
MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.30 PM

Councillors present: David Young (chairman)
Andrew Cannon
Jim Egginton
Alexander Neale
Tim Noble

Ken Crofton (district and county councillor)

Officer attending: Aimee Lauezzari (clerk and RFO)
Others present: 3 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

16.080 Cllr Waygood

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

16.081 none

MINUTES OF MEETING

16.082 The minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2016 were signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

16.083 Cllr Young reported a dead tree in Moor Green that is on the edge of the road and leaning over and in danger of falling into the road.

AGREED Cllr Young will secure a quote for its removal.

16.084 Cllr Young also reported that Forever Active East Herts is looking for someone to organise a yoga class in Ardeley. As no one present showed interest, Cllr Young will ask C Dawson to advertise in the Forum.

FINANCE**16.085 Finance Report and payments for approval**

The finance report was noted and the cheques before Council were signed at the end of the meeting. The list of payments is an appendix to these minutes.

16.086 Annual Return

The Annual Return was accepted by council.

16.087 Issues Arising from the External Audit

The minor issue of figures that did not agree by £1 was the result of a sum of rounded figures being compared to an actual balance. Two other issues were raised by the auditor and considered by council. (1) The minutes that were sent as requested to the auditor were not initialled or numbered properly. This has been corrected, and the minute book is now numbered consecutively and all pages are signed or initialled at the following meeting. (2) It was recommended, in agreement with the internal auditor, that council improve the financial systems as soon as possible or before the end of the current financial year.

AGREED Cllr Noble agreed to lead the forming of an action plan for improving the financial systems of the council, working with the clerk to provide an internal check on the financial matters throughout the year to try and avoid future errors.

16.088 Roundabout

Council considered two quotes for a roundabout for the recreation ground, to use the New Homes Bonus money (£3226) as previously agreed. District Cllr Crofton then shared information about a grant for playground equipment (up to £8000) offered from East Herts District Council, and provided the contact at East Herts.

AGREED As both the quote and the possible grant need to be acted on by the clerk before the next meeting, it was agreed that without a grant, council would accept the quote offered from Broadmead leisure. If a grant seems likely or is obtained, the clerk is to request a new quote from Broadmead for a larger roundabout. Clerk is to keep councillors informed.

16.089 **2017-2018 Budget Planning**

A draft budget was presented to council, recommending an increase in the precept (from £4000 to £6000), due to increasing expenses and therefore to balance income and expenses for the coming year if possible. It was stressed that the precept is the income that should cover normal expenses of the council, and District Cllr Crofton added that it should not be kept artificially low, and that the council should be sure it has money to operate and make improvements for the community. With discussion, council generally agreed. The budget will be presented in January for adoption by the council.

16.090 **Request for funding from Ardeley School**

Ardeley School Governors had requested that council consider assisting them with the funding of new road signs for the school. District Cllr Crofton informed the council that he had already arranged for funding from East Herts and assistance from the parish council was no longer needed.

PLANNING

16.091 **Current planning applications**

The planning list was before the meeting and noted.

16.092 **Gardners Farm, Ardeley**

Council had no objections.

16.093 **The Hollies, Moor Green**

Council had no objections.

16.094 **The Old Bell, Ardeley (additional application)**

Council had no objections.

16.095 **East Herts District Plan**

The East Herts District Plan is out for comment. It was noted that while the council will submit comments, individuals are also welcome to comment. Cllr Egginton expressed concern about the proposed Gresley Park development of 600 homes and amenities and the traffic and light pollution it would potentially create. District Cllr Crofton informed the meeting that this plan was submitted in haste, without a highway study, it is in a green belt area and it is being opposed by Aston, Walkern and Bennington.

AGREED Council objects to the Gresley Park development, due to potential increased traffic in our parish and to preserve the green belt area.

