

**DATCHWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on 8th October 2018

AT 7.30pm IN DATCHWORTH VILLAGE HALL

Present:

Chairman – Mr C. Wilkins
Councillors – Mrs V. Marshall, Mrs S Miller, Mrs J. Boakes, Mr M. Tebbutt
Mr T. Charles, Mr M. Quarmby, Mr F. Pearman

In Attendance Mrs T Hassan (Clerk) & Ken Crofton (County Councillor)

1. **Apologies for absence – Mr T. Stowe, Mrs F. Chambers**
2. **Minutes of the last meeting on 10th September – were agreed then signed as correct.**
3. **Matters Arising from previous Meeting**
 - 3.1 **Turkey Farm land lease renewal** – Cllr. T.Charles reported that he is still pursuing quotes.
 - 3.2 **Speedy broadband for central Datchworth** - Following the last meeting, it now seems that Bramfield Road is up and running, but slow.
 - 3.3 **Village Hall Car Park sewage pot hole** - ongoing – update at next meeting
 - 3.4 **Play equipment at the Turkey Farm Recreation ground** - The Clerk reported that an email had been forwarded to all Leisure Plot holders, only one response was received offering help with the Memorial Garden.

Noticeboard on Turkey Farm - Cllr. V. Marshall reported that the Poster inside the Turkey Farm Noticeboard, showing the History and Map of Datchworth is severely faded. At a cost of £47 + vat a new poster which would be laminated could be bought. **ACTION Cllr. V. Marshall to order this and ensure that ink which doesn't fade is used. Also to insert that the apples can be picked once fallen to the ground by local residents.**

 - 3.5 **Damaged Basketball Hoop near Clubhouse** – The Clerk obtained a quote for an estimate to replace the basketball backboard, with the existing hoop from Bunyans', the cost of which was £239.99 + VAT, compared to £100 + VAT simply for the repair. Many councillors responded favouring a replacement. Conclusive decision at the meeting was to go ahead. **ACTION Clerk to inform Bunyans' to go ahead with the replacement but ensure that Bunyans' fix the existing hoop in exactly the same position/method as on the other side of the court.**
 - 3.6 **Noise of Planes from Luton Airport** – The Clerk has tried to find details of the last Open Surgery but the only link was to Luton Airport website itself. An email was sent just after the last meeting, but to date no response has been received. Cllr. T. Charles highlighted this problem to Ken Crofton who advised to take it to MP Stephen McPartland. A suggestion was to invite him to one of our Parish meetings – councillors agreed to this invite. **ACTION Chairman: Invite Stephen McPartland to one of our Parish meetings.**
4. **Development Policy for Datchworth Green**
- 4.1 **Cherry Tree Hall - Discussed in CLOSED SESSION**

5. Ongoing Items

- 5.1 Play Areas & Orchard – Nutcroft** - Cllr. T. Charles did further research regarding the lease and its implications. He thinks we should negotiate the Lease and the cost of cutting the grass but to accept the Lease for 40 years. Councillors gave their concensus to renewing the Lease
- 5.2 Highways – Diversions** - Following on from the last meeting the Clerk had written to Ken Crofton regarding the involvement of local residents regarding local road closures. David Morgan, the Network Officer explained his methodology for re-routing traffic in great detail. He is happy to discuss this further with councillors. Cllr. T. Charles reiterated that they were seeking a conversation with him personally but there are several instances, what his team have put in place is unacceptable ie. Raffin Green Lane onto A602 resulted in an accident. There appeared to be a lack of local knowledge. Another upcoming road closure is closing from the Crossroads to the Chequers on the Great North Road. The diversion says this is for 18 months with no specific information listed. Ken Crofton explained that this is the first notice, not the individual within that one which will be provided approximately 1 month advance notice of work starting. Ken suggested that we ring him directly to have a one-off meeting. Ken happy to attend. **ACTION Clerk: Liaise with Malcolm and Tony Stowe for a mutually convenient appointment with David Morgan.**

New Sign for Raffin Green Lane is now up – Ken Crofton reported that after several years a sign is now up for Raffin Green Lane.

Complaint re parking - Hawkins Hall Lane - A local resident emailed both the Clerk & Cllr. V. Marshall regarding a van parked along Hawkins Hall Lane. A reply was sent by both, directing her to the Police or Highways as this was not the responsibility of the Parish to get involved. Cllr. F. Pearman informed the meeting that the van is taxed and insured.

ACTION Chairman please look into this and advise resident accordingly.

