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**MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30 PM**

Councillors present: Cllr David Young, Chairman  
Cllr Adrian Waygood, Vice Chairman  
Cllr Andrew Cannon  
Cllr Jim Egginton  
Cllr Tim Noble

Officer attending: Laura Brooks-Payne, clerk  
Others present: 5 members of the public

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

District Cllr Ken Crofton

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Waygood for Church Farm

**3. TO RECEIVE & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were signed By Cllr Young and accepted as correct.

**4. TO FILL, BY CO-OPTION, THE VACANCY OF COUNCILLOR**

Cllr Noble explained that the PC had received 2 applications for the post of councillor. While both candidates could have provided a wealth of experience to the parish, the vote of 3 to 2 went to Mr Stuart Norman who the PC welcomed.

**5. CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Cllr Young asked the PC if they would approve the cutting of the playing field hedge by Giles Scrivener at a cost of approximately £50 plus vat. This was approved unanimously. Cllr Young also asked for the cheque to be written for £800 towards cost of the village hall insurance as we have paid in previous years. It was discussed amongst the clerk and councillors that £800 seemed a substantial amount of money to be spent on contributing to insuring a building that the PC do not own, but it was acknowledged that the village hall provides a valuable amenity for the wider parish use and therefore the councillors unanimously agreed that it would be paid this year but a discussion would be had about paying this amount in future years.

**6. FINANCE****6.1 Financial report and payments for approval**

The finance report was noted and signed by Cllr Young and the cheques before council were signed at the end of the meeting.

**6.2 To update council with online banking progress**

The Clerk reported that Cllr Noble had received his pin sentry device, authentication card and pin number. The Clerk explained that despite numerous lengthy phone calls she was yet to receive the required cards and pin numbers and had now escalated this to the complaints department at Barclays who are currently trying to resolve the problem.

**6.3 To prepare the budget and precept**

The budget was discussed in detail and compared to this years spend and last years precept. It was discussed that the PC will need substantial work completed on the playground equipment this year and therefore an approximate increase of £2500 will be needed, a total budget of £8250. However, the councillors decided that we would ask EHDC for £6000 precept as per last year and use the reserve that we have in the bank account for any additional work needed.

**ACTION;** Clerk to complete the necessary forms.

## 7. PLANNING

The clerk had circulated the current planning application list before the meeting. Cllr Noble reported that the new application for 3 new dwellings at Spring Grange in Wood End has created much opinion in the village. It was discussed that as a recent new dwelling had been refused permission on the grounds of not representing sustainable development, that this could be of a similar nature. Cllr Young commented that he would need more time to look at this potential new development and it was agreed to defer response until Cllrs Noble and Young had heard local opinion.

**ACTION** - councillors will report back to the clerk before the deadline of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018 with comment.

## 8. HIGHWAYS

### 8.1 To receive updates on the A507 Campaign

Cllr Egginton reported that the weight restriction is going ahead, at either 7.5 tonne or 15 tonne vehicles.

### 8.2 To receive update on B1037 issues

The pre-preparation plans are in hand for the weight restrictions on the A507. In March/April the B1037 that runs from Cottered to Stevenage could also be considered to be included in the 'ban' area. Cllr Egginton continuing to follow this up.

Additionally, Cllr Cannon was pleased to report that the new speed restriction sign in Cromer had been erected and we hope that this will have a positive effect on reducing traffic speed through the village.

### 8.3 To receive update on progress to clear the blockages in Ardeley Brook

Cllr Egginton met Dist. Cllr Ken Crofton on site at the blockages. Cllr Waygood has contacted the land owner who is happy for the PC to access his land if we can get a JCB Digger and labour to clear the large logs from the brook.

**ACTION** - Clerk to contact Dist. Cllr Ken Crofton to ask if he could arrange any labour and the use of a midi digger.

In addition it was discussed that the PC had not received any salt/grit for the roads for approx 18 mths and could benefit from a salt bin.

**ACTION** - Clerk to contact Dist.C.Cllr Ken Crofton

## 9. RIGHTS OF WAY

### 9.1 Update on the Old Bourne Bridleway

Cllr Noble met with Julian Thornton, Countryside Access Officer at HCC. The path is slowly being cleared, this needs to be done with care and his workers are being mindful of wildlife and badger setts along the route. This initial work is to determine what is necessary to fully restore the Old Bourne to a bridleway.

### 9.2 Footpath 31 at Parkers Green, Wood End

Cllr Noble reported that having also met with Mr Thornton at this footpath, Mr Thornton advised that he would seek to engage with the CMS volunteers and ask them to clear the undergrowth which has regrown on this footpath since last year.

## 10. RECREATION GROUND

### 10.1 To receive an update on repairs

Cllr Egginton had received two quotations for new gating at the playground. Councillors agreed to use Broadmead leisure at a cost of £1950.00 plus vat.

Future costs for the repairs to equipment and fencing was approved to be spent from reserves as part of the budget discussed in item 6.3.

**ACTION** - Cllr Egginton to contact the company and arrange for the work to be started.

**11. OPEN SPACES****11.1 To receive an update on the conservation area survey (Natural England) for Ardeley Parish**

Cllr Noble reported that the public consultation period for the survey ends on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**ACTION:** Cllr Noble will respond to John Bosworth (EHDC Conservation Officer) who has invited the PC to make comment.

**11.2 To receive an update on the surveys for Moor Green Ponds – Cllr Egginton**

Cllr Egginton reported that he had received a response from Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT) indicating that the PC can start work on the pond to clear and tidy, giving advice on how to go about this. Cllr Waygood advised that we would need to gain permission from the adjacent land owners. Discussion was had as to whether the PC should be involved with this pond at all given that it does not appear on the HMWT survey. If work is to be done it would need a lot of organisation, a volunteer task force including residents and liaison with countryside management.

**ACTION:** Cllr Egginton to contact Countryside management, contact Ken Crofton regarding possible grants and to write a report for the Ardeley parish magazine asking for volunteers.

**12. CHURCH FARM****12.1 To receive an update on ongoing issues raised concerning Church Farm**

Cllr Noble reported that there had been no further updates from EHDC on the retrospective planning applications required for camping and other activities at Church Farm. Cllr Noble will seek to follow this up with Paul Dean, the planning enforcement officer at EHDC and provide an update for the next PC meeting.

**13. CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED BY THE CLERK**

Letter received from Herts county Council on the Consultation on the Draft minerals local plan

**14. MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION**

**ACTION:** Blocked drains in Cromer for the next meeting agenda.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March – Approved

**16. To receive questions or comments from the public**

A resident reported that Dist. Cllr Ken Crofton had mentioned that there were funds available to maintain the village ponds.

**ACTION** – Cllr Egginton to follow this up.

A resident reported that the road by Ardeley Brook seemed to be collapsing too and that nothing had been done to get the works carried out. Cllr Noble advised that Ardeley PC had been trying to get work done here for three years or more and there had been no progress due to clarification of ownership issues, and the financial cut backs. We are advised that the work is low priority because no properties are affected, but the PC will continue to seek a solution.

The contractor who has been employed to clear the route of the Old Bourne bridleway, Chris Brunton, attended the meeting to introduce himself and to thank the land-owners for their co-operation whilst he is working on their land.

**ACTION:** Clerk to contact Ken Crofton re; Ardeley Brook Clearance.

**17. The meeting closed at 9.15pm**

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Clerk** - Laura Brooks-Payne