



PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Meeting Minutes

virtually via teleconference on Monday 15th February 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors B Toll (Chair), F O'Shea (Vice Chair), D Fossey, D McDonald, S Oliver

In attendance: C Page (Clerk), 3 members of the public, Cllr Buckmaster,

21.02.01 To receive and accept apologies for absence. Non received.

21.02.02 Coronavirus Update – Cllr Toll / Cllr Buckmaster

- County update – Cllr Buckmaster sent through a presentation – Public Engagement toolkit given by Director of Public Health. Share with the PC, makes useful reading. Vaccination locally is going well.

21.01.1 Declaration of Interest and dispensations – to receive Declaration of Interest and dispensations from councillors on items on the agenda. No pecuniary interests declared from councillors in attendance.

21.02.03 Approval of minutes of meeting held on January 18th, 2021. The minutes are signed by the Chair and will be made available to the clerk as soon as is possible. All councillors approved the minutes.

21.02.04 Matters Arising.

- **21.01.8 Drive Safe** – Bob and Dave to set up an inaugural meeting. **Action: clerk to set up a meeting, to include Little Hadham Drive Safe team. Little Hadham have yet to commence the Drive Safe initiative this year, but will meet with Hunsdon.**
- **21.01.12** - Environmental agency report on Waste site – EA visited, by appointment because of Covid. There was a breach of exceeded waste height limits. A breach notice was issued. The EA are happy to answer queries and we can ask questions. If we have a concern, we must go through the central number.
- **21.01.12** – hedges along Acorn Street, getting the hedges trimmed - Cllr Buckmaster said a letter was sent to the resident and asked to cut it back. If the hedges are not cut back, then an enforcement letter will be sent, and the hedges will be cut. **Action: Cllr Toll to check. Hedges have been cut back.**
- **21.01.12** - Fly tipping on Hunsdonbury Lane continues to be a problem. Cllr O'Shea said a report had been made at Brick House to say an IBC full of liquid had been dumped on the entrance to her farm. It has been reported to HCC, EH said they would send an Environmental Officer down, but as its not on the highway, will not be removed. Cllr Buckmaster said the best way is to report it to the District Council. **Action: Cllr O'Shea to send the reference number to Cllr Buckmaster, EH have a service to collect items such as this. [EH subsequently removed the IBC much to the resident's relief]**

21.02.05 Reports from members representing the Parish Council on outside organisations and attending meetings on behalf of the council.

- Parish Paths Partnerships – (See Appendix 1) Cllr O'Shea said part of the airfield path that runs into Acorn Street and GrabCo, is churned up. Is there anything we can do to get the owners to be responsible for resurfacing? Martyn said they have rights of way, and that some conversations have been had with GrabCo, who reinstate the roads. Also, a conversation had with Nicholas Maddex. He has money to upgrade pathways. P3 funding reverted to HCC. **Action: Martyn, Bud, and Cllr O'Shea to set up a meeting for a discussion.**
- Police Report – Clerk – No crimes have been reported during January.
- VHMC – Cllr O'Shea – Cllr O'Shea said there was a trustees meeting. Chair who is also the treasurer retiring on the 31st of March, has a replacement treasurer, but not chair. Asked if anyone knows of a suitable chair. Cllr Burton suggested we use the website to advertise for the Chair role. Cllr O'Shea said the Chair had agreed to put something on the website. Land – Cllr O'Shea volunteered to sort



the issues out with the solicitors, over the next couple of weeks. VH £60,000 in the bank. VH asked if they are to contribute towards the use of Mayer. Cllr O'Shea said they should approach him themselves for notices etc but pay separately if they want him to upgrade their own website.

- County Councillor / District Councillor Reports – (See Appendix 2) Cllr Buckmaster will remain as District Councillor but will stand again as County Councillor. The clerk asked about the locality budget. Cllr Buckmaster responded should he regain office the Locality budget will be available after that time. Cllr Burton asked about the general littering across the region. Asked why the roads are not being generally cleared. Cllr Buckmaster said there is a limit to number of people that can go out and sit in vans together due to Covid. Have to co-ordinate the two councils, co-ordinate when the grass cutting is taking place on the 'A' road, do the litter picking also. **Action: Cllr Buckmaster to send a note to Ringway and Avassa to see when they can co-ordinate the litter picking. Cllr Buckmaster forwarded an email advising the matter has previously been logged and is in hand with the operations team.**

