

MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM, of necessity held remotely due to Coronavirus restrictions and, due to technical issues, completed on Monday 9th November.

Councillors present: Cllr Adrian Waygood, Chairman
Cllr Stuart Norman, Vice Chairman
Cllr Jim Egginton
Cllr Andy Miller
Cllr Michael Stevens

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: Up to 5 unidentified members of the public joined the meeting remotely

20.38 **Apologies for absence** were received from County and District Cllr Ken Crofton (who is not obliged to attend) and from Cllr Peace for 2nd November.

20.39 **Declarations of interest:** None.

20.40 **To receive the minutes of the last meeting** held on 7th September and the extraordinary meeting held on 17th September as a correct record.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Norman, resolved unanimously and adopted without amendments and signed by the chairman.

20.41 Matters arising

The new wall at 6 Bradcotes: It is considered to be too close to the highway and could pose a safety issue in limiting the passing space on the carriageway, and is not in keeping with the hedged frontages in the conservation area. Proposed by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Egginton that Cllr Stevens to write to Highways/Planning Enforcement on behalf of Ardeley Parish Council. Passed with one objection.

The new website has been purchased within the statutory deadline in accordance with the resolution made at the last meeting; the clerk is proceeding with the construction.

20.42 **Financial report** and cheques for approval: Schedules were circulated prior to the meeting. Cheques for clerk's salary, PAYE, and litter collection were approved and signed.

20.43 Correspondence

The email received from Cllr Crofton regarding the reliability of the jitsi remote platform was discussed. Given the reception difficulties, the meeting was then adjourned to reconvene on Monday 9th November at 7.30pm.

Before the meeting adjourned, the chairman mentioned that the independent auditor, Mr Alan Herbert, would be sadly missed on his retirement.

Meeting reconvened on 9th November, attendees as before with Cllr Peace being present:

20.44 **Planning:** To consider current planning applications.

Cromer Hill Common: the applicants had lodged an appeal.

Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr Egginton: Ardeley Parish Council has no objection to the appeal being made by the applicants. Passed unanimously.

20.45 **Highways:** Nothing to report.

20.46 Playground:

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace: That Broadmead Leisure be instructed to carry out twice yearly maintenance inspections in March and September at £70 plus VAT. Passed unanimously. The chairman confirmed the playground is open and thanked Cllr Miller and Cllr Peace for all the hard work they had put into making the playground ready for reopening, including grass cutting and tidying up.

20.47 **1 Crows Croft:** To consider whether to refer complaint of possible infringement of permitted business activities. Since the last meeting, councillors had visited the site weekly to make observations from the roadside and noted that the appearance from the road would not support a complaint.

Proposed by Cllr Peace and seconded by Cllr Waygood: No action to be taken. Resolved unanimously.

20.48 **Tree planting on Moor Green** to mark the VE 75th anniversary year: Cllr Peace reported that there had been difficulties in sourcing and oak tree because of an infestation of processionary moth.

Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr Stevens: That the sum of £300 be allocated for purchase of an oak tree or if unobtainable another native variety. Resolved unanimously.

20.49 **Retirement of Independent Auditor:** Mr Alan Herbert had tendered his resignation after auditing the accounts of Ardeley Parish Council for the last 30 years pro bono. The chairman thanked Mr Herbert for his tireless support for so many years; the council wished Mr Herbert every happiness in his retirement.

It was noted that a replacement would need to be found and that this may affect the budget for the next financial year.

20.50 **The Old Bourne Network of Bridleways:** The chairman welcomed Mr Natt to the meeting and thanked him on behalf of the local community for the kind work that he has done in improving public access to the Bourne locality.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Norman: That Cty Cllr Crofton be contacted together with the Rights of Way Department urging them to clear the obstructions as they are obliged to do. Carried unanimously.

20.51 Luton Airport: update.

Cllr Peace reported that there were 2 consultations taking place, one closing next Wednesday for which he had drafted a letter. Throughput was being increased from 18 million to 19.2 million passengers per year, which will result in an increased noise output which would be particularly noticeable over rural areas.

Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr Waygood: that the letter of objection be sent. Resolved with 3 in favour and 1 against with 2 abstentions.

The second consultation which runs until February 2021 concerns the rerouting of the planes flying which may result in all of them stacking over Ardeley and the surrounding area. Cllr Peace would do further research on the proposals and formulate a response which could be considered at the next meeting. The chairman thanked Cllr Peace for his efforts.

20.52 Urgent matters not previously notified:

A request had been received from the church for a donation towards the repairs to the lychgate; the current cost of the repairs is estimated at £15,000.

The lychgate was felt to be a key feature of the village and it is utilized by all the villagers who use the church and the churchyard.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Norman: That a donation of £1,000 be made to the church specifically to be used towards the repair of the lychgate. Carried unanimously.

There was discussion as to availability of a future venue where live meetings could take place given the issues with holding them remotely; the situation to be clarified with the village hall committee as to what was allowable - also whether there was a suitable location at Church Farm.

20.53 Date of next meeting: Monday 4th January 2021 at 7.30pm. Location to be notified due to current Covid 19 restrictions.

Public participation: Mr Natt informed the meeting that he had recently been in contact with County Council and they said that they would do something about the trees to clear them.

The meeting then closed at 8.45pm.