

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 21 JANUARY 2013 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Councillors: David Young (Vice Chair) James Egginton
Paul Andrews Robert Vincent
David Cleverly

Officer attending Marty Kilby (Clerk and RFO)

Present: 5 Parishioners

APOLOGIES

12.98 Roger Waygood

MINUTES OF MEETING

12.99 The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 December 2012 were, after correcting typing errors, signed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING NOT ON AGENDA

12.100 None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

12.101. After discussion it was agreed to adhere strictly to the model standing orders, and as previously was normal practice during Council sessions, which was that the members of the public are warmly welcomed but unless invited to do so by the Chairman they are only permitted to speak during public session, which would normally take place at the end of the Council meeting. If it was thought pertinent to invite public participation (for instance during a planning application consideration) then, if the Chairman and Council so agreed, standing orders would be suspended and public participation allowed during such suspension.

FINANCE

12.102 Finance Report and cheques for approval

The finance report was noted and the cheques before Council were signed. The balance in the current account was £5,802.58. The anticipated balance at 31 March 2013 was £4,900.

The following cheques were approved:

572	D Beasley	£217.76	Litter picking December-January 2013
573	M Kilby	£265.28	Clerking and expenses December-January 2013
574	Giles Scrivener	£60.00	Hedge cutting Recreation Ground 2012
575	Chris Dawson	£109.00	Parish grasscutting 2012
576	Village Hall	£800.00	Donation for 2012
577	Style:Cymru	£265.00	Website 2012 plus £99 for 2013 support and domain

12.103 Budget items

The budget for 2013 was agreed. It was noted that part of the £4,000 brought forward might need to be set aside for the replacement climbing frame for the play area which had recently come to the end of its useful life and had been removed.

12.104 Precept

After discussion it was agreed that in the current climate the precept should be kept to a reasonable minimum. It was therefore voted that the 2013 precept be reduced to £3,000. 4 councillors voted for this resolution and 1 councillor voted to keep the precept at the current £4,000 level.

Resolved: The 2013-14 Precept be set at £3,000

PLANNING

12.105 Planning Schedule

The planning schedule is an appendix to the minutes - there were no new planning applications.

12.106 EHAPTC Meeting

The East Herts Association of Parish and Town Councils had met with EHC to hear the update on the East Herts District Plan. No final plan had yet been approved, so neighbourhood plans could not yet be accepted.

HIGHWAYS

12.107 Cromer Traffic Calming

No update yet available.

12.108 Roadside signage relating to Church Farm

Since the last Council meeting, the Clerk had spoken with Glyn Day (Chief Enforcement Officer, Planning, East Herts Council). Mr Day's opinion was that the complaints appeared to related to the majority of signs placed on roadside verges and that it was probable that these verges were in the ownership or came under the jurisdiction of Hertfordshire Highways. It needed to be ascertained whether HH had been asked if the signs could be erected, and that the best and quickest way was to ask Church Farm about this. A way forward would be to discuss with Church Farm whether they have considered going down the 'Brown Sign' tourist signs which would direct people not just to the farm shop, but to other community activities at the farm and in the village of Ardeley. If this was thought to be an appropriate way forward then Herts County could be approached (through the County representative) and asked whether such signs were a possibility. Mr Day gave his opinion that the best action was to talk with Church Farm and come to a mutually agreeable conclusion.

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should arrange a meeting with Tim Waygood (Church Farm) to meet and discuss the concerns raised by parishioners relating to the number and siting of signs. Cllr David Young (Vice Chairman) and Cllr Jim Egginton to attend the meeting, with the clerk. Cllr Egginton stated that the complaint had been raised by 7 parishioners and that their concerns related to highways visibility and the proliferation of signs in the area. Cllr Egginton stated that there were 44 signs in the area between Chipping and Stevenage.

12.109 School Lane Surface

Agreed Clerk write to CCllr Brian Hammond raising concerns about the dreadful and dangerous state of the surface of School Lane.

12.110 Potholes

Noted that there was a very deep pothole between Bury Grange and Cromer. It was explained to Council that potholes or road surface complaints now had to be raised directly with Ringway - the new Hertfordshire Highways maintenance contractors, and these complaints had to be made either by telephone on the fault reporting line, or online on the fault reporting website (details to be given to the Forum and put on the website).

