**Brent Pelham and Meesden Parish Council**

**MINUTE OF**

**BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Thursday 13th January 2022**

**VENUE: Brent Pelham Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Trevor Hughes (**TH**) Councillor and Chairman

Ted Barclay (**TB**) Councillor and Vice Chairman

Steve Murphy (**SM**) Councillor

Sarah Wotton-Ramsay (**SWR**) Councillor

Kate Hinch (**KH**) Councillor

Wilf Dimsdale (**WD**) Councillor

**In Attendance:** Ken Newstead (**KN**) - Clerk

**Minute Item Action**

**Year.Month.Item**

**22.01.01 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Chairman welcomed the residents Beth Featherstone and Tim Hinch to this meeting.

**22.01.02 Minutes of Previous Meeting and election of Chairperson**

Minutes of the September 2021 meeting were presented and approved by all as a true representation of the meeting.

**22.01.03 Open Session for Residents**

**Q.** Why is the majority of this Councils precept was being used by Meesden for the mowing of the village green?

**A.** The Clerk was happy to confirm that this was not the case and explained that the precept is only used for essential repairs and maintenance throughout the parish and that any donations given by the parish council would always be given in equal amounts to both Brent Pelham and Meesden. Recent examples of this have been contributions to both Brent Pelham and Meesden Church for repairs and to the Benefice Good Neighbours scheme that helps residents across all our Parish if they need transport. It was also noted that donations of this nature were currently coming from payments made in the past to our Parish Council by East Herts Council in what they refer to as New Homes Bonus.

**Q.** Has there been a Planning Application from Stocks View BP for the construction of a Car Port?

**A.** PLANNING APPLICATION: 3/20/2317/HH – Dated November 2021 for Single storey rear extension to detached garage for use as workshop/storage and alterations to fenestration had been approved by East Herts Planning Department, but it was also possible that the Car Port was a temporary structure which would not need planning approval.

**Q.** Has the Parish Council had made any objections to the development of Solar Panels?

**A.** No plans have yet been submitted for a Solar Farm within our Parish. Discussions have taken place with a known development company that may apply for planning permission in the future (renewable connections.co.uk) and the Council have been assured by this company that residents will have the opportunity to learn of all proposals ahead of any planning permission be sought.

**22.01.04 Planning Applications received or processed this period**

3/21/1499/FUL – Replace Stables - Rectory Farm Meesden – **Approved**

3/21/2487/FUL - Rear extension and garage conversion – Walkers, Meesden – **Approved**

3/21/2977/FUL – 3 barn style dwellings - Meesden Bury Farm– **Submitted**

3/21/2985/HH – Replacement of garage with room over – Pump Hill Cottage BP – **Submitted**

3/21/2871/FUL - New 4 bed dwelling – Borley Green Barn BP – **Submitted**

3/21/1170/LBC – Restoration of Barn - Church Cottage BP – **Approved**

3/21/1802/HH – New Pergola - Pump Hill Cottage Pump Hill BP – **Approved**

3/21/2164/HH – Extensions, new windows and doors – Southview BP - **Approved**

Planning protection for Meesden Wood -The Council feels that it would be wise to protect Meesden Wood against the sale of the land to a developer TH is to pursue this on behalf of the Council. **TH**

Planning Considerations Course – EHDC have a course which gives Councillor’s direction on how to address concerns they have with Planning requests. **TH & SWR**

**22.01.05 Highways**

21.09.05 – Flooding in BP – Councillor Hinch detailed the feedback she had received on this matter and expressed her frustration at the limited amount of feedback she received from EHDC. It was agreed that the Parish Council has taken all reasonable steps in informing the Highways team that work is urgently needed, and that the Highways team have all the information needed to address the problem. The conclusion was that we await the repairs.

**22.01.06 Finance**

**Accounts**

The Clerk presented the 2021/22 YTD income and expenditure. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by SWR and seconded by SM with no objections. The Clerk added that he would like the internal audit of accounts to be completed by the Internal Audit Service this year as it would be a more comprehensive audit at a cost of £107 as opposed to the previous year of £60. The Council fully approved this request.

The Council discussed our Precept requirements for 2022/23 and agreed unanimously that it should remain unchanged.

**Proposals for Payment**

The Clerk requested authorisation of £52 for replacement pads in BT kiosk BP. The Councillors approved the request.

Councillor Hinch spoke of suggestions she has received to provide a village name sign on the outskirts of Brent Pelham in the style of a local ceramic tile artist, on which all the residents of the village could all provide input. This is to be considered further. **KH**

**22.01.07 Defibrillator & VETS**

Checks and maintenance are up to date.

**22.01.08 Repairs and Maintenance**

20.01.08 – Refurbishment of BP Stocks. Dr Kate Giles from the University of York Archaeology department has contacted us and suggested we look at the Building Conservation Directory for specialists in this area. **SWR**

21.09.09 - Digging of the ditch opposite The Farthings is proposed for later in the year **SM**

The annual jetting of Meesden rain was completed this week. The team discovered tree roots penetrating the drain and are to complete a CCTV examination and provide recommendations for remedial work. **SM**

**22.01.09 AOB**

Councillor Wotton-Ramsay is to attend a meeting with Herts Police on March 16th to give our priorities for policing in our Parish. **SWR**

Clerk Workload - Councillor Wotton-Ramsay has offered to take on our website and is to meet with the Clerk as soon as practical. The Chair Trevor Hughes proposed that the Clerk could receive reimbursement of costs of his Broadband expense as an alternative to a salary as this would eliminate the extra workload this would bring. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Wilf Dimsdale and unanimously approved by the full Council. The Clerk is also to speak to the Parish Council Clerk at our neighbouring village Anstey to find out how they work in this respect. **KN**

**22.01.10 Date of Next Meetings**

The next Parish Council meetings are to be held on:

**Thursday 14th April 2022 – at Meesden Village Hall**

**Thursday 23rd June 2022 – at Brent Pelham Village Hall**

**The meeting concluded at 9:00 pm**

Minutes approved by: .............................................................

PC Title: .....................................................................................

Signed: .......................................................................................

Date: ...........................................