**Brent Pelham and Meesden Parish Council**

**MINUTES OF**

**BRENT PELHAM & MEESDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Thursday 13th February 2025**

**At Brent Pelham Village Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Trevor Hughes Parish Councillor and Chairman

Steve Murphy Parish Councillor

Sarah Wootton-Ramsay Parish Councillor

Wilf Dimsdale Parish Councillor

Ted Barclay Parish Councillor and Vice Chairman

Cllr Chris Dodds Parish Councillor

Cllr Jef Jones County Councillor and Vice-Chairman, Standards Committee

**In Attendance:** Ken Newstead – Clerk

**APOLOGIES**: Geoff Williamson, Member for Little Hadham & The Pelhams Ward

**Minute Item Action**

**Year.Month.Item**

**25.02.01 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Jef Jones to this meeting.

**25.02.02 Declaration of Interests**

None

**25.02.03 To approve Minutes from the November 2024 Parish Council meeting**

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

**25.02.04 Public Issues/Participation**

The Chairman gave details he had received from Brent Pelham resident Beth Featherstone regarding the Brent Pelham Village Hall. Ms Featherstone was asking if a fence could be erected around the village hall so as to provide additional protection from passing vehicles. The Chairman confirmed that this was not something the Parish Council would be able to deal with and referred the matter to Cllr Barclay who is a member of the Village Hall Committee.

**25.02.05 Finance – Annual Accounts 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. The accounts for YTD were approved and the Bank Statements were checked and verified against it as a true record of accounts.

2024/25 Year-to-Date NETT spend of £2,885 versus 2024/25 Forecast £3,603 and Precept of £3,628.

A proposal for payment for a £108.30 East Herts Recharge of Returning Officer Fee relating to May 2023 Local Elections was approved by the Chairman with unanimous agreement.

**25.02.06 Planning Applications**

One application for consultation (APPEALED) received 24/00110/REFUSE was received since last meeting and detailed on the agenda. There was no objection.

**25.02.07 Highways**

Cllr Jeff Jones confirmed that following a meeting at Brent Pelham with Ben Randall from the East Herts Highways team a plan to investigate the damaged gullies will be carried out between March 1st and March 6th, 2025.

At the Meeting, Ben Randall agreed work would be undertaken all around the area of the Black Horse, including investigating the tank in Donna Piggots garden.

The second phase which is a major contributor to the flooding at the Black Horse, is coming down from near Robert Barclay Farm on the road to Anstey, any investigation and remedial work would come out of next years budget and would not be able to start until June or July of this year.    Also Ben said the council would deal with the fallen tree next to the pond by the Robert Barclay's Farm and sort out the Heras fencing that was left by the pond to stop Children and dogs falling into that area.  He was unaware if the pond was a flood storage and release area belonging to the Farmer or the council.  The land drain opposite the bungalows is blocked and he acknowledged that they were unable to lift it, when they attended last time, however he said that this would be carried out and it would be cleared when they come to sort out the problems later in the year.

**25.02.08 Village Defibrillators and Emergency Telephone System (VETS)**

Following an appeal in the Village Newsletter for residents to support the Meesden VETS the Clerk reported that there was insufficient support available to run an effective system. The Clerk suggested that using the WhatsApp mobile phone application might be a better option as it is known to work for the village of Anstey. A proposal to adopt this system in place of VETS was proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Wootton-Ramsay with unanimous support. The Clerk will announce this to the residents of Meesden and Brent Pelham via the next Newsletter. **KN**

**25.02.09 Repairs and Maintenance**

Following further blockages in the Meesden drain system Cllr Hughes arranged a CCTV inspection which confirmed that the blockage has been caused by the ingression of tree roots. The contractor is to return on February 27th to replace the damaged section and to fit a liner to some of the remaining pipework. Further CCTV inspection will then be carried out on another section of the pipe. **TH**

Cllr Jeff Jones has indicated that if he is re-elected later this year, he will endeavour to allocate some money to offset the cost of the work.

The Clerk is to check with the PC insurance to see if the damage is covered on our insurance. **KN**

**25.02.10 AOB**

 None

**25.02.16 Date of Next Meetings**

The next Parish Council meetings are to be held on:

**Thursday 5th June 2025 – at Meesden Village Hall**

**Thursday 18th September 2025 – at Brent Pelham Village Hall**

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

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

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

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