21.02.07 Neighbourhood Plans.

- Hunsdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr O'Shea (See Appendix 3)
- Joint Hunsdon, Eastwick and Gilston Neighbourhood Plan (See appendix 3) – Cllr Toll – Cllr Toll also wished to thank Cllr O'Shea for the amount of work and time it has taken to get the plan to this point. There was a general lack of interest over the webinars that were set up by the council on Village 7. Want to record publicly to Cllr Buckmaster our appreciation to the officers of EH Council for organising those sessions. The officers displayed immense patience and courtesy. Cllr Buckmaster confirmed he would pass on our thanks.

21.02.06 Community Projects and Village infrastructure.

- Allotments – Cllr Oliver – Nothing to report. Very wet and water in the ditch. All is going well.
- Parish Grounds – Cllr O'Shea – Nothing to report-lease of the tennis courts bogged down with solicitors.
- Village Shop – follow up – Cllr McDonald – Nothing to report.
- Playground (See Appendix 4) – Councillor Fossey – Jackie Carthy has negotiated for an in-depth operational inspection to cover all equipment on the playground. It is annual inspection EN standards for playgrounds. Basic maintenance, oiling and tightening, no removing or taking down of anything. £158.00 Councillors agreed to the maintenance costs being agreed. Cllr Toll proposed, all councillors agreed.
- Dog waste bin – Clerk – to get prices, send out for approval and then get to the meeting in March.

21.02.07 Planning:

21.02.08.1 New applications for EHC Planning

- **3/19/2124/OUT** - Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions, physical copies of documents are currently not available for inspection. We will keep this under review and should restrictions ease, copies will be available to view by appointment only between the hours of 9am – 4.45pm Monday to Friday excluding public holidays up until 28th February 2021 at the East Herts Council Offices, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, Hertford, SG13 8EQ, or at the Harlow Council Offices at the Civic Centre, the Water Gardens, College Square, Harlow, CM20 1WG. Anyone who wishes to make comments on the revisions should seek to do so by **28th February 2021[later extended to 18th March]**. Cllr Toll suggests we endorse what the NPG say, and we supplement that in a letter with anything that we as councillors would like to add on behalf on the PC. **Action: councillors to give this some thought, send all to the clerk.** Cllr Toll asked if the councillors agreed with this. Cllr Fossey asked what the view of HCC is. Cllr Buckmaster said that any development should provide the infrastructure as the build goes along. Joint NPG will put a crib sheet on the website to allow personal responses to be made.



- **3/21/0165/LBC - PROPOSAL:** 63 High Street Hunsdon. **Please send your comments to EH Planning by 15th February 2021.**
- **3/21/0180/HH - PROPOSAL:** 4 Hunsdon Farm Cottages Church Lane. **Please send your comments to EH Planning by 16th February 2021**
- **3/21/0220/HH - PROPOSAL:** 12 Rise Cottages. **Please send your comments to EHC Planning by 22nd February 2021**

Received after agenda was published.

- **3/21/0174/HH - PROPOSAL:** 1 Wheatsheaf Road. **Please send your comments to EH Planning by: 2nd March 2021. Please send your comments to EH Planning by: 3rd March 2021**
- **3/21/0296/FUL - PROPOSAL:** 2 High Street. **Please send your comments to EH Planning by: 3rd March 2021.** Cllr O’Shea suggests we write a letter of support to allow customers to sit outside during Covid restrictions. All councillors agreed. **Action: clerk to draft a letter of support. All councillors agreed. Letter sent to EH Planning.**
- **3/21/0327/VAR – PROPOSAL:** 21 Drury Lane. **Please send your comments to EH Planning by: 4th March 2021.** No objections from the councillors.

