

# **PARISH COUNCIL**

## Parish Council Meeting Minutes

#### virtually via teleconference on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 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), 16 members of the public, Cllr Buckmaster,

**21.03.01 To receive and accept apologies for absence.** None received. Cllr Buckmaster will be delayed until 8.15pm.

#### 21.03.02 Coronavirus Update – Cllr Toll / Cllr Buckmaster

- County update Cllr Buckmaster nothing reported
- Councillor Toll said it looks like we may be able to return to normal operating procedures and have our meetings in the VH from July.
- **21.03.03** Declaration of Interest and dispensations to receive Declaration of Interest and dispensations from councillors on items on the agenda. Cllr Toll has an interest in the allotments, Cllr Toll asked Cllr O'Shea to chair that item on the agenda. No pecuniary interests declared from the other councillors in attendance.
- 21.03.04 Recognising that several members of the public had joined the meeting specifically to raise concerns about the SID outside the Homesteads, Councillors agreed to take this item of AOB earlier in the agenda at this point.
- **21.03.05** Approval of minutes of meeting held on February 18<sup>th</sup>2021. The minutes will be signed by the Chair and will be made available to the clerk as soon as is possible. All councillors approved the minutes.

#### 21.03.06 Matters Arising.

21.02.08 Clerk confirmed we can obtain quotes from water companies for the allotments.

21.02.10 'Deer' signs on Church Lane and the B180. Councillor Toll said it is a disappointing response from HCC who appear to think signs are for the protection of drivers.

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

- Parish Paths Partnerships (Appendix 1). Due to the use of the footpaths, the government are providing money to do the repairs. Cllr O'Shea asked when we are likely to get a response on the remedial works survey submitted by Martyn and Bud. Martyn said he does not have an idea when the money will be available.
- Police Report Clerk There has been 1 report for Hunsdon for the month of February 21. A
  motor vehicle was taken overnight outside a residential property. Police enquiries are currently
  still ongoing.

The local Rural SNT Team have been conducted several rural operations focusing on Hare coursing, poaching and off-road scrambler bikes in addition to patrols for Covid breaches.

- VHMC Cllr O'Shea Attended the bi-monthly meeting of the trustees on 10 March. There are four things to report on. Subject to government guidelines the village hall will be opening by 21<sup>st</sup> and by the end of June we will be able to go back to public meetings. Look at planning the Annual meeting for the July slot. Action: clerk to find out if this will be possible; Still looking for a new Chair, So, keep on the lookout for potential candidates; Financially in a strong position; The Village Hall management committee are supportive of the idea for a post covid celebration / village party.
- County Councillor / District Councillor Reports (See Appendix 2) Cllr Buckmaster Community Grants launched today for East Herts. Cllr Toll asked what effect Purdah will have on the District Council. Cllr Buckmaster said it comes into being on the 29<sup>th</sup> but he will still provide reports. Cllr Toll asked about the SID's issue at Homesteads. We know at present Ian is saying they are looking at a different location. Cllr Toll asked for a meeting with Cllr Buckmaster, Cllr O'Shea and the clerk



to go through the history of their proposed locations. Need to clear up a few points and how we are going to go forward. Action: Clerk to set a meeting up. Martyn asked Cllr Buckmaster how much money the county got for Covid. Cllr Buckmaster did not have the exact figure but said it was a huge sum.

#### 21.03.08 Neighbourhood Plans

- Hunsdon Parish Neighbourhood Plan Cllr O'Shea (Appendix 3)
  - Joint Hunsdon, Eastwick and Gilston Neighbourhood Plan Cllr Toll (Appendix 3): Cllr Toll to send out full NPG response to be circulated to all councillors. Cllr Toll has pulled together a summary. Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March is the deadline for submission. Pauline asked if there had been an email about Village 7 as she has submitted her reply. She also asked if the Communications coordinator could put something on the Village hub. Cllr O'Shea will check the notification is on all social media. Cllr O'Shea asked if the PC is submitting comments, or are we endorsing the group submission. Cllr Toll said we are endorsing this. Martyn asked: going back to HEGNP and the referendum - what is the question. Cllr O'Shea said it is a simple question "Do you support the HEGNP - yes or no". Martyn asked if it is clear we are not supporting the development. Cllr O'Shea said we must make it clear we are not planners, developers, or landowners. The decision has been made to build the houses and is irreversible. But we can shape and influence how this will be done. Cllr Toll asked that when the councillors receive the full submission, they read it through, paper produced by Cllr Tol is a fair summary. He asked for confirmation that we are happy to go with the neighbourhood plan response. All councillors agreed. Motion carried.

