
- (iii) Grant Requests using the General Power of Competence: -
There were none
- (iv) Following a proposer and a seconder it was **AGREED**: -
To give Borehamwood 2000 football club £350 to cover the insurance excess due to the theft of their equipment from Pursley Field.

97/20.21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED** under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press and broadcast media be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest due to confidential nature of the business to be transacted, namely to consider professional legal advice.

98/20.21 TO DISCUSS COUNSEL'S ADVICE REGARDING LAND AT PINKS COTTAGE, RECTORY LANE, SHENLEY, HERTFORDSHIRE, WD7 9AW

Following a lengthy discussion, it was **AGREED** that: -

- The Parish Council would not be seeking a Judicial Review regarding planning application 20/1450/FUL - Land at Pinks Cottage, Rectory Lane, Shenley, Hertfordshire, WD7 9AW. "Demolition of existing buildings and erection of replacement 2 storey, detached, 5-bedroom dwelling to include landscaping, access and installation of rear outdoor swimming pool, tennis court, double garage, log store and storage shed."
- The Parish Council will be instructing counsel to write a letter to Hertsmere Borough Council highlighting various issues with their determination of the application. This will not be a pre-action protocol letter.
- The Parish Council will instruct a barrister to reword SH3 of the Shenley Neighbourhood Plan.

99/20.21 The meeting ended at 9.30p.m.

Chairman

ACTION LIST - 2ND FEBRUARY 2021

PROVISION	ACTION	BY	ACTION
Pursley Field/B'Wood 2000	Sub-lease proposal	Cllr W Susman	ASAP
Keep Tidy Signage	Facebook survey	Cllr N Susman	ASAP



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APPENDIX 1

I am unable to attend the Parish meeting this week and in relation to Shenley Primary School I hope the following statement will be of assistance to the parish, the school, parents and residents alike.

As you know officers of Hertfordshire County Council from both Asset Management and Legal have been dealing with the matter of the leases for the piece of land adjacent to the school used for play by the children. While I am not privy to the day to day dealings on this situation I am assured by the Head of Strategic Asset Management & Estates at Hertfordshire County Council, Emily White, that with both the lease relating to the piece of land owned by the Susmans and the lease relating to the piece of land owned by the Leveys, that documents are ready for signing with just one outstanding matter around weekend and bank holiday use now being finalised.

I'm assured that Shenley Primary School has been advised of all the final terms including one around the reinstatement of the woodland area at the end of the term of the lease.

There has been a suggestion that the land is compulsorily purchased. I have spoken with county officers on this idea. Compulsory purchase of any land is always a last resort and requires substantial justification. Even if the county council was to consider going down this route and was ultimately successful (and there is no guarantee it would be) that with all the time and public expense that would entail, the school would STILL NOT BE compliant in open space according to the rules set by the Department for Education. At best we would get back to where we were this time last year which is a non-compliant situation.

As you know I have stated publicly and I repeat here that I believe with the right will, a way can be found to ensure more play space for the school and the children in the future and I would like to see the matter of the leases finally signed off so we can move ahead with such ideas and consultations with the school, parents and local residents as soon as possible.

Be assured I am staying on the case and if any one wishes to contact me on this or any other county related matter please do not hesitate to contact me at morris.bright@hertfordshire.gov.uk Thank you.



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APPENDIX 2

Our statement for the meeting tonight.

- *The documentation permitting the school to continue using all of our plot rent free is now in an agreed form and the County Council are redrawing a plan to be attached. The new plan has been requested and is being redrawn by HCC's agents currently and expected to be finalised by their solicitors by the end of the week. Once received with the engrossed documents they will be signed by return.*
- *There have been some delays latterly in finalising the documentation as the school governors raised some further points after they were consulted with by HCC. Following some further discussions these points were incorporated into the documentation and agreed.*
- *To be clear, since our purchase of the land last Feb the school have been able to continue to benefit from full use of the land in same manner to which they have used it for the previous twenty plus years, nothing has changed here.*

William