

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2014 AT 7.30 PM

Councillors: David Young (Chairman) Robert Vincent
Paul Andrews Adrian Waygood

Officer attending Marty Kilby (Clerk and RFO)

Present: 3 members of the public

APOLOGIES

14.06 Cllrs David Cleverly and James Eggington

MINUTES OF MEETING

14.07 The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November were before the council. Cllr J Eggington had submitted a suggestion for amendment of the minutes but after discussion it was agreed that the minutes were a correct record without any amendment, and were signed as such.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

14.08 Nothing to report that was not already covered on the agenda.

RIGHT TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

14.09 Following a report from a councillor at the last meeting, HAPTC had been asked for a ruling on whether if a councillor received a matter that required submission to the council, could the person asking that such a matter be raised remain anonymous. The question was asked whether the anonymity related to the councillor concerned, or simply the parish council, or could be an open matter so that all public could know. It was remembered that any discussion on this did not change the rules of the Freedom of Information Act. HAPTC had asked for a sight of the Ardeley Parish Council complaints procedure. Agreed that the clerk should draw up some simple appropriate procedures and submit them to the next Council meeting for resolution.

FINANCE

14.10 Finance report and cheques

The following cheques were approved:

604	M Kilby	£193.60	Clerk salary Dec-Jan
605	M Kilby	£32.20	expenses Dec-Jan
606	Giles Scrivener	£60.00	hedge cutting Greens area

14.11 Notice board on village hall wall

Agreed that this board be replaced by a similar notice board doubled up - so a similar notice board one on either side of the doorway. Both notice boards to have glass front doors. Cllr Bob Vincent to send quotation prices to the clerk.

14.12 Phone Box and Defibrillator

Noted that DCllr Ken Crofton had indicated he could contribute £500 towards the cost, as had East Herts Council, which meant that £1,000 was promised in grants. The cost of providing such a defibrillator phone box is in the region of £2,000 and it was noted that advice had been given that BT would pay for the upkeep of the electricity supply to the box, and also repaint and refurbish the box if it was used for this purpose. Clerk to investigate all possibilities.

Resolved: The new homes bonus to be used to finance the provision of a defibrillator in the Ardeley phone box.

14.13 Herts Building Preservation Trust

A request had been received for a donation towards the Trust. Agreed that a £10 donation be made.

14.14 Precept 2014-2015

It was agreed that the budget discussed at the November meeting be adopted. The precept demand in the sum of £3,000 was signed.

Resolved: That the Precept for 2014-2015 be Three thousand pounds (£3,000)

PLANNING**14.15 Planning schedule**

The planning schedule was before the meeting, no new applications had been received. It was noted that approval had been given to Bury Farm application, and the Willow House application had been refused.

14.16 District Plan

Noted that East Herts District Council would be discussing the District Plan on 29 January 2014.

HIGHWAYS**14.17 Cromer Speeding**

Cllr Eggington could not attend the meeting but had submitted an updated saying that 4 lead volunteers had been named and sent to Elizabeth Needham, the EHDC Drive Safe organising officer. The lead volunteers are Jim Eggington, Andrew Cannon, Jim Ranger, and Andrew Jack. More than 15 roadside volunteers have been identified and will be registered at a later date for insurance purposes. New road markings in Cromer are in place, but not yet the new signage.

14.18 Wood End road repairs

No date when these repairs might take place had yet been received.

14.19 Informal passing places

Noted that Highways had again advised that no infilling of the informal passing places would take place.

14.20 Lodge Hill trees

Clerk had written to the landowner (Owen York) regarding the tree near to the Armco barrier. Adrian Waygood offered to speak directly with Owen York to explain the problem. Other trees on land owned by Ian and Luke Neale were also overhanging the road and thought to constitute a hazard to vehicles, particularly where they covered the 30 mph sign. Giles Scrivener agreed to provide a quotation for the work to this hedge and trees, and clerk to discuss with Ian and Luke Neale.

RIGHTS OF WAY**14.21 Ardeley FP26**

Three proposals had been received from the solicitor acting for the landowner (Mr Peter Gear) regarding the diversion of part of Ardeley FP 26. A full discussion took place on all three proposals. Concern was expressed that the current FP 26 was extremely difficult to negotiate through Highbury Farm yard due to blockage of the path by farm vehicles, fences, and various bits of farm machinery. A much greater concern was expressed that Ardeley BR 3 (Lye Lane) was deliberately blocked off by metal bars and barbed wire. The Clerk had walked this path with the HCC footpaths officer some weeks previously and the Footpaths Officer had removed the illegal blockages. However these had been replaced and when Cllr Bob Vincent had tried to walk BR3 a week previous to the parish council meeting, the barriers had been put back in place and the right of way deliberately blocked. All right of way/footpath indication signs had been removed. Two of the proposed diversions would mean creating a public right of way past Coates Manor Farm, which currently had no right of way opposite its land.

Agreed that the applicant's solicitor be informed that no consideration could be given to any change of right of way whilst the current rights of way were deliberately blocked and made unusable. Because of this, there was no guarantee that any diversion would be kept open or within the legal requirements of rights of way. Once the current existing rights of way were unblocked and made useable then the parish council would reconsider the application.

TREES BY POND

14.22 Application had been made to remove the sycamore saplings. As no approval had been received by the given date, it is permitted that the tree saplings be removed. Cllr Bob Vincent to arrange.

WEBSITE

14.23 A request had been received for advertising to take place on the site. Agreed that the original decision be held to in that the website was a parish council website only, not a village website, and that no advertising or links to advertisements will be taken.

CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

14.24 The Clerk's report was before the meeting and noted. Of particular interest was the new application information for P3 works for the 2014 year. Clerk to email P3 details to Cllr Bob Vincent.

URGENT MATTERS**14.25 Hedges next to parish council common land**

Hedges needed attention particularly opposite the Alms Houses and Bradcote Cottages. Giles Scrivener had quoted £100 plus VAT and it was agreed to accept this quotation.

14.26 River Beane

The River Beane needed clearing and dredging from Bury Grange down to Cromer and Luffenhall. Clerk to contact the River Authority.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 17th March 2014 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed

Date

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Discussion took place about whether footpaths should be rerouted thus effectively creating new footpaths. Concern was expressed about the flooding at Luffenhall and that landowners and local authorities were not clearing ditches properly.

The public participation closed at 9.00 pm