- 5.3 Planning Policies - EHC District Plan** – Ken advised that the EHC District Plan was only two hours away from being rubber stamped until a letter was received from Kevin Brokenshire asking for the District Plan to be put on hold. Ken Crofton reported that despite having a good while to register objections, it was unfortunate that the objection went right up to the last hour. He also reported that this Plan had taken 5 years in the making and the cost was significant. More importantly, this objection now meant that EHC was exposed to ‘unwanted planning applications’. Stevenage Borough have now issued legal proceedings against Kevin Brokenshire for the objection. The question Cllr. T. Charles asked if this exposed the district to applications from developers as had happened at Buntingford. He suggested to Ken Crofton that EHC they should bring it before the Secretary of State. The picture would be clearer in 2-3 weeks. **ACTION Cllr. Tony Charles send note to Linda Hayes, offering our support.**

- 5.4 Sports Club Access Road** - **ACTION Cllr. T. Charles to chase again.**

- 5.5 Parish Paths Partnership** - nothing to report

- 5.6 Village Hall** - new curtains are now up in the Halls.

Salt - The Salt for gritting has been moved to the Barns at Coltsfoot for their use.

- 5.7 Police/Neighbourhood Watch** - nothing to report

- 5.8 Trees** – Cllr. F. Pearman has been in communication with residents who are adjacent to Brookbridge Lane Pond and Frank will get the tree surgeon to have a look at the trees.

- 5.9 The Plough Car Park** – Cllr. T. Charles has now got a Lease to give to the benefactor but more time is needed to look at this in more depth. The resident concerned is meeting with Cllr. T. Charles on Thursday to discuss the plans, possible amendments and endeavour to get these finalised. The resident is also setting up a meeting with his solicitor too. Once the plans are finalised, then we can get our plans out to tender and start to get our planning conditions discharged.

- 5.10 Club Cottage Mobile Homes** – The Chairman received an email from Michael McMullan, EHC Councillor, who has written to EHC, representing residents in Tewin Wood, who are unhappy with this development and the breaches employed. The Chairman read out his letter. Further to this, two residents have also complained about various breaches of the development, especially the TPO, the Chairman read these emails out too. Cllr. T. Stowe has requested the Chairman to write to EHC, with all the breaches on the following points, Access Road, street lights, raised ground, trees and saplings, inadequate drainage systems.

ACTION Chairman: write to EHC and report at the next meeting.

The Chairman reported that Susie De Foe, had contacted the Estate Agent to enlighten him about the ‘holiday restriction’ which he was unaware of. Some disparity existed over the period of time that a holiday home is allowed to be occupied but what is more difficult is how to gain evidence if restrictions are broken. **Cllr. T. Stowe provided the following written report on this issue:** *An enforcement file is now open at East Herts regarding the unlawful developments and a meeting took place on site last week between East Herts Officers and the site Owner. It is important that the Parish Council support this action as Tewin PC have already done by writing to the planning department, the contact details have already been sent to the Chairman.*

6. Inter-Village Liaison/BGJM

- 6.1 Bulls Green bank** – Cllr. J. Boakes reported that topsoil and seed are now down, therefore, no further reports on this.
- 6.2 Lodge Farm, new driveway access** – Chairman advised that they needed to do a planning application for access onto Lodge Drive but to date no application has been made. We need to monitor receipt of said application.
- 6.3 Burnham Green traffic calming** – **ACTION Cllr. M. Tebutt to set up date for ‘Drive Safe’ ASAP.** This would be done on the Green opposite the shop and also on Orchard Road. Cllr. J. Boakes reported that many residents would welcome a Smiley Face on the crossroads. However, Ken Crofton reported that there have been no serious accidents or injuries on this road previously.
- 6.4 White Horse Lane crossover** – The Chairman reported that Glen Eaton rang him regarding the Access to the new houses. He was sounding out the Parish Council on starting works before the application was granted by the Secretary of State. Cllr. T. Charles said its’ important to follow the correct process. **ACTION Chairman to report this to Glen Eaton.**
- 6.5 Complaint re missing Christmas Tree at BG/Bulls Green** – The Clerk advised the resident that there is a permanent tree at Burnham Green that has been there for approximately 20 years. In previous years Mark Butcher from The Horns has very generously provided a tree for Bulls Green. **ACTION Cllr. J. Boakes to forward photo of tree to resident and advise accordingly.**
- 6.6 Car storage behind 8 Whitehorse Lane** – The Chairman advised that James Homer had left and Kim Bowers was the new Case Officer. The Chairman has been informed that an application for ‘change of use’ is in the process.

