



MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON MONDAY 1st March 2021 AT 7.30 PM, of necessity held remotely due to Coronavirus restrictions.

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 4 members of the public joined the meeting remotely

20.68 Apologies for absence: Cllr Simon Peace.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Miller: Council to accept Cllr Peace's apologies and that the reason given is good reason, enabling an extension of leave of absence beyond 6 months should it become necessary. Carried unanimously.

20.69 Declarations of interest: Cllr Waygood in matters relating to Church Farm.

20.70 To receive the minutes of the last meeting held in January.

At 20:57 amend to Cllr Stevens.

The amended minutes proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Miller as a correct record, and carried unanimously.

20.71 Matters arising. A letter of thanks sent to Cllr Crofton for his support with attempts to resolve the drainage issue, as circulated.

Trees for Moor Green: There are still issues with the suppliers because of lockdown, moth, and oak die-back.

Herts County Council have agreed to clear the Bourne Bridleways; Mr Natt had been informed.

The new website is in the process of being populated.

Independent Auditor: Mr John Charlton has indicated that he is willing to act as independent auditor. The appointment of Mr Charlton was proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Stevens and carried unanimously. The council reiterated its thanks to Mr Alan Herbert for his dedicated services over so many years, and also its appreciation to Mr Charlton for coming forward to replace him.

20.72 Financial report and cheques for approval: Defibrillator, Litter collection, clerk's salary x2, HAPTC annual subscription, petrol for grass cutting, as per schedule.

20.73 Correspondence. An offer of 200 free trees had been received; these would be small whips. It was decided to consider this in the autumn.

Cty Cllr Crofton's information on the food waste campaign letter sent to Head Teacher of Ardeley School. A report had been received about animal carcass remains in River Bourne area. A helpful response had been received from Mr Williamson; police had been notified.

20.74 Planning: To consider current planning applications.

The Haven, amended application: Proposed by Cllr Egginton, seconded by Cllr Stevens: The council is pleased that its comments have been taken into account and is in favour of the application. Carried unanimously.

20.75 Highways:

Cromer drainage problems: Cllr Norman reported that there are still problems with water running down the main road, even after 4 days without rain, as the drains are defective. A response from Cty Cllr Crofton is awaited.

Verge erosion outside The Old Vicarage, Ardeley: The response received from Ringway had been circulated and a site visit is to be arranged, with Cllr Waygood and Cllr Miller in attendance, preferably on a Monday or Tuesday.

20.76 **Village Hall:** The government's permission for remote meetings ends on 7th May. It has been confirmed that the village hall will be available for the council meetings as soon as restrictions are lifted.

20.77 **Playground:** Both Lawn mowers will be serviced for the first spring cut at the end of the month. Grass cutting: Mr Jameson has kindly agreed to continue with the ride-on mower and Cllr Miller volunteered to continue to cut the grass in the playground for the time being. The council expressed its thanks to Mr Jameson and to Cllr Miller.

The next playground inspection is due in March; repairs arising can therefore be considered at the next meeting, and any quotation should be split between materials and labour.

The library box is to be re-opened.

20.78 Moor Green:

Wayleave application from Openreach for erection of a mast/pole: A reply was still awaited to the council's questions and a refusal had been sent by way of a holding response.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Miller: The council will not grant permission for a mast-carried unanimously. The council wished for underground ducting to be used instead, due to Moor Green being a conservation area.

A complaint had been received about the presence of traffic cones and a trailer; permission was sought by Acre Farm for traffic cones, albeit they had been immediately removed upon request.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Stevens: The council does not agree the use of traffic cones on Moor Green, carried unanimously. Council noted that it was open to alternative suggestions that would be visually in harmony with the conservation area. The clerk to notify Acre Farm of the situation.

20.79 **Luton Airport:** During the absence of Cllr Peace, Cllr Egginton volunteered to liaise with Mr Vincent regarding any developments.

20.80 **Urgent matters not previously notified:** Cllr Waygood agreed to liaise with Mrs Dawson about the possibility of the council giving a seat in her husband Chris's memory and recognition of his many years of voluntary service to the parish.

20.81 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 10th May at 7.00pm, for the end of year meetings (the first Monday in May being a bank holiday).

The meeting closed at 8.33pm.

Public Participation: It was pointed out by a resident that the noticeboards need to be populated, especially the Moor Green board. Graphic photographs were shown of the deer remains in the Bourne area.