#### 21.03.08 Community Projects and Village infrastructure.

- Allotments Cllr Oliver Cllr O'Shea chaired this item. Cllr O'Shea introduced Cllr Oliver to present her report. Cllr Oliver said Daphne Toll would like to place a shed on the allotment plot. Cllr Oliver confirmed the shed meets the requirements All councillors agreed to the request.
- Parish Grounds Cllr O'Shea only outstanding issue is the tennis courts. Since November waiting for Diocesan board solicitors. Cllr O'Shea asked Jackie if the fundraising is viable, as we are unable to move forward without a lease. Jackie said it is still viable the MUGA but standing by until we have a lease. Cllr O'Shea confirmed we are to still press on with resolving the lease.
- Village Shop follow up Cllr McDonald The only thing to report on the shop is that Amrish will be back next week after he has been away for his sister's funeral in India. So, the post office should be open from the 22nd of March hopefully.
- Playground Councillor Fossey Nothing to report. Jackie -we are still working on the noticeboard and the annual inspection has been agreed. Playground committee need to consider the conditions of the £8,000 grant and some case studies need to be carried out and reported back to EHC. The playing field has been cut by our new contractor, and it is noticeable how good it looks. Jackie said the next stage is to replace matting with the sort of surface under the roundabout which will be Phase 2 to the playground. Some remedial works to the muddy bits would be welcome, such as putting something under the surface of the gate where it goes out to the zip wire. Chrissy Parker provided feedback re the playground equipment that the zip line is a massive hit and the flooring under the grass is fantastic. There is a possibility of slips on the slope going up to the zip line, can we put strips on there. Action: Jackie to talk to the supplier for that Cllr O'Shea said there is some discretionary money available.
  - Noticeboard Jackie and the clerk are working on this.
  - Waste bin due to the cost of purchasing a larger dog waste bin, it was suggested by the clerk that we review the possibility of moving the large one from the Dell to Back Lane and move the Back Lane one to the Dell. Action: clerk to approach EHC for the feasibility of this.

#### 21.03.09 Planning:

New applications for EHC Planning Decisions from EHC Planning



- **3/20/2538/PNHH PROPOSAL:** Single storey rear extension: Depth 5.30 metres, Maximum height 3.00 metres, Eave's height 3.00 metres. **AT:** 22 Wheatsheaf Road. Further to the earlier consultation regarding this proposal, this matter was considered by EH Planning Council on the 22nd of February 2021 and it was decided to **Prior Approval is Required and Granted**
- **3/20/2452/HH PROPOSAL:** Replacement fencing and replacement electric entrance gate. **AT:** 6 Ellison Close. This matter was considered by EH Planning Council on the 19th of February 2021 and it was decided to **Refuse Planning Permission**

#### Applications received after Agenda published.

- 3/21/0607/HH - PROPOSAL: Erection of first floor rear extension; front porch extension and alterations to fenestration including new door to rear elevation. 2 new skylights AT: 2 Rectory Close. Please send your comments to EH Planning by: 31st March 2021

#### Decisions received after Agenda published.

 3/21/0165/LBC PROPOSAL: Removal of electricity meter board. Replacement wooden beam and internal re-rendering and plastering. Installation of consumer unit and secondary consumer unit and re-siting of electricity meter board on an outside wall of the property AT: 63 High Street This matter was considered by EH Council on the 10th of March 2021 and it was decided to Grant Consent subject to Conditions.

Dog Day centre – we have written to ask what the status is of this application. Cllr Buckmaster to ask if it is going to be decided by committee. Cllr Toll said there are real concerns over the nearby rights of way. Cllr Buckmaster said a member can call it in, but it needs to be submitted by the councillor for that ward. A neighbour in the Parish of Stanstead Abbotts is pushing for it to go to committee. Action: Cllr Buckmaster to speak to the member for Stanstead Abbotts to ascertain what is going on.

