**Brent Pelham and Meesden Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF**

**BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Thursday 12th September 2024**

**At Brent Pelham Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Trevor Hughes Councillor and Chairman

Steve Murphy Councillor

Sarah Wotton-Ramsay Councillor

Wilf Dimsdale Councillor

Ted Barclay Councillor and Vice Chairman

Chris Dodds Councillor

**In Attendance:** Ken Newstead – Clerk

**APOLOGIES**: All present (apologies received from Geoff Williamson – Little Hadham & The Pelhams Ward)

**Minute Item Action**

**Year.Month.Item**

**24.09.01 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed **Beth Featherstone** a Brent Pelham resident to this meeting.

**24.09.02 Declaration of Interests**

There was nothing declared

**24.09.03 To approve Minutes from June 2024 Parish Council meeting**

**Resolved** - proposed Cllr Wotton-Ramsay, seconded Cllr Murphy that the minutes were a true and accurate record of proceedings, and they were duly signed by Cllr Hughes as Chairman. Unanimous decision.

**24.09.04 Public Issues/Participation**

Beth Featherstone told the Council that the village noticeboard was very wobbly. Cllr Barclay agreed to remedy the problem. **TB**

Beth Featherstone asked who was responsible for mowing the grass surrounding the war memorial? **Update**: *Decia Lane from BP Village Hall Committee says this will be done monthly by existing village hall gardener.*

**24.09.05 Finance – Annual Accounts, AGAR Returns and Proposals for Payment**

The Clerk presented a summary of all expenditure this period and gave a breakdown of the spend versus budgetdetailed on the accounts. He reminded the Councillors that at our next meeting the Precept for 25/26 will need to be agreed. The accounts for YTD were approved and the Bank Statements were checked and verified against it as a true record of accounts.

An appeal from Citizens Advice for a grant from our PC was discussed and unanimously decided against due to our predicted overspend of Precept.

Cllr Wotton-Ramsay asked if the Council supported the erection of a commemorative “Tommy” soldier available from the Royal British legion at a cost of £175 each. The Councillors felt that this might better be funded by a collection from residents. Cllr Wotton-Ramsay to investigate.

**24.09.06 Planning Applications**

The applications or requests for consultation received since last meeting were detailed on the agenda. All submissions reviewed without objection. The Councillors all expressed their dissatisfaction with appears to be a blanket decision by East Herts planning team to reject all applications for new builds due to lack of infrastructure in our Parish. Details of the Councils objections are to be discussed with our Ward Councillor Geoff Williamson at the earliest opportunity as the ban on any more housing in villages without public transport was discriminatory. It prevents villages from growing organically.

**24.09.07 Highways**

Cllr Barclay told the council that despite his letter to the East Herts Highways department which detailed how they were ignoring the Eight principles they have regarding road closures, and subsequently causing unnecessary road closures in our parish. He received no further comment from Highways.

Cllr Wotton-Ramsy informed the Council that despite her best efforts there had been no feedback from her request for routine preventative maintenance to ditches and drains. **Update**: Cllr Jeff Jones says *“If you believe the gullies are blocked you need to report them precisely on the fault reporting portal on the HCC website”*

Cllr Dodds contacted a private road repair company (UK Potholes) that had emailed the Council to see if they were able to assist us, but unfortunately on investigation their work is only suitable for Commercial networks.

Cllr Dodds also told the Council that there were currently no outstanding repairs listed on the highway website for this parish.

**24.09.08 Village Defibrillators and Emergency Telephone System**

No issues this period. Routine serviceable items completed.

**24.09.09 Repairs and Maintenance**

Cllr Murphy has arranged jetting of Meesden drain on September 18th at an estimated cost of £485+vat.

**24.09.10 AOB**

* Cllr Dodds is in contact with Caitlin Williams EHDC to see if we qualify for any decarbonisation grants.
* The purchase of 2-way radios for Disaster Recovery in our parish was considered but agreed to be unnecessary.
* Cllr Dimsdale replied to EHDC offer of free trees for the Parish saying that this could only be of interest if the offer included fencing to prevent Deer from eating or destroying the new trees.
* Cllr Hughes is currently supplying details of Meesden Village Hall to the Rural EV Charging team to see if they will be able to fit an Electric Car Charger point in the village.
* An offer from EHDC for Road Salt was discussed but considered unsuitable for our parish.
* Following the discovery of woodworm holes in the BP Stocks and after further inspection it was agreed that they are likely not to have any live woodworm in them.

**24.09.16 Date of Next Meetings**

The next Parish Council meetings are to be held on:

**Thursday 21st November – Budget Setting for 2024 – at Meesden Village Hall**

**Thursday 13th February 2025 – at Brent Pelham Village Hall**

**The meeting concluded at 8:40 pm**

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

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

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