7. Planning (Cllr. V. Marshall’s report)

7.1 Report of new applications, refusals, approvals & appeals – (below).

The October Planning Report was emailed to councillors on the 7th, prior to the meeting.

The Chairman reported that 35 Burnham Green Road has been in a state of demolition for 4 years now and it seems irrational to refuse the application. Cllr. J. Boakes informed the meeting that this new refusal was on a new plan which superceded the original plan, which was granted.

7.2 Land Registration of common land - c/f to next meeting

7.3 2 Bury Lane, Datchworth – Cllr. T. Charles informed the meeting that the residents wanted the position clarified and he sent a reply outlining these. **Exchanges of views are ongoing.**

Applications 10 September – 8th October 2018**New Applications**

3/18/18 97/HH - Hawkins Hall, 49 Watton Road Datchworth. Demolition of existing outbuilding. Erection of single-storey detached outbuilding to be used as studio/workshop. (01/10/10)

3/18/2061/HH - 1 Great Lawne Datchworth SG3 6SX. Proposed first floor side extension, part 2 storey front extension and single storey link extension to garage conversion.)17/10/18) *

3/18/2127/FUL. - AT: Harwood Park Crematorium Watton Road Past Harwood Park Crem. SG2 8XT. Erection of a timber canopy (25/10/18)

Applications approved by East Herts Council

3/18/1511/HH - 2 Nutcroft Datchworth SG3 6TG - Conversion of garage.

3/18/1615/HH - 10 Baines Lane Datchworth SG3 6RA .Part two storey front extension. Cantilever hipped roof over porch. Converts of conservatory to an orangery. Roof height lowered on existing gable roof to the rear to include 5no velux rooflights and part ground floor infill rear extension with hipped to flat roof over the existing extension. Alterations to fenestration. ((Amended Scheme).

3/18/1171/FUL - 1 Brookbridge Lane Datchworth Knebworth Hertfordshire SG3 6SU. Demolition of existing dwelling, erection of replacement dwelling and 1no. additional dwelling in side garden, close existing access and create new vehicular access to serve both properties. Conditions applied

Applications refused by East Herts Council

3/18/1785/HH - 3 Beechcroft Datchworth SG3 6SP. Construction of single-storey rear and side extensions. The proposed development, by reason of its inappropriate size, scale and siting would be an unneighbourly form of development, which would have an overbearing and harmful impact on the general amenity of the occupants of the neighbouring property.

3/18/1536/FUL - : 35 Burnham Green Road Burnham Green AL6 0NL . Erection of 1no detached 4 bedrooomed dwelling. The proposed replacement dwelling is considered to be materially larger than the dwelling it replaces and would thereby constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt. In addition to the harm of inappropriateness other harm is in relation to the loss of openness. The harm by reason of inappropriateness and the other harm identified, is not clearly outweighed by other material planning considerations such as to constitute the very special circumstances necessary to permit inappropriate development in the Green Belt.

Planning Appeal

17 Burnham Green Road Datchworth Knebworth Hertfordshire LPA Appeal Reference:

18/00104/REFUSE - website – www.planningportal.gov.uk/pcs using the reference APP/J1915/D/18/3209062. The Planning Inspectorate aim to decide the appeal within 8 weeks of the start date which is 11th September 2018. Please remember that you cannot make any further comments on this planning application.