#### 21.03.10 Finance – Clerks Report

- Spending for approval to agree to payment of accounts, as per the financial spreadsheet. All councillors agreed to the payment.
- To accept the accuracy of the financial statement. All councillors agreed to the accuracy.
- Projected spend 2021/22 feedback from Finance Committee Cllr Burton The projected spend has been circulated by Cllr Burton who shared the spreadsheet of the 2021-22 spend. Finance split between revenue expenditure and capital. Revenue is planned to be £28,598 against a precept of £21,000. Using £7,000 from reserves. Revenue surplus of £12,000 for projects. Capital expenditure £30,000 brought forward of which £14,000 allocated to the MUGA. Cllr Toll asked if the councillors agreed to the figures on Steve's budget sheet - all councillors agreed. The budget is now set, and we will manoeuvre within that. Cllr Toll suggested some capital projects:
  - More funds for the MUGA
  - Dell progress the development of the project into a tranquil area Cllr Fossey agreed to this project Cllr Toll to re-open discussions with Places for People.
  - Allotments look at the northern boundary, dead trees, fallen fences invested in tidying up that boundary and make it look good. Cllr Oliver said it needs a tidy up as it has not been done for years. Action: clerk to source companies
  - Village celebration Cllr O'Shea said the VHMC are supportive of this initiative. How much are we prepared to spend on this party? VH will match our funding and make the VH available. Cllr O'Shea suggest we put some money aside.
  - Village Gateway. Need some professional advice on the work to be done.

Cllr Burton suggests we ask the community what they would like. Cllr Toll suggests we use the Task list from the Neighbourhood Plan – list of 18-20 things that have priority and are what people would like to see done. Cllr Toll suggests the councillors give some thought to projects that we could make investments in.



Cllr Fossey says now we have the Communications Co-ordinator, whether there is a way of reengaging the community by putting the Task list on the website to ask people what the priorities are. What the top 3 are. Action: Cllr O'Shea to send list to councillors highlighting what we can do and what we cannot. [Done it's a draft Task List for the HANP based on the Household Survey 2019 and the Playground and Recreational Survey 2016 which he also circulated as there seems no need for yet another surveyors ]

New Homes Bonus – Cllr Buckmaster said we need to say it is committed spend and he will try to support us. Only one more year for the bonus scheme.

Clerk's salary (March - BACS)	£415.99
Litter Pickers (March – Card payment at the request of A. Patel's accountant)	£130.00
Parish Online (subscription renewal)	£120.00
Dell (payment for clerks' computer)	£461.16
Freshbinz (bin cleaning – Nov 20)	£100.00
Gov Resources (Consultancy work for HANP – inv 2021017)	£5,250
M Newman (web hosting costs from Ionos)	£85.13
M Newman (PC website host costs)	£46.71
M Nissim (HANP related work)	£35.00
M Nissim (PC related website work)	£15.00
J Felstead (setting up clerks' new computer)	£140.00
J Felstead (setting up email accounts for communications coordinator)	£35.00
Michelson Landscape (installing bin in Play Ground)	£54.00
Hunsdon Village Hall – 3 months hire charge for the coffee morning group	£36.00
C Page (litter picker grabbers)	£16.99

#### 21.03.11 Consultations

- Unitary Local Government – defer to next month.

#### 21.03.12 AOB

SID's machines. Cllr Toll asked if there were any questions. Will Parker said he would like to bring up the SIDs being put up around the village. He further said that no-one was informed of any decisions of what was going to happen and where it was going to be put. Cllr Toll said HCC Highways are handling this and that they wrote to neighbours in the locality to say what the proposals were. Will Parker said he received a letter, but it was not a consultation. The residents were not asked. Cllr Toll said the HCC position about the positioning of these are decided when they have consulted their safety experts. The Parish Council understand from HCC Highways that they are not proceeding with the proposed SID's on the pavement opposite the Homesteads but will be looking for an alternative location. Will Parker said he spoke to the council and he was told it was the clerk who made the decision. Cllr Fossey asked who sent the letter. Will Parker gave the name of the Highways employee. Cllr Toll confirmed to the meeting the Parish Council were not asked where they were being put, we were told where they were going to be put. Action: Cllr Toll to discuss the SID procedure with Councillor Buckmaster. Chrissie said she has spoken to the residents in Homesteads and whilst they agree it is important to slow the cars down before they get to the village, the proposed location could be just before the new houses. Cllr O'Shea said most villagers want speed control and it is frustrating that HCC have annoyed a sector of the community and it makes sense to place the SID at the entrance to the village. Chrissie further said, all residents are for the devices, but not for the location. There will be light pollution from the red and green faces. Makes sense to put it on the edge of the village. Rosie from Homesteads said the layby by the houses, is in a state of disrepair, can we



change that. Cllr Toll said we need to ask who owns the layby, is it part of your houses or is it part of the highways? Action: Clerk to find out who is responsible for the road in front of their houses. Will Parker said Affinity Water have dug up the land before. Cllr O'Shea said water companies have statutory powers.

