

**MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2019 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: 2 members of the public

**19.1 Apologies for absence:** None

**19.2 Declarations of interest:** None

**19.3 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 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.

**19.4 Matters arising**

Cromer name change: Cllr Egginton has written to the secretary of the leader of Herts County Council and has not yet received a reply. He will chase this up.

Cromer drain: This is still issuing water across the road. Cllr Norman explained that during this current exceptionally dry period, there has been insufficient water flow to clear the general pipe blockages, but expects the position to improve when we next have rainfall which should clear any temporary blockages. It was decided to keep the situation under observation.

The dangerous tree at Wood End has been removed by a specialist. The Council's insurers have accepted the claim and they will reimburse the cost of removal less VAT and the policy excess.

**19.5 Finance**

Financial report and cheques for approval:

A list of payments made by the council during this financial year was submitted by the clerk, with the 8 cheques submitted for signature to include payment for the hedge trimming at Moor Green and also to the tree surgeons for the tree removal at Wood End.

**19.6 Budget and Precept for 2019-2020**

Budget:

The chairman reported that the projected expenses look similar to those of the preceding year. Current outstanding expenses include the cost of replacement defibrillator pads of £80-90 which can continue to be met by the council.

The annual payment to the village hall of £800 was proposed by the chairman and seconded by the vice chairman and unanimously agreed.

Mr Beasley confirmed that he is happy to continue dealing with litter and submitted an updated typed invoice.

The auditor's fee of £100 + VAT is still to be met as the accounts are not yet due for auditing.

It was noted that 2019 is an election year; the council has not budgeted for the cost of a contested election should the situation arise. The clerk would investigate the cost.

Cllr Eggington raised the issue of a new roundabout for the Ardeley play area, which had been considered in previous years. The anticipated cost of between £3,000 to £5,000 would be more than the Parish council could afford from reserves and that this would have to be funded by grant money or by raising the precept to cover it. It was agreed to look for grant funding for this.

Precept:

The chairman pointed out that there will be a reduction in annual income 2019-2020 due to the reduction of the New Homes Bonus of c£500 and an even bigger reduction for the year 2020-21. However, despite this, he was pleased to report that the council finances for 2018-2019 are ahead in terms of surplus, due to prudent fiscal management on the part of the council and therefore it was not considered necessary to ask for an increase in the annual precept from the residents for the new financial year.

### 19.7 Planning

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

The council confirmed that it was unanimous in not objecting the planning application for Manor Farm, Luffenhall, and the clerk reported that a letter had been sent to East Herts Planning to this effect.

To approve delegated power for the clerk to respond to East Herts Planning for planning applications with deadlines that fall in between bi-monthly meetings of the Council:

The following procedure for dealing with planning applications including delegation of power to the clerk to respond as stipulated in paragraph 4 below was proposed by the chairman and seconded by the vice chairman and approved unanimously: -

1. Clerk receives notice of planning application by email and forwards to councillors.
2. Councillors consider and form an opinion individually.
3. Councillors confer if they feel it appropriate and each councillor informs the clerk of their view individually.
4. If the councillors are unanimous in not objecting or in the case of a minority of abstentions, the clerk has delegated power to write on behalf of the council in response to East Herts Planning. The situation is then formally confirmed at the next council meeting.
5. In cases where one or more councillor objects, the chairman is to call an extraordinary meeting of the council for the purpose of discussing the planning application.

### 19.8 Hedge Cutting in Moor Green

This has now been completed.

### 19.9 Parish Book Swap

Library Box

The clerk reported that the council has been successful in being awarded a grant from East Herts Council of £600. The clerk read out the list of specific conditions attached to the grant, including the demonstration that the public had received benefit by the provision of a library box.

It was proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Cannon and agreed unanimously that the council would accept the grant and its accompanying conditions.

Cllr Waygood reported that County Councillor Ken Crofton had kindly been instrumental in making an additional £1000 available for the funding of the book box.

It was proposed and seconded as above and agreed unanimously that this would also be accepted.

Cllr Waygood would liaise with Cty Cllr Crofton.

Cllr Waygood presented further plans that he had had drawn up to provide a larger box that would be able to house DVDs, the cost of which would be within the grant funding.

#### 19.10 **Highways**

Traffic calming measures update:

Cllr Norman had been in contact with Herts County Council Highways department regarding the painting of 'slow' on the road at the entrance and exit to Ardeley village; repainting of the existing ones in Cromer and is awaiting a response. He has also spoken to residents in Cromer about the possible installation of gates at either end of Cromer village and has plenty of public support for the proposal although at this stage, it is still to be considered by the Parish Council. It was noted that funding is yet to be made available and the cost of the gates and installation costs would need to be assessed. Having spoken to Cty Cllr Crofton he was advised that it was likely that the cost would have to be met by precept income.

19.11 **Play Area:** to confirm the inclusion of the Ardeley play area in the East Herts Public Spaces Protection Order 2016 for dog exclusion.

Proposed by Cllr Egginton and seconded by Cllr Noble and agreed unanimously. The clerk would confirm the council's position to Mr Kirby, the EHDC Enforcement and Inspection Team manager.

#### 19.12 **Garden Party** nomination

The clerk reported that HAPTC had written to ask for councils to nominate serving chairmen for a ballot for tickets for the Queen's Garden Party in May by way of recognition of their service to the community.

Cllr Egginton proposed and Cllr Young seconded the proposal to put Cllr Noble's name forward for the ballot and this was agreed unanimously.

19.13 **To confirm date for May's meeting:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019

19.14 **Urgent matters not previously notified:** None.

19.15 **Date of next meeting:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019

The meeting closed at 8.26pm.

Meeting opened to the public:

A member of the public reported that the Highways Department had erected a sign in Ardeley confirming forthcoming road works to Blind Lane, Ardeley. Hopefully this would deal with the potholes and the blocked drains on Blind Lane which have caused constant flooding issues. However, it was understood that the road works would not extend to that section of Blind Lane towards Cromer windmill where a number of vehicles recently had incurred tyre damage due to a large pothole. However, it was separately noted that the same pothole had been highlighted with a painted marker indicating that the repair of the pothole would be dealt with independently.