21.02.08.2 Decisions from EHC Planning

- **3/20/2424/HH – PROPOSAL:** 6 Paddock Close. This matter was considered by EH Council on the 25th of January 2021 and it was decided to **Grant Planning Permission**
- **3/20/2412/HH - PROPOSAL:** 1 Wheatsheaf Road This matter was considered by EH Council on the 26th of January 2021 and it was decided to **Grant Planning Permission**

21.02.08 Finance – Clerks Report

- Spending for approval – to agree to payment of accounts, as per the financial spreadsheet. All councillors agreed to the payment of accounts.
- To accept the accuracy of the financial statement. All councillors agreed to the accuracy of the accounts.
- Grounds maintenance contract awarded to Mokutt for an initial period of 1 year. We have a new contractor. Ever since Cllr Toll has been on the council, Jeff Franklin has been doing the grass cutting around the village. We do need to refresh our contractual arrangements and it is something we do annually. We will invite contractors again next year. We look at the quality of the job as well as the cost. We would like it minuted Jeff did a service to the community and we are grateful to him for the work he has done in the village, and we look forward to receiving a tender from him next year.
- Propose a Resolution to adopt the General Power of Competence. Proposed HPC (See Appendix 5). Cllr Toll proposed the resolution to adopt the GPC. Cllr O’Shea seconded; all councillors agreed. Motion was carried. The resolution will be proposed at each Annual Meeting.
- Review water costs for the allotments **Action: clerk to work with Cllr Oliver.**

Clerk’s salary (February - BACS)	£415.99
Shop initiative – April 20-Mar 21	400.00
J Franklin – leaf clearing	£350.00
F O’Shea – land registry costs for HANP	£34.45
Mayer Nissim – work on HANP website / PC website	£300.00

21.02.09 Consultations

- HCC Waste Plan. Cllr Burton has carried out a synopsis of the Waste Plan. We must make up our minds how we respond to that plan. Basic challenges, growing county, developments on rail and roadways. Underlying geology has got issues with ground water. Most of the county is green belt, and not enough outlets for waste. There is no proposed solution in the plan. A great capacity gap is the conclusion. Does not seem to be any solution as to how to close the gap and look to people who come up with ideas. Vast quantity of inert material (construction, demolition). We are a



funnel for north London. From a hazardous nature inert material is not too bad as it is mainly recycling. Recycle the aggregate and not dig the holes. Not much to comment on as it does not say much. Cllr Burton does not feel there is anything to comment on. There are no plans for waste site development. As PC we do not have a major contribution to this.

21.02.10 AOB

- A resident has asked if we can have 'deer' signs on Church Lane and the B180 by Bonningtons. As the deer migrate cross these roads and there are several deer being killed. Currently a local landowner picks up the bodies and disposes of them. **Action: Cllr Buckmaster to investigate this**
- Another resident has asked if the PC would approach Clarion to ensure all garages are rented and used. This resident approached Clarion to transfer the tenancy of one of the garages and was told they were not interested in doing that. **Action: clerk will respond to the resident. Done. Was able to provide the procedure for applying for a garage.**
- Cllr Fossey awareness raising for Cllr Buckmaster in relation to the vaccine and people who lack capacity to consent to the vaccine. No-one has the right to deny consent to someone who lacks the capacity to take it. It is a clinical decision and must be a best interest decision Remind everyone people cannot give or refuse consent on behalf of a family member. Only if they have lasting power of attorney.

21.02.11 Close of meeting: 21.19

21.02.12 Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 15th March 2021.

If any member of the public or press wish to join the Hunsdon Parish Council meeting they can contact the Clerk on: clerk@hunsdonparishcouncil.org or on 01920 870809.



Appendix 1 – Parish Paths Partnership - Report to Hunsdon Parish Council - Meeting on the 18th of January 2021

1. Footpaths – General

These have been very muddy and wet until the recent frost. They are still being well used, however.

2. Hunsdon Brook – Possible Pollution incident

A possible pollution incident from a sewage overflow was seen and reported to Thames Water who promised to take action and assess and report to the Environment Agency, as necessary.

3. Hunsdon Brook Water Course

The water course seems to have coped well with the very wet weather and there appears to have been no domestic flooding, although the western end of footpath 5 has been very wet.

4. Flooding on H6 by Broomlands

The pond near the boundary with Stanstead Abbots at the site of the old Fillets Farm has flooded footpath 6. This has been brought to the attention of HCC who have agreed to re-lay part of the path. They have also been asked to make sure the culvert is unblocked as this is probably the main cause of the flooding. It is not clear whose responsibility this will be.