Cllr Burton reminded everyone that on Wednesday is defib training - 09.00 outside the VH. Mike Newman has coordinated the installation of the defib. Action: clerk to get the old one removed from the pub. Cllr Burton to see if we need to hand back.

Pauline asked if we could put something in the social media that the defib has moved. Cllr Toll agreed this is an excellent idea.

Chrissy – Mums are looking to do a clothes swap and raise money for a defib, so will feed back to the group that a new defib is going to be outside the VH.

Bud – dismayed by Wellhouse development. Starting to look like an eyesore. Cllr Toll has spoken to the developer and the problem is an electricity supply. A new transformer must be installed somewhere to provide the electricity.

Cllr Fossey – can we piggyback on the EU settlement scheme. Should we be promoting that to anyone. Is there any information – Cllr Fossey asked Cllr Buckmaster if County have done anything and will forward onto Di.

Cllr Buckmaster has raised again the state of litter with East Herts. He will share the littler picking programme with us

Martyn asked what works going on at the Crown. He is concerned that it may be intruding into the Listed Building. The Parish Council have not been notified of any planning application and we have had no complaints.

#### 21.03.13 Close of meeting: 21.35

21.03.14 **Date of Next Meeting**: Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

If any member of the public or press wish to join the Hunsdon Parish Council meeting they can contact the Clerk on: <a href="mailto:clerk@hunsdonparishcouncil.org">clerk@hunsdonparishcouncil.org</a> or on 01920 870809.



#### Appendix 1 – Parish Paths Partnership - Report to Hunsdon Parish Council - Meeting on the March 2021

#### 1.Footpaths – General

Nicholas Maddex alerted us to the fact that a new covid related money stream may become available to repair footpaths impacted by virtually no maintenance in the last year due to of C19 restrictions. Consequently, we have carried out a survey of all the paths in the parish, highlighting areas where maintenance would be beneficial. We have also assigned our proposed priorities to potential work. This survey has been supplied to Nicholas.

We have also shared the survey with Councillor O'Shea in addition to providing advice on the development potential cycle route thru this and neighbouring parishes.



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

**County Budget.** Investment to support those in need, protect the environment and make Hertfordshire more sustainable are the key priorities in the council's spending and budget plans for the year ahead. Councillors today (Tuesday 23 February) agreed the budget for 2021/22, which includes an increase of 2% for the adult social care precept and an additional 1.99% for general council tax, meaning a total increase to council tax of 3.99%. This works out at an extra £1.08 a week for average Band D households.

The county council has decided to not take up the option of increasing the adult social care precept to 3% this year and will instead collect the remaining 1% next year in 2022/23.

The key areas highlighted within the budget are:

• Supporting the vulnerable and COVID recovery: This includes funding for additional numbers of people needing support and increases in the National Living Wage, in addition to providing the Voluntary Sector with an enhanced package to support COVID recovery. This will be broadly met by the extra 2% in social care precept. Investment will also be made in safeguarding to support vulnerable individuals in care. This is on top of further investment to enable care worker pay increases and funding for the Domestic Violence Service, and to provide support for the future transformation of disability services.

• Protecting the environment: This budget includes £10m investment as part of our climate change response, providing additional capital funding to improve drainage in response to highways flooding brought about by increasing and changing rainfall patterns. There will be an additional £7m investment to fund the roll-out of 20mph speed limits, in line with the Speed Management Strategy approved by Cabinet in December 2020, as well as an extra £3m investment in active travel schemes and extra funding for winter maintenance;

• Making Hertfordshire more sustainable: Including a total of £12m investment in sustainable projects to significantly drive forward delivery of the <u>Sustainable Hertfordshire strategy</u> approved by Cabinet in March 2020;

• Meeting the challenges of a growing county: A £2m investment fund has been established to progress Growth and Infrastructure work to put the council at the forefront of being able to bid for government and other external funding.