HIGHWAYS

16.096 **DriveSafe Update**

DriveSafe volunteers have held two sessions recently, generating a number of second letters to drivers. Cllr Cannon also noted a car in the layby that could be abandoned and agreed to report this. The parish website will be updated with new statistics.

16.097 **Possible Speed Sign Grant**

Cllr Cannon confirmed that funding is opening in December. Cllrs Cannon and Egginton will apply as soon as forms become available.

16.098 **Safer A507 Campaign**

Cllr Egginton reported on the campaign to change a portion of the A507 to a B road with a weight restriction to reduce lorry traffic on the A507 through Cottered. Information considered included: the lack of a weight restriction through Cromer; the lack of county support for a Cottered bypass; and that this is a low cost option for the county council. The Cottered and Walkern Parish Councils are in support of this proposal, as is Sir Oliver Heald.

AGREED Council will write in support of the Safer A507 Campaign.

16.099 **Transport Vision 2050**

After a short discussion it was decided that council would not comment, as the issues in this plan mostly affect towns and cities.

RECREATION GROUND

16.100 Council considered the findings in the most recent playground inspection. This issues are generally low risk or maintenance issues. Cllrs Egginton and Neale will consider the report further and submit a proposal for action.

BOOKSWAP UPDATE

16.101 Cllr Egginton reported that the bookswap has started, with an exchange of magazines at a recent Leisure Club gathering. D Beasley will be covering the bottom shelves for books.

CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERK'S REPORT

16.102 The correspondence was noted and the report is an appendix to these minutes

URGENT MATTERS NOT PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED

16.103 Cllr Noble noted that while another offer for a high speed broadband project was received by council, it is not new information.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

23 January 2017, 7:30 pm

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. A parishioner asked that council consider clearing overgrown shrubs and bushes around the ponds of Wood End and Moor Green to make them more amenable to the public and possibly local schools. He also noted the poor condition of traffic signs in the parish. Cllr Crofton responded with information about pond cleaning and that road signs are being cleaned and repaired throughout the county. He also urged individuals to use the county website for fault reporting. Cllr Noble agreed to work with Cllr Crofton on the issue of pond maintenance. Cllr Egginton agreed to contact Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, also concerning the ponds.
2. Also on the issue of signs, Cllr Cannon said a parishioner in Cromer suggested there also be a "20 is plenty," or similar sign. Cllr Cannon will enquire at the upcoming DriveSafe meeting.

Finance Report

Appendix to minutes of 14 November 2016

PAYMENTS – 14 November

£291.20	Clerk's salary (Oct/Nov)	A Lauezzari
£10.00	Clerk's expenses (Oct/Nov)	A Lauezzari
£231.42	Litter picking (Oct/Nov)	D Beasley
£49.80	Playground Inspection	East Herts District Council
200.00	Phone box repair and cork	James Williamson

RECEIPTS (since 19 September 2016)

£2000.00	East Herts District Council	Second half precept
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Clerk's Report November 2016

BOAT 6

Council received a letter from Historic England stating that they have no comments and they do not need to be consulted concerning the proposed work on the surface of BOAT 6.

Phone box repair

The phone box has been repaired, and cork has been added to the notice boards outside the Village Hall.

Playing Field Hedge

Giles Scrivener will be cutting the playing field hedge in the coming weeks.

Church Farm and Ella Wright

Clerk received a response to an email to Ella Wright asking for an update on the 25th October saying that discussions were ongoing and a meeting was planned. She said she would update Council before the meeting if possible, but there has been no other correspondence.

Correspondence for information

(details available or can be emailed)

1. Police and Crime Commissioner (email)
 - September stats
2. East Herts Council
 - Planning notices
 - East Herts District Plan
3. HAPTC
 - Notice of subscriptions for 2017-2018
 - Bulletin 14th Oct
 - Bulletin 28th Oct
 - Bulletin 11th Nov

General correspondence for information

- CDA Herts – Well-being Innovation Grants
- Community Fibre Partnerships