

**MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM**

Councillors present: Cllr Adrian Waygood, Chairman  
Cllr Stuart Norman, Vice Chairman  
Cllr Jim Egginton  
Cllr Michael Stevens  
Cllr Simon Peace

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk  
Others present: 2 members of the public

19.73 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Miller. Cty Cllr Crofton also sent apologies as he was double booked to attend another parish council meeting.

19.74 **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Norman regarding Cromer Hall and Cllr Waygood regarding Church Farm.

19.75 **To receive the minutes of the meeting** held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September as a correct record.  
Proposed: Cllr Waygood. Seconded: Cllr Peace. Resolved unanimously as adopted and signed by the chairman

19.76 **Matters arising:**

Church Farm: Enforcement.

The clerk had received advice that Ardeley Parish Council has no power to move this forward, other than for a letter to be sent by the council and requesting Cty Cllr Crofton to maintain the pressure on EHDC. It was felt that given the emerging proposals by Church Farm the situation may subsequently be varied or overtaken.

Proposed: Cllr Norman. Seconded: Cllr Egginton - that no action be taken to progress enforcement until the council had further information about the proposed plans. Carried unanimously.

Hedging: Cllr Stevens had raised the need for hedge cutting with local owners. An invoice for hedge cutting is awaited from Giles Scrivener.

Seat by the pond: Cllr Peace had noted that the vertical planks are still sound and so the seat may be able to be restored.

Redbrick Cottages frontage: Concern was expressed over the loss of the grass verge which was detrimental to the appearance of the area; it was agreed to approach Cty Cllr Crofton as Ardeley Parish Council's gateway to the Highways Department. Cllr Peace will ask Cllr Miller if the owners have been spoken to.

The clerk had attended the 'Finance for Councils' course run by HAPTC.

**19.77 Finance:** The financial report and cheques for approval were submitted: HAPTC, clerk's salary and PAYE, playground inspection and litter collection.

A final cheque had been drawn for David Beasley to cover him for litter collection to 7<sup>th</sup> July, Mrs Yates having taken over from 8<sup>th</sup> July. The cheque delivered to him previously to include the whole of July had been subsequently mislaid; the clerk had arranged with the bank for that cheque to be stopped at a cost of £12.

The clerk had received an invoice from Community Heartbeat regarding the defibrillator but had not drawn a cheque as she needed further information and the council's authorisation.

Cllr Egginton proposed, Cllr Peace seconded: Invoice to be paid once it had been established that it was bona fide. Carried unanimously. Cllr Peace would make enquiries to verify it.

**19.78 Correspondence not covered in the course of the agenda:**

An application for free salt for the winter has been granted; it will be delivered to Cllr Waygood's address during November as last year.

The precept request 2020- 2021 is to be submitted by 17<sup>th</sup> January; councillors to consider items that have cost implications for the budget which will be determined at January's meeting. Cllr Peace expressed his willingness to work with the clerk on drawing up the draft budget in advance of the next meeting.

A query had been received about confidentiality of correspondence from the public and the clerk had responded, pointing out the inherent difficulty in dealing with anonymous correspondence and the need for any specific requests for confidentiality to be highlighted by the sender, together with the reason for so doing as communications sent to the clerk are normally forwarded to all councillors as a matter of course.

National Community Energy Campaign: this was felt to be more applicable to larger council bodies so it was agreed that no action was required.

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

Cromer Hall: 2 applications awaited a response, listed building and planning.

The proposed replacement building looks taller but is in keeping with the existing buildings.

Cllr Stevens proposed, Cllr Waygood seconded: No objection to either. Carried unanimously.

6 Bradcote: The revised application still creates a larger house; the stock of affordable homes within the parish should be conserved.

Cllr Stevens proposed, seconded by Cllr Waygood- the council should object to the application.

Carried- 4 in favour, 1 abstention.

**19.80 Highways:**

Cllr Miller reported to the clerk that he is awaiting a response re Blind Lane and will pursue this.

New 30 mph signage in Cromer is likely to be located in the same positions as the exiting signage.

Cty Cllr Crofton will inform us how much they will cost; it has already been agreed (19.48) Ardeley Parish Council will contribute up to £3000.

Cllr Stevens will clarify if the oak trees on Moor Green which may need trimming are the responsibility of the Highways Department.

**19.81 Playground:** Nothing raised, other than the cheque drawn for payment of the annual report.

19.82 **Litter Collection:** The litter grant has been increased from 1<sup>st</sup> August, and so the litter payment has been adjusted accordingly.

19.83 **VE day celebrations 2020**

The clerk had been unable to register the parish's interest on the official website as a specific activity option had to be highlighted. Cllr Waygood and Cllr Peace will discuss which of the prescribed activities would be encouraged within the parish and will pursue this with an interested parishioner.

Cllr Egginton observed that seeding borders with poppies should not cause the ecological contamination that mixed wild flowers might present on Moor Green.

Replacing the dead trees on Moor Green remained for on-going consideration.

19.84 **Noticeboards:** The noticeboards at Ardeley and Wood End require repair. Cromer and Moor Green do not currently have one. Cllr Waygood has obtained quotations. The most reasonable total cost will be between £1600-1800.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace to proceed with the repair of the existing boards and the commission of new ones for Cromer and Moor Green in a suitable hardwood, yet to be decided. Carried unanimously.

19.85 **Bank signatories:** Cllr Waygood and Cllr Egginton and the clerk are the only signatories which is insufficient for practical purposes. All council members are eligible and the clerk invited all councillors to volunteer and handed over the necessary paperwork to Cllr Peace.

19.86 **Luton Airport Consultation:** Cllr Peace volunteered to take this forward with an interested parishioner and report back if further action is necessary.

19.87 **Broadband:** Cllr Peace has spoken to BT many times but has been unable to obtain any updated information from them as to progress. Cllr Egginton reported that in Cromer, fibre broadband is now live and available to subscribers.

19.88 **Website:** The clerk mentioned the coming need to comply with equality accessibility requirements and will raise the need for compliance with the webmaster. The clerk also mentioned the difficulties that she has had since the last meeting in receiving and sending emails and will pursue this with the webmaster as the need arises.

19.88 **Urgent matters not previously notified:** The School Lane sign needs replacing as the posts have rotted at the base. Clerk to contact Cllr Crofton to alert Highways Department.

It was reported that the lights of the book box had been stolen.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood. Seconded, Cllr Peace: that different replacement lights be installed. Carried unanimously.

19.89 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm.

Public participation:

A parishioner suggested and agreed that notice of the dates of future meetings could be posted on the 'Everything Ardeley' Facebook page and kindly volunteered to do this.

Highways: Herts County Council will shortly be carrying out a 10-year review of bridleways and byways, and there is the possibility that the existing Traffic Regulation Order on Back Lane may be rescinded as a result of pressure from motor cyclists and 4x4 owners. The review will be carried out by Richard Cuthbert. The chairman voiced his opposition to the change, as did other councillors. This was felt to be a matter for referring to Cty Cllr Crofton.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.