Council tax bills for the new financial year will be issued by Hertfordshire's district councils from early March. You can find out more about how we spend your council tax on our website <u>www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/counciltax</u>

#### County Council Cabinet approves redevelopment of Joint Emergency Services training centre.

Hertfordshire County Council's Cabinet has approved plans to redevelop the Joint Emergency Services Academy (JESA) in Stevenage. The site, which is owned by the county council, became a joint training centre for Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service (HFRS) and Hertfordshire Constabulary in March 2019 as part of a commitment to increased emergency services collaboration made by Hertfordshire County Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The current JESA site at Longfield in Stevenage was built as a primary school in 1962 and was converted for use as the Fire Service Training Centre in 1992. The site contains several buildings which are in urgent need of attention to ensure the ongoing delivery of safe and high-quality emergency response training.



The project is set to cost approximately £34m, making it the largest county council-led estates project in recent years. At this primary stage, Cabinet has approved the use of £600,000 to develop the proposals to detailed design stage which will help confirm the expected project expenditure and support the move to the next procurement stage.

Since the training centre at Longfield opened its doors to police colleagues, approximately 95 police trainees and more than 100 fire trainees have graduated from the site, and many more have visited to refresh their training.

#### Secondary school places announced for 2021.

# 95 per cent of children have been allocated a place at one of their preferred secondary or upper schools by Hertfordshire County Council.

Of the 14,752 Hertfordshire children who applied this year, 78 per cent gained a place at their first-choice school. Over 99% of parents and carers in Hertfordshire applied online and will be emailed the place their child has been allocated this afternoon (Monday 1 March). Families who made a paper application will be sent a letter by 1<sup>st</sup> class post. All applicants who have not been offered their first preference school will automatically be placed on the continuing interest list for any Hertfordshire schools named higher on the application form than the school offered. Parents and carers are advised to accept the school place offered. Accepting the place will not impact upon the appeals or continuing interest processes. Parents and carers have until 15 March 2021 to accept their school place. More information about the allocation process can be found online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

**SaverCards**, Hertfordshire County Council has announced that this year's SaverCards, which offer half price fare travel for 11-19 year olds, are being extended for validity by 9 weeks to give customers value for money, following lockdown's restriction of travel. The move comes as government guidance lifts some of the boundaries faced by residents in lockdown, and children increasingly return to school.

The SaverCards will be valid on all of the council's 'duplicate buses' – which provide additional buses on busy routes for school travel as well as all buses on the Hertfordshire bus network. This reduces demand on existing public transport, ensuring those who need to use it can socially distance. Increased opening hours for largest recycling centres

**Recycling Centres** Three of Hertfordshire's largest recycling centres will be open seven days a week from mid-May as Hertfordshire County Council responds to a high number of visits to the sites under lockdown and anticipated increased on-going demand.

The county's biggest and busiest recycling centres at Ware, Stevenage and Waterdale (north Watford), will all switch from five-day to seven-day opening to give residents a wider window for visiting the centres, helping to reduce waiting times and reduce pressure on the other sites in the county.

Hertfordshire's recycling centres are open during lockdown for essential visits only, to allow residents to dispose of waste that cannot be put in their normal recycling bins or safely stored at home. Social distancing measures and limits on the number of visitors are also in place to on the sites to keep staff and visitors safe.

Please check our website at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/recyclingcentres for details of site opening times, and to check details of queueing times, container capacity and the live webcams.

#### Hertfordshire County Council secures £23.5m to combat Climate Change

Hertfordshire County Council has successfully secured a further £8.5m of funding from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, managed by Salix Finance, to help fight the climate change emergency in the county. The county council's success in securing a second and third application from this scheme brings its total funding to £23.5m. In January it successfully secured £15m of funding from its first application.

The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme enables public sector organisations to tackle climate change by delivering capital energy efficiency schemes and heating decarbonisation projects. This funding means the county



council can now deliver several sustainability led projects at a number of its sites including its school estate, fire stations, libraries, and main office buildings.

Some of the many projects include the installation of solar panels across 128 council owned buildings, the installation of an air source heat pump across our Mundell's estate and the delivery of improved cavity wall insulation across a further 15 school sites.

In addition, there will be the installation of modern, energy efficient boiler systems at various schools across the county – locations to be confirmed. The funding will also allow for improved building insulation and other building improvement schemes.

This is the first of many projects Hertfordshire County Council plans to deliver over the next year to meet its ambitious goals outlined in its Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy.