8. Clerk's Main Correspondence & Reports

- 8.1 Litter bins** – Further to the last meeting, when the Litter Picker commented that the Bin inside the Burnham Green play area needed cement to make the base more secure, Cllr. J Boakes reported that the base does not need any more cement but the actual plastic is slightly broken but it is still useable. **ACTION Clerk to ask the Litter Picker is the emptying of the bin a problem due to this missing piece of plastic and report back.**
- 8.2 Risk Assessments** – The Clerk had written an email to both the Sports and Bowls Clubs regarding site of their insurance policies. These have now been received.
- 8.3 Benches Quote** – The Clerk had searched quotes from two companies, Glasdons and Advancedscape respectively. For wooden benches, cost was similar from both companies at around £495 for 2/3 seaters. However, the cost of recycled benches from Glasdon was £244.00, which was slightly cheaper than Advancedscape. **ACTION Clerk: to get a quote from Alan Tyler for hardwood 3 Seater Bench with arms on each side.**
- 8.4 Complaint re Datchworth Facebook Page** – The Clerk had received an email from a local resident, regarding abuse. Cllr. S. Miller advised that this Facebook page was initially set up by Lexy Topping and it has overall, been positive to share information, share recommendations however, a few people have used it to moan inconstructively and to name individuals whom they have a grudge against it. This has nothing to do with the Parish. Cllr.J. Boakes informed the meeting that the admin. Could block certain people. Cllr.T. Charles said that this Facebook Page was really good and maybe to connect it to Datchworth.com website. The Facebook Page is generally thought to be positive but needs control. Cllr. S. Miller will offer to help the resident who set this up going forward. **ACTION Cllr. S. Miller – make contact with resident concerned.**
- 8.5 Knebworth Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee** – The Clerk had received a request via the Magazine Editor, asking that all proposed developments within the Village be reported back to them. The Clerk forwarded this to Tony Charles. **ACTION Cllr. T. Charles – please report developments back to this committee.**
- 8.6 Beauty Salon – Invite at opening & Noticeboard Removal Burnham Green** – The Clerk reported that Abigail, the owner of the new shop was going to send an invite to the councillors on opening and that she also confirmed to her that she was able to remove the defunct Noticeboard. **ACTION Clerk: Remove Noticeboard from Asset Register.**

9. Financial Report

- 9.1 October Finance update** – emailed to councillors on the 7 October, prior to the meeting
- 9.2 Reminder – Finance Meeting rescheduled to Monday 22nd October at 8pm.**
ACTION Clerk: Book Room for revised date.
- 9.3 Income re Grass Cutting reimbursement** - EHC income has now hit the account, only awaiting HCC reimbursement of £1,199.
- 9.4 Conclusion re invoice fee – External Auditors** – The Clerk reported that she had written to the External Auditors to complain about the high fee charged for our last audit. This proved fruitless as the guidelines are published in line with the regulators. However, this is an area which will need to be increased in the budget next year, as the probability of higher expenditure is likely due to the construction works on the Plough Car Park.
Cllr. T. Charles suggested that we have another column for over overspends.

Finance Report - OCTOBER 2018Bank Balance @ 10 September 2018

Current A/c £ 1423.00

Deposit A/c £41,711.41

TOTAL **£43,134.41**Income:

Bank Interest	£ 36.46
WPC Grass Cut. Contrib. BG	£ 129.15
D. Bowls Club – water contrib.	£ 156.88
EHC Grass Cutt reimb. – final	£ 453.59
EHC – 2 nd half of PRECEPT	£ 13,373.50
Total Income	<u>£ 14,149.58</u>

Expenditure: September

Bank Service Charge	£ 20.10
Came & Co (ann. Ins. Renew)	£ 1,248.00
Village Hall Donation (2 nd half)	£ 1,250.00
Salaries – September – Tina/Ray	£ 558.07
Total Expenditure	<u>£ 3,076.17</u>

Balance @ 10 September 2018 **£54,207.82**Represented by:

Current A/c	£2,459.95
Deposit A/c	£51,747.87
TOTAL (both accounts)	<u>£54,207.82</u>

Transfer of £10,000 from Current to D/A (precept majority)Income awaited:

£1,006.74 (VAT last fin. Year £1006.74 17/18)

£3057.86 (VAT this fin. Year 18/19) total vat owed **£4064.60**

£1,199.00 HCC grass cont – expected shortly

10. **Councillor's Reports** - T. Charles reported he recently attended the Hertfordshire Forward Conference. He felt this was a productive meeting, with visible good strategies for Hertfordshire in place. He reported that Fibre optic was first developed between Stevenage and Hitchin. The catch line for the conference was 'Good Growth'.
- 10.1 **Grants:** Cllr. T. Charles reported that there are about 20 Grants available and suggested that councillors get together to see if the Parish could somehow benefit from these opportunities. Deadline 9th November. **ACTION Chairman:** Look up on Grants sent recently – to be discussed at the Finance Meeting.
- 10.2 **Question: re-claiming VAT for Village Hall** – Cllr. V. Marshall to talk to Viv's husband and to check with HMRC. Cllr. T. Charles suggested that we take over as sole Trustee of the Village Hall.
11. **District Councillor Report:** Tony Stowe provided the following written report:-
The East Herts District Plan 'Holding Direction' remains in place, however Officers continue discussion with SoS to try to resolve the situation. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have presented to Parliament the new NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) July 2018. Not many changes but worth a read.
Datchworth School planning application for increased playground space – Ken reported he is working with Jane Doods on this project and the planning outcome is imminent.

Meeting closed at 9.20pm**Date of Next Meeting: 12th November 2018 @ 7.30pm**