
MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 5TH MARCH 2018 AT 7.30 PM

Councillors present: Cllr David Young, Chairman
Cllr Andrew Cannon
Cllr Jim Egginton
Cllr Stuart Norman

Officer attending: Laura Brooks-Payne, clerk
Others present: 8 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Adrian Waygood, Cllr Tim Noble

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3. TO RECEIVE & APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2018

Minutes of the meeting held on 8TH January 2018 were signed By Cllr Young and accepted as correct.

4. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Cllr Young welcomed Cllr Stuart Norman to the Parish Council.

5. FINANCE**5.1 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.

5.2 To update council with online banking progress

The Clerk reported that it is been made clear to her from the Barclays management team that the PC account cannot have a separate authorisation card to enable online banking from that of the clerks personal account. This is because both accounts are registered at the same address. This is how the Barclays system works and neither clerk or councillors would be happy with this arrangement. The Clerk and Councillors have researched other banks and building societies, including Unity Trust Bank which seemed a good option, but all others investigated had monthly or quarterly fees. Five out of six councillors have agreed that we would stay with Barclays for the foreseeable future.

6. PLANNING

The clerk had circulated the current planning application list before the meeting. Cllr Norman reported that the new application for 3 new dwellings at Spring Grange in Wood End has created much opinion in the village and the PC had now put in a comment of objection. In addition the PC had also put in a comment of objection to the potential development of 10 dwellings on the land East of Blind Lane and South of Greenoak. The PC felt that it was inappropriate development which did not fit in with the classification of the village and therefore overdevelopment.

6.1 To receive and update on the use of land at the paddock in Cromer

The clerk reported in Cllr Nobles absence that an email had been received by the planning enforcement officer at East Herts District Council (EHDC). It stated that they were happy with the use of the land at this site, including grazing for a pony and a caravan used as a welfare unit. The children's play equipment had been removed. The PC were happy with the response but would keep a breadth of the situation should use of the land change.

7. HIGHWAYS**7.1 To receive updates on the A507 Campaign**

No update

7.2 To receive update on B1037 issues

No update

7.3 To discuss obtaining quotes to clear the blockages in Ardeley Brook

Cllr Norman reported that he had spent some time with another local resident and a tractor clearing some very large logs from the brook. The PC thanked him for this work. This may help the flooding but more needs to be done. The issue has gone on for a number of years. The PC discussed writing to Oliver Heald MP to try and get something done about the ongoing problem.

ACTION: Clerk to email Oliver Heald MP.

7.3 To receive an update on the blocked drains in Cromer

Cllr Cannon reported that Highways had been out to clear the blocked drains but it is still an ongoing problem. Cllr Norman advised that Highways had told the owner of the cottage on the corner of where the problem occurs that the discharge was coming from his property but the owner has proved this not to be the case.

ACTION: Cllr Norman is meeting James Vine from Highways next week and will report the issue to him.

8. RIGHTS OF WAY

8.1 Update on the Old Bourne Bridleway

No update.

8.2 Footpath 31 at Parkers Green, Wood End

No update

9. RECREATION GROUND

9.1 To receive an update on installation of new gate

The clerk reported that a pedestrian and vehicular access gate had been installed at the playground. The play equipment could benefit from some maintenance and a quotation of £780.00 had been obtained from the company that installed the gate to repaint the equipment with paint and wood preserver where appropriate. Cllrs unanimously agreed for the work to go ahead but clerk to check first if 3 quotations are required.

ACTION – Clerk to research ordering an entrance sign for the gate and obtaining 3 quotations.

10. OPEN SPACES

10.1 To receive an update on the conservation area survey (Natural England) for Ardeley Parish

No Update

10.2 To receive an update on the surveys for Moor Green Ponds

Clerk reported that she had emailed Dist. Cllr Ken Crofton for advise on funding for carrying out works on the ponds. Cllr Crofton suggested that there is a pond clearance specialist in the village who the PC may like to contact. Otherwise, the PC could contact Head of Countryside services for possible funding and/or Groundwork which uses voluntary labour for life changing experience.

ACTION: Cllr Egginton will contact both of the above for possible funding and volunteers.

12. CHURCH FARM

12.1 To receive an update on ongoing issues raised concerning Church Farm

Clerk reported that she had contacted Dist. Cllr Ken Crofton for advise as to where to go next on the outstanding issues at Church farm. Cllr Noble has received unsatisfactory responses from the planning department at EHDC for over a year and EHDC do not seem to be following their own protocols to get anything done on the outstanding planning issues at Church Farm. Cllr Crofton has taken this matter to a full scrutiny meeting at EHDC, in which the planning issues at Church Farm were reported to officers at a senior level and were seriously noted. Cllr Crofton advised Ardeley PC to write a letter of complaint to the leader of the council and the Chief Executive.

ACTION: Councillors have written a letter to the above members of EHDC. Clerk will forward on.

13. CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED BY THE CLERK

Letters have been received by the clerk from;

Herts County Council; Waste Local Plan Initial Consultation, Information CD was handed to Cllr Norman to look into.

Herts County Council; Herts Traffic & Transport Data Report (based on 2016 data)

ACTION: Clerk will add Waste Local Plan to next agenda for Cllr Norman to report back. Clerk will add the Traffic report to the website.

14. MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Clerk reported the Defibrillator Volunteer lead has requested large scale maps with house names, of all 4 villages in the Parish. This will help the volunteers in the case of an emergency. The clerk has researched getting such large scale maps. The only way possible, not to contravene and copyright laws, is to pay Ordnance Survey for the maps.

ACTION – Clerk will add to next agenda to approve the payment of the maps if they are required.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 8th May – Approved

16. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC

A resident reported that he has recently signed up to the government run 'better broadband subsidy scheme'. He reported that there are several companies that run this alongside the scheme. This is not free but subsidised and has vastly improved his internet speed.

ACTION: resident kindly agreed to write an email to the clerk with information so that this can be added to the PC website and the parish magazine.

A resident reported that fly-tipping is becoming more of a problem.

A resident reported that the C14 road into Ardeley from Woodend regularly floods.

ACTION: Cllr Norman is meeting with James Vine from Ringway this week and will discuss this with him.

A resident raised the flooding at Ardeley Brook. He was concerned that the PC could do more to try and get this issue resolved. He reiterated that it endangers lives when flooded because emergency vehicles cannot get into the village and the village primary school closes. He reported that the problem isn't going away unless the PC are more actively involved in trying to resolve the issue. Cllr Egginton explained that this has been a problem for many years and that the Environment Agency has advised the PC that nothing will be done because it is not an immediate danger to life.

A resident suggested, that as Mr Tim Waygood, owner of Church Farm, is present at most PC meetings, that the PC Councillors should arrange to speak with him face to face about the issues rather than writing a complaint letter. Cllr Norman explained that the letter was a letter of complaint in relation to EHDC not following protocols rather than any new complaints regarding Church Farm.

Mr Tim Waygood invited Councillors and District Councillors to get in contact with him at any time to discuss any issues they have.

17. The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed _____

Date _____

Clerk - Laura Brooks-Payne