

MINUTES OF ARDELEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 13TH MAY 2019 AT 7.20PM

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

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk
Others present: 10 members of the public

1 Apologies for absence: Apologies were received from Cty Cllr Ken Crofton, albeit that he was not obliged to attend the meeting.

2 To approve minutes of Annual Parish Meeting, May 2018: These were received and approved as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Norman, adopted unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

3 Matters arising: None.

4 Parish Council review of the year, 2018-2019, delivered by the outgoing Chairman, Mr Tim Noble: Mr Noble said that it was his pleasure to welcome everyone to this inaugural meeting of newly elected councillors. He also expressed his sadness on losing Mr David Young who had dedicated 40 years' service to Ardeley Parish Council, bringing his local knowledge to the meetings; Mr Young will be much missed as a councillor. Mr Andrew Cannon will also be missed, especially for the key role he played with Cllr Egginton in the Drive Safe campaign which resulted in the installation of a flashing speed sign for Cromer. Mr Noble himself had also decided to stand down, albeit reluctantly, after serving over the past 4 years as a parish councillor, the final 12 months as chairman.

Mr Noble summarised Ardeley Parish Council's activities over the last 12 months under the following headings:

Finance: Our internal auditor, Mr Alan Herbert, has kept a watching brief on the accounts and reporting for another year. On behalf of the parish, Mr Noble expressed his gratitude to Mr Herbert.

Fortunately, due to prudent budgeting, the Council had not found it necessary to request an increase for the financial year 2019-2020, and it has remained at 2018-2019 figure of £6000. However, with the considerable year on year reduction in the New Homes Bonus, there may be a need to increase it for the following year.

Highways: Potholes in the parish have not featured highly this year, maybe due to the dry winter. Mr Noble was pleased to report that the flooding on both Ardeley Hill and Blind Lane had been

addressed and said that thanks were due to both the councillors and the members of the public for their continued persistence in raising their concerns with both the Environment Agency and Highways. There was still more work to be done, but the new year was starting with roads and rivers in much better shape. Mr Noble also noted that the main road through Ardeley was due for a renewed surface dressing shortly.

Cromer Drains: Mr Noble reported that there had been some success in dealing with the burst drains and running water on Cromer High Street. Careful monitoring of the situation is still required but the problem seems to have been resolved, at least for the time being.

Byways, Bridleways and Footpaths: East Herts District Council had been keeping the footpaths clear, although there had been reports of 4 x 4 vehicles causing a nuisance; this had been considerably less than in previous years, hopefully due to the fact that the maintained and repaired surfaces were less attractive to off-road vehicles than the poorly maintained ones were.

Village Pond: Mr Noble expressed his thanks to Mr Bob Vincent for keeping the Ardeley village pond a tidy and attractive focal point for the centre of the village.

Litter: Many thanks were expressed to Mr Dave Beasley for regularly traversing the parish collecting litter and noted that with Mr Beasley's impending move out of the parish and vacancy for a new litter picker may arise later in the coming year.

The Little Parish Library: This project captured the imagination of the parish with the request for a book swap within the parish and the need for a cabinet to facilitate it. The attractive lending library box has now been constructed and installed and will be an asset to the parishioners. Special thanks is due to both Cllr Ken Crofton and also East Herts Council for the allocation of grants to cover the entire cost, also to James Williamson for his craftsmanship.

Mr Noble thanked the clerk who joined in July last year, who has sought guidance and training where required and has greatly assisted both chairman and councillors over the past months.

Mr Noble concluded by expressing his special thanks to the many unsung heroes of the parish who volunteer their time and do so much for the village, particularly Mr Chris Dawson for his sustained efforts with the grass cutting.

There were no comments and the meeting closed at 7.35pm.