

EATHORPE, HUNNINGHAM OFFCHURCH AND WAPPENBURY

JOINT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st January 2014 , at Hunningham, at 7.30pm

PRESENT

Councillor W.Redford, chairman, councillors M.Burgun, D.Mynors, Mrs. J.Seaton, S.Palmer

And Mrs.M.Green

Also present councillor M.Doody

1.APOLOGIES

Received from councillors M.Brooks, Mrs R.Commander, Mrs. M.Weeks, J.Hammon, Mrs. C.Foyer and N.Pratt

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

none

3. MINUTES

Having been circulated beforehand, the minutes were taken as read, agreed by the meeting and signed by the chairman

4. MATTERS ARISING

The gritting bins have now been filled and the waste bin at Offchurch re-sited.

We are advised that there are no funds available for an additional street lamp on School Hill, Offchurch.

The drains at Hunningham seem clear.

The village nameplate at Offchurch has now been replaced.

With regard to a more efficient flood warning signs at Offchurch, councillor Redford reported little chance of any funding from the Budget Scheme for rural areas. He gave a brief outline of the system, noting that our area is low on the list of priorities.

A meeting on gas extraction has been held, and we await further information.

The chippings have been renewed at Offchurch play area.

5.PUBLIC SPEAKERS

None

6.PLANNING

W140051 Elms Farm, Hunningham Hedgerow removal

Large removal of hedges at Offchurch has taken place, followed by an application. It was agreed that we write to the landowner over the reason for this and his intentions with regard to any re planting/screening as a replacement, with a copy to planning.

W140005 Offchurch Bury New access

The previous application lapsed, awaiting an environmental report. Agreed to object, referring them to our earlier response and asking if the report has now been received.

Councillor Doody, now on the planning committee, will a for it to be held over for discussion.

7,HIGHWAYS

A nameplate for Welsh Road has been damaged and pot holes on the Fosse to be reported.

A pot hole on School Hill, Offchurch has been poorly repaired, resulting in blocking a drain.

Another drain needs repairing near Hunningham Hill/Fosseway.

Water appears to be coming up through the road near the bus shelter at Hunningham, where it will be lethal if it freezes. A manhole cover at the foot of School Hill, Offchurch is damaged.

8. POLICE MATTERS AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Some further break ins of vehicles reported, and a break in at Hunningham Vicarage.

Councillor Redford noted that pot holes are a major item of discussion at other parish meetings he has attended. The question of compensation arose. It is stressed that any damage should be reported, with evidence, immediately.

The County budget is under discussion and an increase of 1.99% in Council Tax towards offsetting cuts will take place.

Trading standards are cutting the number of market stalls as an action against fraud.

A warning is given of fraudsters contacting people stating they have been left money in wills, as yet unclaimed, and trying to get bank details. No bank would send out such notices.

Notices re a Local Council Charter are to be circulated, for discussion at our next meeting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Invitation to the Royal Garden Party received, and various notices etc. were circulated

10,HS2

We are again indebted to Councillor Burgun for updating the parish council and for providing the following report :-

- 1 Our MP J.Wright has written to HS2 on behalf of 60 action groups/relevant MP's to complain about HS2 unilaterally ceasing to hold any further Community Forums. No satisfactory reply has been received.
2. HS2 intend holding Partitioning Management meetings to replace the Community Forum meetings, but no details or timing of these is yet available.
- 3, The 2nd consultation on Compensation ended on December 4th 2013. The JPC/Action Group response was sent to HS2 on 2nd December 2013. Response from HS2 awaited.
4. The Hybrid Bill was deposited into parliament on 25th November 2013. The public consultation was due to end 24th January 2014. This has been extended to 10th February 2014 due to the relevant Commons Committee decision that the standing orders of Parliament had not been followed. This was due to HS2 omitting 877 pages from their submission to the public. In addition, the House of Lords have demanded a further extension to 27th February 2014 for the same reason. This latter extension has yet to be formalized.
5. The ES documentation is available for view and 2 drop in sessions were held in Offchurch village hall on 30 November and 6 December 2013.
6. The ES consultation reply is well advanced and will be sent off prior to the deadline.
7. Action Group meeting held with the local farmers/agents on 13th December 2013. The major mitigation proposals we have put to HS2 were accepted by all those present at the meeting.
8. Due to HS2 rejecting our mitigation proposals on cost grounds only and without adequate explanation, it is the intention of the Parish Councils to petition parliament.
9. To facilitate this process, a meeting was held by Action Group personnel with Bircham-Dyson-Bell on 15th January 2014. They are "A" agents, accredited to present petitions to parliament. The cost for preparing the case and presenting it to parliament is approximately £8-10k plus vat in the first instance. A second "A" agent, Sharpe Pritchard, will be met for similar discussion on 14 February 2014.

10. In order to discuss the technical merits/costs on our mitigation items, we are also going to discuss with civil engineers J.McSweeney on 5 February 2014,

11. The second reading of the HS2 Hybrid Bill is unlikely to be read prior to Easter 2014.

12. Post meeting note -- The Supreme Court has overturned the Judicial Review appeals raised by the 51m group and others. The current legal challenges against HS2 are probably at an end.

11. FINANCE

Payments:- Chq 123 room hire £28. Chq 124 clerk £240. Chq 125 tax £60. Chq 126 expns £85.20. Chq 127 sand £55.

Precept for 2014 to 2015.

The clerk reported that he anticipates that we should just about break even this year, but considered it prudent for some increase to cover rising costs. A discussion followed, with opinions differing as to the amount of any such increase and in considering additional provision for HS2 costs. Councillor Doody advised that we cannot make a direct grant for opposing HS2, but it is in order for the JPC to lead any petition on behalf of the community, by way of an agent.

After much deliberation 2 separate proposals were made.

Councillor Burgun proposed an addition of £5K for HS2, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Seaton.

Councillor Mynors proposed an increase of 10% to £8250 seconded by Councillor Mrs. Green.

The chairman took the second proposal first with 2 voting for, and no one else voted.

It was therefore declared passed, and a request for £8250 Agreed.

12.PLAYGROUNDS

Some rotting timber at Eathorpe is to be replaced, no other problems noted.

13.A.O.B.

Councillor Mynors reported motor cycle scrambling along the old railway track at Hunningham, and will contact the police.

Councillor Burgun expressed his dissatisfaction over the handling of the voting for the precept, considering that not enough explanation was given beforehand. Councillor Palmer supported his comments, adding that he too had not appreciated the process.

Councillor Doody advised that it had been put in the correct form and is lawful.

It was agreed to put HS2 funding on our next agenda.

Councillor Mrs. Seaton asked of the policy for providing defibrillators for village halls and if any funding from the Community Forum is available. Agreed to discuss at our next meeting with the possibility of someone from the ambulance service to advise us.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Next meeting 18th march at Offchurch