

**MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

Councillors present: 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: 3 members of the public

18.037 **Apologies for absence:** None

18.038 **Declarations of interest:** None

18.039 **To receive the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018:** These were received and approved as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Young and seconded by Cllr Waygood and adopted unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

**18.040 Matters arising**

Barclays Bank have still not responded to the request to change the parish mailing address and authorised signatories. Clerk to follow up again with Barclays.

Ref. 18.032 Highways: Cllr Norman reported that James Vine of HCC Highways had formally confirmed that the drain culvert on the south side of the road that comes down from Cromer Windmill is their responsibility and its maintenance will be built into their programme of works. HCC were unable to provide a time frame as to precisely when the silt on Blind Lane is likely to be cleared; Cllr Noble commented that the gulley beside the road in Blind Lane also needs to be cleared. Cllr Norman has also raised the issue of the right-of-way sign with Ringways but has heard nothing back as yet.

Ref. 18.033 Church Farm: Cllr Noble has responded to Paul Dean's email, but has not yet received a reply. Cllr Noble will follow this up.

Playground: Cllr Egginton has twice chased up the contractor who has quoted £750 for painting; it should have been done during the school holidays. Cllr Egginton is still awaiting to hear of a firm date.

**18.041 Finance**

Financial report and cheques for approval:

A list of payments made by the council during this financial year was submitted by the clerk.

There was one cheque which was drawn during the current financial year to cover an outstanding payment for work done during the previous financial year.

There were 7 cheques submitted for signature: 2 x litter picking, 2 x clerk's salary, 1x East Herts Council (playground), 2 x HAPTC for training.

The public liability insurance has already been paid and the council is now insured until next July.

**18.042 Planning**

The updated list of planning applications was presented by the clerk.

An amendment had been made to the application garages adjacent to Red Brick Cottages, Ardeley. The Parish Council had made no objection as the applicant had taken into consideration the

comments made by the council and the public at the previous meeting. The garages have been taken out of the subsequent application.

The Goose at Moor Green had submitted an application for a rear extension which was considered by the council and was deemed to have no visual impact from the road. The Parish Council would therefore register no objection to this application.

**18.043 East Herts District Plan:** Councillors have been circulated with email from Aston Parish Council, requesting that Ardeley Parish Council write a letter of objection to the proposal for the Gresley Park development. It was felt that Ardeley should support its sister parish council. Cllr Noble undertook to write a letter of objection on behalf of the council.

**18.044 Cromer:** name change by Utilities

Cllr Egginton drew the council's attention to the fact that the emergency services and the highways department refer to High Street Cromer as White Hill, Cromer, while the post address is High Street, Cromer. This is liable to cause confusion, especially in the case of an emergency call-out, as White Hill is in fact the group of houses just north of Walkern.

The council agreed that Cllr Egginton would write to Herts CC and Cty Cllr Crofton.

**18.045 Hedge Cutting** in Moor Green

The ingress of blackthorn into Moor Green should be checked. The council need to determine how much should be trimmed and the cost of doing so; the effect on wildlife also needs to be considered. Cllr Noble, Cllr Waygood and Cllr Egginton will make an inspection of what work needs to be done and obtain a quote.

**18.046 Parish Book Swap**

Library Box

Cllr Waygood reported that one estimate from a local joiner came in at £5-600 to build housing for a book swap. Cllr Noble has contacted Walkern Parish Council for information about a similar item in the Walkern play area, but has not had a response.

Cllr Waygood said that one option would be to purchase a kit but then there was the added cost of labour for its assembly. Options for funding were considered, such as crowd funding or the possibility of obtaining a grant or using the capital resources of the council. Cllr Waygood will continue to look into it and will report back in November.

The location of the book box was discussed and various locations were considered. It was felt that it should be positioned at the centre of the village in order to be accessible to as many villagers as possible. The noticeboard site has the attraction of being central and would allow for easy access to pedestrians parking in School Lane.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Noble and resolved unanimously: the book box to be located at the corner of School Lane next to the Ardeley PC notice board, if the PC agreed to fund this item.

**18.047 Highways**

Ardeley: Traffic calming

The speed of traffic travelling through Ardeley is causing concern in the village. The council has received correspondence and an email suggesting that the speed limit through Ardeley should be reduced to a maximum of 20 mph.

Cllr Egginton and Cllr Cannon have spoken to members of the public who are requesting speed awareness signs, increased signage and chicanes. Cty Cllr Crofton has also been consulted and has responded, indicating his support. However, the difficulty is that there is currently no evidence to suggest that Ardeley should be a priority; Ardeley would need 3 years of 'drive safe' safe evidence. To date there have been no serious accidents. It was agreed that speed humps or chicanes would be unworkable and that gates at the entrances to the village may be an option, also a larger speed sign at these locations, but also agreed that more signage would conflict with the visual amenity

in the Ardeley conservation area. A roundel painted on the road was suggested as a short term solution.

Proposed by Cllr Noble and seconded by Cllr Egginton and resolved unanimously: Cllr Norman would ask for 30 mph roundel to be painted on the road at either end of the village.

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

**18.050 Date of next meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Meeting closed at 8.26pm.

Meeting opened to the public:

A member of the public asked about the planning application on Spring Grange, Wood End which is awaiting a decision from the planning department at EHDC. Cllr Noble advised that there have been no postings on that application since March so he wrote to the planning officer again in July and was advised that the applicant has requested time to submit a further financial appraisal.

The Planning officer told Cllr Noble that they have no obligation to let the public see the revised financial appraisal.

The same member of the public asked for an update on the creation of a Bridleway at the Bourne, Wood End and advised that there are still at least a dozen mature fallen trees to be removed; Cllr Noble agreed to write to Julian Thornton at EHDC who is co-ordinating the project, to request an update.

The same member of the public asked whether there were any plans to clean the monument at the top of Ardeley Hill, as recommended by the Conservation officer in the recent re writing of the Ardeley Conservation Area document. Cllr Yong responded that the matter is in hand, although Cllr Noble remarked that the Monument is no longer in the Ardeley Conservation area following the redefined boundaries.

*Members of the public are warmly welcomed but are reminded that, unless invited to do so by the Chairman, they are only permitted to speak during the public sessions.*