5. Hunsdon Aerodrome – Tree clearance

Places for People have been undertaking some works to clear overhanging trees from footpaths. There was concern that they were not fully undertaking Health and Safety precautions, as they had not erected signs indicating works were taken place. The PC, therefore, placed some notices by Blackhut Wood. The matter was drawn to the attention of the Land Agents. Tree felling was carried out along Blackhut Wood by the microlights and the contractors stated that they had undertaken some works at Marshland Wood as well, but this is not immediately apparent what has actually been done. Works along H5 through the wood have still to be done.



Appendix 2 – County Councillors Report – Cllr Eric Buckmaster County councillor report February 2021

Major Consultations

Planning Gilston Village 7– Planning Application Documents

GILSTON AREA – VILLAGE 7

LAND SITED TO NORTH OF THE A414 AND TO THE EAST AND WEST OF CHURCH LANE, BOUND BY HUNSDON HOUSE TO THE NORTH, OPEN FARMLAND AND EASTWICK VILLAGE TO THE EAST, BY THE A414 TO THE SOUTH, BY A PUBLIC FOOTPATH (HUNSDON FOOTPATH 001) AND LORD’S WOOD TO THE WEST AND NORTH-WEST AND LOCATED TO THE NORTH-WEST OF HARLOW IN ESSEX, WITHIN HERTFORDSHIRE AND THE DISTRICT OF EAST HERTFORDSHIRE
OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION ON BEHALF OF BRIGGENS ESTATE 1 LIMITED
POST-SUBMISSION AMENDMENTS TO OUTLINE PLANNING APPLICATION REF. 3/19/2124/OUT

Description of Development

The Application seeks planning permission for the following description of development, which has been amended from the original description to reflect the changes made post-submission:
“Outline planning application for development including demolition of existing structures, refurbishment and change of use of existing Grade II Listed Brickhouse Farm Barn and structures and erection of a residential led. mixed use development comprising up to 1,500 residential market and affordable homes; a mixed use local village centre: retail, business, commercial and community uses; primary school, early years, and nursery facilities; leisure and sports facilities including a football hub; provision for 8 no. pitches for Gypsies & Travellers. open spaces, ecological areas, woodlands, and public realm; pedestrian, cycle, and vehicular accesses and network within the site; associated drainage, utilities, energy and waste facilities and infrastructure; works to and realignment of the existing highway; other supporting works, facilities, and infrastructure; together with associated temporary enabling works or structures. With all matters reserved apart from detailed works to the A414 Church Lane junction (phased development).” (“the Proposed Development”)

Christmas holiday free school meal scheme success as over 20,000 Hertfordshire children receive food vouchers.

Our support for Hertfordshire families entitled to free school meals during the Christmas holidays was a great success with supermarket vouchers downloaded for over 20,000 children and young people.

The scheme, which is funded from the Government’s COVID-19 Winter Grant Scheme (WSG), provided eligible families with a £30 digital supermarket voucher per entitled child to cover the two-week Christmas holiday period.

In addition to this support, we also encouraged families and individuals who were struggling to pay for food and other essential household bills to contact HertsHelp, where they could access further help over the festive period and advice to provide ongoing support.

Council tax increase to fund Hertfordshire’s largest ever police force given overwhelming public support.

Hertfordshire is to have its largest ever police force following overwhelming public support for an increase in the council tax.



Police and Crime Commissioner David Lloyd has decided to increase the policing precept by £1.25 per month for an average Band D council tax property. The additional £5.2m raised will be used to put a record number of officers on the front-line, in addition to funding more help for victims. Despite the increase, the policing element of the council tax remains the fifth lowest in the country.

The precept increase will pay for 77 extra officers, on top of the 90 who will be recruited as part of the government uplift. These 167 new officers increase the ranks to 2,267 in the forthcoming financial year.

The previous record for officer numbers in Hertfordshire was 2,202 in 2007. The final tally at the end of the uplift is planned to be even higher with 2,314 officers in post by April 2023. The extra money will also be used to fund a joint Prevention First initiative with the Constabulary.

Other priorities include additional money being put into the county's award-winning victim care service Beacon and a new £258,000 Safeguarding Hub to provide wrap-around care for medium-risk domestic violence victims. The increase means the annual precept for an average (Band D) property will go from £198 to £213. Households will pay more or less than the average depending on their house banding, Band A will pay £10, while Band H will pay £30 extra.

Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies celebrate LGBTQ+ history month with virtual exhibition in recognition of LGBTQ+ History Month in February, Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies is celebrating with an online exhibition looking at the lives of some LGBTQ+ people from Hertfordshire's past. The exhibition includes documents and artefacts from an ancient Roman Emperor to a cross-dressing highwayman, to a "female husband". **One of the areas explored by the exhibition is legislation and its significant impact on the lives of LGBTQ+ people throughout history.** For example, same-sex relationships were first officially legislated against under Henry VIII, and it took over 400 years for men to legally be allowed to have relationships with other men. For centuries, those caught could be executed. Now, in 2021, UK couples of all genders and sexual orientations can marry.

Part of the exhibition focuses on the discovery of a person's identity; a rector from Essendon had to flee the county after accusations of gross indecency, and Oscar Wilde was sent to prison for his same-sex relationships.

There is also a reflective look at the outbreak of HIV and AIDS in the 1980s and its impact on Hertfordshire. How did local authorities try to curb the spread, and what impact that had on LGBTQ+ communities? Hertfordshire Archives asks that anyone who is comfortable sharing their own stories and memories do so under a dedicated section of the exhibition. The first LGBTQ+ collection was created in 2019. Anyone with items to donate to the archive so that they can be preserved for future generations can get in contact with

hals.enquiries@hertfordshire.gov.uk

To view the exhibition visit <https://www.hertsmemories.org.uk/content/category/herts-history/people/lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender/lgbtq-history-month-2021>

Rogue Trader Team report of January 2021

Vaccine fraud

There are now resources available for raising awareness about vaccine fraud; they can be found [here](#). The material includes a poster and guide on how to be alert to vaccine fraud.

Safeguarding

Several members of the team attended HSAB (Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board) training on cuckooing. This is when people take over a person's home and use the property to facilitate exploitation. In Trading Standards, we are most likely to see the practice when a property is taken over to financially abuse the occupier.



Intervention savings as we reach the end of quarter three of the financial year, we have calculated our total intervention savings from October to December 2020 at £348,420; this brings our total savings since April 2020 to £875,428.

The total is worked out by the amount of rogue trader and scam interventions we have been involved in, the number of call blockers we have installed and how many Friends Against Scams and Scam Marshalls we have signed up. Savings include financial savings, healthcare savings, residential care cost savings and health related quality of life savings.

One rogue trader intervention alone amounted to a saving of £60,000 and thanks to a successful media campaign run by ourselves and the National Trading Standards Team during Friends Against Scams Week this quarter we were able to sign up an extra 153 Friends Against Scams in Hertfordshire.

Fast-track training programme for social workers looking for new recruits in Hertfordshire.

The Step Up to Social Work programme which funds graduates and career changers to retrain as the next generation of social workers is now recruiting in Hertfordshire.

The Central Eastern Regional Partnership (CERP) led by Hertfordshire County Council in collaboration with Bedford Borough Council and Luton Council, has been successful in a bid to deliver the programme for a seventh cohort.

Since its launch in 2010, hundreds of people throughout the country have completed the government programme, with 81 graduates qualifying locally. The Applications open on Monday (15 February) and close on 7 April, with the new cohort starting in January 2022.

The scheme offers students a bursary of just under £20,000 to support trainees on the 14-month programme which leads to a rewarding career as a social worker, supporting vulnerable children and families.

Learning takes place through a combination of university study and placements, and after completing their training the new graduates join the council's Children's Services department as newly qualified social workers.

Applications are now open for the next cohort of graduates to join the scheme with funding available for 25 places across the Central Eastern Regional Partnership. Around 12 of these trainees will be placed in Hertfordshire. Applications from males, and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds are particularly welcomed.

Candidates are eligible to apply if they have a 2:1 degree (for example, with honours), or a 2:2 plus a higher degree, which can include a master's degree or a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, in a discipline other than social work. They should also have the equivalent of a GCSE Grade C in maths and English, and experience of working with children, young people or families.

To find out more about the course, eligibility and how to apply, please visit: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/stepup

Holiday club to offer vital relief during the COVID-19 pandemic to Hertfordshire's most disadvantaged young people.

The Easter holidays are looking brighter for disadvantaged children and young people in Hertfordshire thanks to an exciting partnership.

Hertfordshire County Council has joined forces with Herts Sports Partnership and the Hertfordshire Community Foundation to deliver healthy food and activities over the holidays.

The HAPpy (Holiday Activities Programme) is open to all children and young people in Hertfordshire but is particularly aimed at the county's most disadvantaged children.