12.111 Salt distribution

Salt bags had been delivered to the parish, and held by Church Farm for use by the parish. Clerk to inform the School that salt for the playground and/or School Lane and the surrounding area is available at Church Farm.

12.112 Lodge Hill

Lopped branches have been left in the brook at the bottom of Lodge Hill. Owen York to be asked to remove.

RIGHTS OF WAY AND COMMON LAND

12.113 Byway 51

Julian Thornton (new Countryside Access Officer, Rights of Way Service) has reported that the County Council will provide Cllr Paul Andrews of Fir Tree Farm all the material necessary at the cost of the County Council to carry out repairs to some of the existing surfaces on Byway 51. 60 tonnes of material of various stone sizes will be delivered to Fir Tree Farm. Cllr Paul Andrews had kindly agreed to carry out the work of laying the stones at his own cost.

12.114 Trail Riders Fellowship

Julian Thornton had been contacted by the Trail Riders Fellowship regarding a number of byways in Ardeley and Cotted. Julian Thornton had asked to meet the clerk, and or a councillor, to discuss long running issues.

ANNUAL PLAYGROUND REPORT

12.115 Wooden Climbing Frame

Ardeley School had not yet given suggestions of what type of recreational equipment they might think appropriate for replacement of the Wooden Climbing Frame. It was noted that any replacement play equipment will range from £2,500 upwards and that some additional local funding might be sought.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

12.116 Community Safety Partnership Public Meeting

Cllr Jim Egginton had arranged a date in February, at 4.30 pm following the second Leisure Club meeting of that month, for the Community Safety Partnership to give a presentation to parishioners about the work of the Community Safety Partnership

12.117 Church Farm

Cllr Jim Egginton asked the Parish Council to consider what they are doing for the community projects taking place at Church Farm and the parish generally. Agreed to mention in discussions with Church Farm

WEBSITE

12.118 Parish Council website

The Website would go live during the forthcoming week. It was agreed that minutes of Parish Council meetings would be uploaded on the website, but only after full approval. Planning matters and highway concerns would be listed. Councillors to let the clerk know what personal contact details they wished to be shown apart from their address. Councillors to consider what links to village or other organisations they would like to see on the site for parishioners' information.

NEW STANDARDS REGIME

12.119 Standing Orders

Model standing orders had been circulated to all councillors. Council was reminded that not all standing orders had to be adopted and it might be that a number be omitted. Such orders could always be incorporated at later dates if considered necessary. After discussion it was agreed that Councillors would send suggestions/amendments to the clerk, who would compile a separate document with councillors suggestions to be circulated for consideration before the next Parish Council meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

12.120 Before the meeting and noted.

URGENT MATTERS NOT PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED

12.121 Sycamore suckers

Cllr Bob Vincent reported that there were 3 Sycamore suckers growing at the inlet to the pond, encroaching on trees planted by the CMS. Agreed that the Clerk would ask Malcolm Amey if these could be removed. Cllr Vincent kindly agreed that, if permission was given, he would remove the growth.

CLERK'S ABSENCE

12.122 Noted that the clerk would be out of the country from Wednesday 20 February until Saturday 16 March and would not be contactable by phone. She would be contactable by email (marty.kilby@virgin.net). The Agendas for the 18 March meeting would therefore have to be sent on 20 February, so councillors were asked if they had anything particular then to let the clerk know by 19th February.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 18 March 2013 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A parishioner (Mr Price) said that in his opinion he would like to see the Parish Council supporting local business and discuss any issues with Highways about signage in a more positive manner than was apparently currently adopted. The Parish Council should help promote Church Farm, the pub, and other local business and recognise that these businesses provided work for local people and brought visitors into the area who subsequently spent money in the locality.

Mr Tim Waygood (Church Farm) asked Cllr Egginton which signs had been complained about by parishioners. He said he had asked Cllr Egginton before and had not received any information. Mr Waygood said that there would be no more than 6 signs in the area by Tuesday.

Cllr Bob Vincent reminded people that Luton Airport is considering expansion. Such expansion will affect the whole of the parish because of the increase in aircraft noise. There was a link to protest on the Luton Council website.

The public participation closed at 9.10 pm.