

MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 PM

Councillors present: County Cllr Ken Crofton

Cllr Tim Noble, Chairman
Cllr Adrian Waygood, Vice-Chairman
Cllr Andrew Cannon
Cllr Jim Egginton
Cllr Stuart Norman
Cllr David Young

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk
Others present: 4 members of the public

18.051 **Apologies for absence:** None

18.052 **Declarations of interest:** None

18.053 **To receive the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3rd September 2018:** These were received and approved as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Young and adopted unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

18.054 **Matters arising**

Banking: The clerk confirmed that Barclays Bank has now changed the address for correspondence and she is now receiving bank statements direct from Barclays.

Church Farm: Cllr Noble contacted Paul Dean at EHDC planning and enforcement team, requesting an update on retrospective planning applications for Church Farm and was informed by Mr Dean that a report by his service manager about planning applications for Church Farm, is awaiting sign off.

Cromer name change by utilities: Cllr Egginton will continue to take the matter up with the council.

Drains in Cromer: Cllr Egginton wished for it to be noted that the gullies have been dug out on the road up to-Cromer windmill and the ditch has also been dug out, but the drains are still not clear. Cllr Norman will take it up with Highways again.

War memorial at the approach to Ardeley: This matter was raised last time after the meeting had been formally closed as it is not a council responsibility. Cllr Young wished it to be noted that the monument had now been repaired and the meeting expressed its approval and appreciation of the restoration of this local landmark.

18.055 **Finance**

Financial report and cheques for approval: A list of cheques to be signed was submitted by the clerk. The clerk was told that schedule of payments due for litter picking services had been submitted for this calendar year.

18.056 **Planning**

The updated list of planning applications was received by the meeting and the council confirmed that no objection letters had been sent regarding The Goose and Moor House.

The council noted that the application for Red Brick Cottages has now been approved by East Herts Council.

18.057 East Herts District Plan

Cllr Noble supported the local parish councils with their objections for the Gresley Park development but reported that they were overruled and the plan has been signed off and passed by East Herts Council.

Cty Cllr Crofton commented that the District Plan has taken 5 years to formulate at a cost of millions of pounds. The request for a Stop Notice on the District Plan was not supported by either Sir Oliver Heald MP or Mark Prisk MP, only by Stephen McPartland MP. The Plan will now proceed in its entirety including the development at Gresley Park. Councillor Crofton initially opposed the development at Gresley Park but accepted that we had lost the fight against its inclusion. The District Plan is in place until 2033 and includes 90,000 new houses in Hertfordshire. Whilst the Gresley Park land has been zoned for a development of at least 600 houses, the developers still have to apply for detailed consent to develop the land and the Council will use their powers to ensure that the proposed scheme meets local housing needs and is not just "a lot of boxes". The Gresley Park development is likely to be completed by 2023.

18.058 Hedge Cutting in Moor Green

It was noted that some areas of Moor Green had become heavily overgrown by blackthorn and brambles, but it was also recognized that there was a lot of local opposition to a full cutback for which the cost was estimated to be in the region of £2-3000. It was noted that the overgrown areas were inhabited by deer and other wildlife. Following discussion, the majority were in favour of a light trim annually in order to prevent further encroachment. Cllr Waygood agreed to seek 3 quotes for the work including a local contractor who would be sensitive to the views expressed by the Moor Green residents.

18.059 Tree reported leaning in Wood End

The resident concerned has spoken to a tree advisor who advised that it was dangerous and needed urgent action due to the angle and rotting of the main trunk, and potential damage to the neighbouring property if it fell. It was confirmed that the tree is on Parish land and Cllr Noble confirmed that he will speak to an arborist and will report back to the council with their findings and if necessary, an indication of cost. It was subsequently noted that the Council is insured for the cost of essential tree work in the Parish up a maximum of £1,000 per claim where there is a risk of damage to property or person.

18.060 Parish Book Swap

Library Box: The clerk reported that she has applied for a grant of £5-600 from East Herts District Council and awaits to hear whether or not the application has been successful. Cty Cllr Crofton said that he may also be able to assist with funding of £1,000 which he would be able to ringfence until December pending the outcome of the grant application.

The siting of the box was then discussed, as the area beside the parish noticeboard at the junction of school lane which had previously been agreed on was subsequently considered to be too high to afford convenient access, and could cause a road accident with owners of parked cars using the box. After discussion, the council agreed that a more practical and safe place would be against the fence on the outside of the Ardeley play area opposite Ardeley school where it would be accessible, with less traffic. This was proposed by Cllr Noble and seconded by Cllr Waygood and passed by a 4:2 majority.

18.061 Highways

Ardeley traffic calming: Cllr Norman reported that he had contacted the council but has had no response so he will go to the council directly. Cllr Crofton advised that approaches to the council were best made through him and he agreed to take it forward. He said there would have to be a study which has to be paid for, even to put 30mph signage on the road. Cty Cllr Crofton and Cllr Norman agreed to meet with the highways department of East Herts District Council.

Weight limit on the B1037 – Cllr Egginton has been liaising with Cty Cllr Crofton about this. Cty Cllr Crofton explained that the B1037 would not be eligible for a weight restriction as it's a minor road, but there may be one imposed on the A507 in Cottered in due course. Cty Cllr Crofton said that there would still be difficulty in enforcing the weight limit as lorries could claim they were making deliveries in the area and thus avoid the weight limit restrictions. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda of future Parish Council meetings.

18.062 **Playground**

An update on work carried out was given by Cllr Egginton who confirmed that the paintwork has now been renewed and repairs completed. The invoice for £936 including VAT has been submitted. It was agreed unanimously that Cllr Egginton would put up a 'NO DOGS' sign next to the sign giving contact details.

Cllr Egginton also reported that the entrance gate used to be locked with a combination lock which has now been removed. It was agreed to leave it unlocked for the time being.

18.063 **Dates of meetings for 2019** were agreed as follows:

4th March, 1st July, 2nd September and 4th November.

The date in May was not agreed due to forthcoming elections in that month.

18.064 **Urgent matters not previously notified:** none

18.065 **Date of next meeting: Monday 7th January 2019 at 7.30pm**

The meeting was formally closed at 8.30pm.

Meeting open to the public:

Rather than a 30mph roundel painted in the road, one resident expressed the view that 'SLOW' painted on the road at the entrance to Ardeley village would be more effective as '30 mph' is in fact too fast in a village environment and many drivers see this as an indication of the correct speed to drive, rather than it being a maximum.

Another resident raised the issue of speeding across Moor Green. It was noted that the road across Moor Green is a straight line with no visual restrictions and that there is also a problem with speeding vehicles, and trail bikes in particular on this stretch of road which also has a 30mph limit.

Cty Cllr Crofton said that there are no statistics to say that accidents are happening in the parish of Ardeley and therefore no financial justification for additional signage. The 'speed aware' scheme could collect more evidence which was effective in Cromer. In the meantime, the 30 mph speed limit exists and needs to be enforced, preferably by a police presence.

A resident advised that in his opinion, the risk assessment information on the Ardeley Parish website is out of date. He felt that the Parish Council should carry out regular checks of its property assets including woodland, to ensure that trees do not pose a risk to properties and highways.