

MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON MONDAY 6th JULY 2020 AT 7.30PM, of necessity held via videolink due to Coronavirus restrictions, (the previous meeting having been held on 2nd March, the last before the government social distancing restrictions were imposed).

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

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: Up to 3 unidentified members of the public joined parts of the meeting remotely

20.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cty and District Cllr Ken Crofton who is not obliged to attend.

20.2 Declarations of interest:

Cllr Egginton highlighted what might be inaccurately perceived by the public as his having a conflict of interest in support of the planning application for The Haven, Cromer, (due to be discussed under agenda item 20.8 below). Cllr Egginton explained that he had some time previously carried out a botanical survey of the site which included a species appraisal. He was subsequently surprised to discover and that this document had been listed in the application as a 'supporting' document. Clearly the document had been mis-labelled as it was a factual/scientific survey and unrelated per se to the planning application. Cllr Egginton declared that he no personal interest whatsoever which would induce him to take a view in support of the application and he asked for this to be minuted.

The chairman pointed out that the council's role regarding planning applications in any event is minimal; the council is not empowered to make planning decisions itself but can only object or not object in the same way as can members of the public.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Stevens: That Cllr Egginton's eligibility to participate in the discussion regarding the planning application for The Haven had not been compromised given the factual and verifiable explanation that had been given. Carried unanimously.

20.3 To receive the minutes of the last meeting held on 2nd March as a correct record.

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

20.4 Matters arising: The clerk as Responsible Financial Officer queried the payment of the invoice for £480 inclusive of VAT for work to the oak trees on Moor Green as the cost had been fixed at a maximum of £200 at the last meeting. Cllr Stevens explained that the work was more significant and took longer and required more manpower than had been anticipated.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Stevens: The council would authorize the payment of the invoice for the full amount given that the work had been successfully completed. Carried unanimously.

Springwood, footpath 22 at Moor Green: This footpath was established for people to access the spring. The gate is not now locked, although it has been padlocked; any instances of future obstruction should be referred to a councillor so a case can be made to the ROW officer to take up with the owner.

20.5 To receive and approve the audited accounts for financial year 2019-2020, circulated prior to the meeting, with the signing off of the AGAR form.

Proposed: Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace, received and approved unanimously.

20.6 Financial report and cheques for approval. A list of all cheques to be paid was circulated by email prior to the meeting and all payments were approved.

It was noted that the final payment for the noticeboards was included; the council wished to express its appreciation for the excellent craftsmanship of James Williamson in refurbishing the Ardeley and Wood End noticeboards and the making of the new ones at Cromer and Moor Green and asked **that the clerk write to him to express its thanks.**

20.7 Correspondence had been circulated by email as received. The paperwork relating to the change of signatories had been returned by the bank but the instructions had been unclear; the clerk had since sought and received clarification. Cllr Waygood and Cllr Egginton to sign the additional paperwork at the bank's request.

A letter of condolence had been sent to Mrs Joy Dawson on behalf of the council following the sad death of her husband Chris Dawson. The council was profoundly appreciative of all the generous voluntary work carried out on behalf of the parish by Mr Dawson for so many years; his loss will be deeply felt.

20.8 Planning: To consider current planning applications.

3&4 The Close, Moor Green: This application arrived only shortly before the start of the meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Stevens: This council does not object to the application. Carried with the exception of Cllr Miller who abstained as he had not had a **chance to fully consider the plans but will inform the clerk of his views by 20th July.**

The Haven, Cromer:

Cllrs Egginton and Norman reported that there is considerable local feeling against the application.

Discussion summary: The location site is very noticeable and prominent; the imposing height, size and design of 3-storey building to replace the existing one-storey bungalow is out of context- too dominant compared with the height of neighbouring and surrounding properties; the bold modern design is overbearing and not in keeping with the character of surrounding local historic/listed buildings; proposed new access point on a blind bend on a fast-moving stretch of road poses a danger; would necessitate destruction of 50m of established roadside hedgerow- there is already an access point to the property in a safer position which could be modified.

Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr Waygood: This council objects to the application for the reasons discussed. Carried unanimously.

20.9 Highways:

Blind Lane: Cllr Peace thanked Cllr Miller for his efforts in pursuing the Blind Lane repairs which have now been satisfactorily completed. Cllr Miller expressed his appreciation to the contractors who were very helpful whilst on site.

Right of Way at Gardner's End, footpath 34: Correspondence had been received from a parishioner as there is some dispute as to whether or not this is private road or an adopted public road and right of way. Local memory suggests that there used to be a chapel and it formed the access route.

Clerk to seek clarification from HCC once the archives become accessible.

20.10 Noticeboards: The location of the Moor Green noticeboard: There have been requests for it to be relocated by nearby residents who were fully consulted and raised no issues until after the board had been installed.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Miller: To relocate the board now would involve a cost to the parish which cannot be justified. Carried with one abstention.

Clerk to write to those concerned.

Maintenance proposals not discussed.

20.11 Tree planting on Moor Green to mark the VE 75th anniversary year.

Cllr Miller said that he had received some comments against it and that the trees would need to be maintained; it would depend on what was proposed and the positioning.

The clerk reported that the sum of £144 was available from a jubilee fund for tree planting.

Cllr Egginton to report on the thistles growing on Moor Green.

20.12 Playground: to consider risk of reopening.

There is a current risk due to Covid 19 and a cost involved with regard to disinfectant and regular cleaning.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Stevens: The playground is to remain closed. Carried with one abstention.

20.13 Insurance renewal

A draft Covid 19 risk assessment had been circulated by the clerk prior to the meeting. The annual insurance with BHIB insurers was due for renewal on 26th July. BHIB are used by parish councils and had settled a claim in a previous year without any scruples.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace: The insurance to be renewed with BHIB Insurers. Carried unanimously.

20.14 Annual village hall donation: The last payment was £800 in Feb 2019.

Proposed by Cllr Norman, seconded by Cllr Waygood: The council to make a grant of £800 to the village hall for 2020. Carried unanimously.

20.15 Urgent matters not previously notified: The clerk noted that the independent auditor, Mr Alan Herbert, had once again kindly and generously given his professional services free of charge and the council formally expressed its thanks and appreciation to Mr Herbert.

20.16 Date of next meeting: Monday 7th September at 7.30pm. Location to be notified.

Public participation: none.

The council expressed its thanks to Cllr Miller who had arranged organized the means to conduct the meeting remotely by jitsu.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.