To read the Sustainable Hertfordshire Strategy and Action plan visit:

https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/sustainable-hertfordshire/sustainable-hertfordshire.aspx

**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.

**New Homes Bonus Change** New awards of the New Homes Bonus (NHB) were due to have ended but this was given a one year reprieve by government. Given the pressures on the overall budget and the need to protect the council's cash flow it is proposed to end the automatic payment of NHB resources to Town and Parish Councils. Instead an amount equivalent to the 25% normally paid over to Town and Parish Councils will be held in reserves for eligible Town and Parish Councils to bid for. The payments will be conditional on the Town and Parish Council: having local Member endorsement of the bid; that the bid amount is capped at the amount they would have received under the previous arrangement; that they have spent all New Homes Bonus previously received and that the scheme being bid for meets one or more of the council's SEED priorities.

#### Full Council Agenda March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021

Executive Report - 24 November 2020 (Pages 31 - 60) To receive a report from the Leader of the Council and to consider recommendations on the matters below: (A) **Gilston Area Community Engagement Strategy** 9. Executive report - 19 February 2021 (Pages 61 - 580) To receive a report from the Leader of the Council and to consider recommendations on the matters below: (A) **Cultural Strategy (B) Sustainability Supplementary Planning Document – Final for Adoption (C) Planning Enforcement Plan – Review and Update 10. Millstream Business Plan 2021/22 and Council Cashflows** (Pages 581 - 614) 11. **Budget 2021/22 and Medium Term Financial Plan 2021-24** (Pages 615 - 698) 12. **Council Tax 2021/22** - Tax Setting Formal Resolution Report to follow 13. **Capital Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy** 2021/22 (Pages 699 - 762) 14. **Treasury Management and Annual Investment Strategy** 2021/22 (Pages 763 - 838) 15. Human Resources Committee - 16 February 2021 (Pages 839 - 862) 16. **Community Grants Priorities 2021/22** (Pages 863 - 904) **Full Council Agenda March 18<sup>th</sup> 2021** 

On 18<sup>th</sup> January we will be considering the business case for the Old River Lane Development in Bishop's Stortford including the Arts Centre.



# Appendix 3 - Hunsdon Parish Council Meeting March 2021

Report from Councillor Bob Toll

## GILSTON AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN GROUP

We are almost there. The Plan is now back with East Herts Council for a final decision on publishing for a referendum. We think it may be held on 6<sup>th</sup> May as this is the date scheduled for local elections. The residents of the 3 parishes of Eastwick, Gilston and Hunsdon are eligible to vote and the outcome will be based on a simple majority of those voting.

The NPG is pulling together its response to the Village 7 outline application revisions with the assistance of its consultants. This will be finished off tomorrow. The deadline is March 18<sup>th</sup>. The full response will be circulated to councillors for endorsement. Meanwhile a summary of our major concerns has been drafted and appended here to help councillors get a broad idea of the key issues.

The NPG is also producing a basic guidance sheet this week for those wishing to make personal responses. It will be published on the website and on our Facebook pages.

Looking to the future, workload of the NPG, it has been decided to set up 4 small teams to lead on key topics. The full monthly meetings of the NPG will be plenary.

- 1 Landscape masterplanning and biodiversity
- 2 Stewardship/Governance
- 3 Planning applications and S106 provisions
- 4 Village masterplanning and design code

The NPG would welcome interest from anyone who would like to participate in these groups.

# Hunsdon Area Neighbourhood Plan to Parish Council March 2021

### **Report from Councillor O'Shea**

Since the last report in February.

- 1. The Plan is still in the consultation period until 22 March. So far, we have received nearly 50 responses from residents, but statutory bodies and landowners have not replied yet.
- 2. The full draft of the Plan and ancillary documents are all on the NPG website. <u>https://hunsdonneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/hunsdon-area-neighbourhood-plan</u> where there is also an online questionnaire response form.
- 3. We held an online Q&A session by Zoom for all residents, but attendance was disappointingly low.
- 4. When the consultation period ends, we will review all the responses to the draft Plan.
- 5. We have passed Govresources invoice to the PC for payment.; we have asked them to complete the technical screening report by end of month so that it goes into this year's accounts. 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.

6. .



Appendix 4 - Playground Report for HPC

Playground Report for HPC March 2021



# **Playground**

Not much new to report this month. Carole and I are still working on getting a notice board for the playground.

An annual inspection has been agreed – and will take place in May. Carole has asked to be present during the inspection.

The playground committee need to start thinking about meeting the conditions of the East Herts Community Grant with respect to measuring outcomes – usage, case studies and planning a belated opening event when Covid regulations permit.

### <u>MUGA</u>

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.