Children and young people will be able to take part in a range of sports and cultural activities, as well as receive advice on nutrition and cooking skills to enhance their health and wellbeing, with those in receipt of free school meals eligible to attend for free.

Thanks to funding by the Department for Education, which is extending this initiative across England in 2021, existing or prospective organisers of holiday activity programmes can now access this funding to deliver daily programmes for young people.

The scheme has been further boosted with investment from Hertfordshire County Council to continue to provide free school meals for all entitled young children, during both the Easter and May school holiday periods.

Any child or young person in receipt of free school meals will be eligible to take part in a range of sports and cultural activities, as well as receive advice on nutrition and cooking skills to enhance their health and wellbeing.

The four-hour sessions will be led by a range of organisations from across the public, private, community and voluntary sectors and will be held at various venues from schools and community halls to parks and leisure centres, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

The HAPpy scheme will be delivered across Hertfordshire during the Easter school holidays and in recognition of ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, the programme is being twin-tracked to include both face-to-face and online activities. This will ensure that all young people remain active and connected during these challenging times.

Further details of the programme can be found at: <https://sportinherts.org.uk/>

To find out how to get involved, please contact Jane Shewring at HAF@herts.ac.uk

Locality Grant awards made by Cllr Eric Buckmaster

Applicant organisation	Date applied	amount requested	Purpose
Sawbridgeworth Evangelical Congregational Ch	01/04/2020	1000	to Support delivery of food to isolated residents. Covid
CAB/CAS	02/04/2020	500	Covid for additional support to residents during
Sawbridgeworth town Council	30/04/2020	1000	purchase of PPE to support local business recovery plan
Friends of Sawbridgeworth Neuro Centres	21/05/2020	750	towards fish tank for brain impaired residents
Isabel Hospice	01/06/2020	500	support services
Herts Vision Loss	02/06/2020	1000	To enable visually impaired service users living within Hertfordshire an opportunity to receive video links and technology support and advice.
Make Lunch Charity Sawbridgeworth	05/06/2020	500	volunteer cooked lunches twice a week for vulnerable families
Red Balloon family educational boxes	05/06/2020	150	educational packs for children at home during crisis



Herts Young Homeless	04/06/2020	500	preventing homelessness	
Aspects	15/06/2020	500	family and school support service helping	
Carers in Herts	18/06/2020	300	carer support services	
CHIPS	17/06/2020	150	vouchers for young volunteers	
Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club	02/06/2020	750	safety barrier for bowling green	
Hunsdon Parish Council	14/07/2020	239	laptop	£2
Sawbridgeworth Young Peoples Recreation centre	13/10/2020		towards surveys ahead of extension planning application	f
Grove Cottage BS Mencap	20/10/2020	500	towards providing Grove Cottage's Ofsted- regulated Special Needs Nursery	
Sawbridgeworth Congregational food boxes	28/10/2020	1100	food boxes for low-income families during half term in division	
Gt St Marys PCC community hall	02/11/2020	750	contribution towards parish hall improvements to playing field and recreation	
Widford Play area and field		350		
Wareside		450	community picnic bench	
Sawbridgeworth Cricket club	22/11/2020	750	improvements to clubhouse	
Stanstead St Margarets + Benefice	23/11/2020		Outreach for Homless residents placed in hostel	
East Herts	12/01/2021		remedial work to cycle rack	
Gilston Parish Council	12/01/2021		Parish notice board	
St John's ambulance	19/01/2021		kit out volunteers in support of vaccination programme	
			running total	

East Herts Cultural Strategy. In my Wellbeing Portfolio at East Herts, I am introducing a Cultural Strategy for the District. The purpose is to increase participation and access to the arts and culture for all but particularly for those in more disadvantaged circumstances. The intention is to encourage providers and volunteers to come together to share the gifts of our arts, culture, heritage, and our creative industries with established and new audiences alike. We know the potential of arts, culture and creativity in enriching people's lives and we all have our part to play to ensure everyone can enjoy and be inspired by the exciting and unexpected cultural opportunities on offer. I see this as very much connecting with the Social Prescribing Service I introduced a couple of years ago and the Healthy Hubs launched just before the first lockdown as a means of accessing lifestyle support and advice.



Appendix 3 - Hunsdon Parish Council Meeting 15th February 2021

Report from Councillor Bob Toll

Gilston Area Neighbourhood Plan

The Group can confirm that the Neighbourhood Plan has now passed its examination and the examiner's report will be with East Herts Council very shortly. We anticipate he will be recommending some minor amendments but nothing fundamental. The ball then passes into East Herts Council's court and they either accept the Plan or modify it in readiness for the referendum. The examiner has recommended that the residents of Hunsdon parish are permitted to participate in the referendum even though the plan does not cover the whole parish. We could be looking at May for the vote. However, in the meantime the policies in the Plan will carry weight and we are asking that it be taken into account by East Herts when determining the Gilston Area revised planning applications.

The NPG is now working on its response to the revised application submitted by Briggens Estate 1 for Village 7. We will be posting a crib sheet on our website for those interested in making a personal response. EHC organised two zoom meetings run by their planning officers open to the public to provide an update on the revisions to the outline application. I tuned into both, but only 5 other residents of the parish participated even though every household had a letter giving details of the arrangements. Perhaps we are all suffering from consultation overload?

I wish to record my thanks to the officers at East Herts for all their hard work running the zoom meetings. Last Saturday the meeting went on for over 2 ½ hours much of its Q&A. The Group is continuing to press EHC for more information regarding key issues which must be addressed alongside the revised applications for all 7 villages – Section 106 commitments and Stewardship and Ownership of community assets.

Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan to Parish Council February 2021

Report from Councillor O'Shea

Since the last report in January.

1. We have completed the draft neighbourhood Plan and submitted it for consultation to residents, businesses and stakeholders and statutory bodies concerned. residents received in each household of the Parish a Summary Booklet about the Plan and a questionnaire to give their responses to it and the others were notified by email.
2. The full draft of the Plan and ancillary documents are all on the NPG website. <https://hunsdoneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/hunsdon-area-neighbourhood-plan> where there is also an online questionnaire response form.
3. The consultation Period is 1st Feb to 22 March 2021. We are holding an online Q&A session by Zoom for all residents who wish to attend; for those unable to we have offered contacts for paper copies of the draft plan. If anybody wants the Zoom link it is available from me or members of the group and we are emailing all registered supporters details too.
4. When the consultation period ends, we will review all the responses to the draft Plan.
5. The group has worked extremely hard to get the Plan to this stage and will continue to do so to bring it on to the next stage. We hope to complete it this year. My thanks to members, Bob Toll, John Felstead, Mike Newman, Bud & Jackie Carthy, Malcolm Slater, Pauline Finch and Carole Page, and to our communications co-ordinator Mayer Nissim who has upgraded our website which is more important than ever because of the Covid restrictions on public meetings and inspection of documents in person.
6. We are within our Budget for this year and should meet financial targets to complete the plan with further assistance from the Parish Council next year which has budgeted another grant of £2000. We have also relied on the Locality Grant from central government of £10,000. Most of this is spend on professional planning consultants' fees.

Appendix 4 - Playground Report for HPC



Playground Report for HPC February 2021

Playground

Not much new to report this month. The Playground has not been closed during this lockdown, although playgrounds in other council areas, eg Buntingford are closed.

There are still some outstanding issues:

1. To meet the requirements of EN1176 - the standards for playgrounds we need to put up a board with contact details, no dogs, etc. Carol is getting some quotes for this.
2. I have had a quote for an in-depth operational inspection from Kompan which will cover all the equipment on the playground, not just the new equipment. It's an annual inspection which includes some basic maintenance such as oiling and tightening for a total of £158 excluding VAT . We need to make a decision before March 11th.

MUGA

Nothing to report.



Appendix 5

General Power of Competence

Localism Act 2011

In summary, the GPC enables councils to do things: -

- an individual may generally do
- anywhere in the UK or elsewhere
- for a commercial purpose or otherwise, for a charge or without a charge
- without the need to demonstrate that it will benefit the authority, its area, or persons resident or present in its area (although in practice councils will want to realise such benefits).

Qualification and Conditions

An eligible council is one which has resolved to adopt the GPC, with at least two thirds of its members being declared elected and the Clerk must hold an appropriate qualification (Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012).

Proposed Resolution

Hunsdon Parish Council resolves to adopt General Powers of Competence as provided under the Localism Act 2011 having met the prescribed qualifying conditions.