
**MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY
24 JULY 2017 AT 7.30 PM**

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

Officer attending: Aimee Lauezzari (Clerk and RFO)
Others present: 9 members of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

17.030 Adrian Waygood for Church Farm

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None

FINANCE**17.031 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.

17.032 Transparency Grant

Clerk reported that the Transparency Grant application was successful and £732 has been received for staffing and website costs.

17.033 Defibrillator Training

Jackie Hayward requested £175 for training for the volunteers on the VETS phone scheme, which provides assistance to anyone needing the defibrillator.

RESOLVED: Pay £175 for training, using grant money in reserve.

PLANNING**17.034 Current planning applications**

The planning list was before the meeting and noted.

17.035 Mandra Barn, Wood End

Council had no objections

17.036 Stansted Airport Consultation

Council received notices about consultations being held with regard to plans for Stansted Airport, and agreed that the Ardeley Parish is not affected directly and so had no comment.

HIGHWAYS**17.037 Cromer Drains**

The drains in Cromer are still periodically overflowing onto the road (B1037). There are repairs scheduled to take place in August.

17.038 DriveSafe

Cllr Cannon reported that they have not had sufficient volunteers to do speed checks recently, but that the speed checks will continue. The grant application was successful and a speed indicator sign will be installed, initially to give feedback to motorists entering Cromer from Stevenage/Walkern. A second socket will be installed and the sign will be moved at some point to face traffic entering Cromer from Buntingford/Cottered.

17.039 A507 and B1037

Cllr Egginton reported that the A507 campaign for a downgrading of the A507 to a B road was unsuccessful, however weight restrictions will be applied to the A507. Council had enquired about and considered asking HCC to place a weight restriction on the B1037, as well. Cllr Egginton feels this will help reduce the lorry traffic through Cromer. Clerk to review correspondence so far and report progress.

RECREATION GROUND

17.040 It was noted that repairs arising from the 2016 inspection are still outstanding but due to be undertaken in the summer holidays. Council has received the 2017 inspection, which indicates no further urgent or high risk problems.

CHURCH FARM

17.041 Cllrs Noble, Neale and Egginton, and District Cllr Crofton, met with planning officers at EHDC to gain clarification and understanding on the issues before EHDC Planning & Enforcement Department ~~for~~ relating to Church Farm. From this meeting, cllrs reported that the application for the Beauty Barn has been approved. The issue of static homes is not a matter for local council comment although it was noted that consent had been granted for 5 static caravans. EHDC advised that a number of portacabins at Church Farm had existing established use for business use and therefore more recent businesses using those portacabins with established business use need not apply for retrospective planning permission. The application for Hudson Stoves has been withdrawn as EHDC advised that they would not approve an application as it is for a new building, and could enforce its removal. The issue of camping at Church Farm is still under consideration, and EHDC advised that they were waiting for the owner to make an application to consider 365 day camping at the Farm within a designated camping area. In the meantime, the camping across Church Farm appears to be operating under a 28 day rule, which allows land to be used for events including camping for not more than 28 days in any calendar year without the need to seek planning permission. Cllr Noble to email EHDC for further clarification on whether the owner can continue to benefit from the 28 day rule, on other fields within Church Farm, if they have been granted planning consent for camping in a designated area on a 365 day basis .

CROMER PADDOCK

17.042 At the recent meeting with EHDC planning department, Cllrs asked EHDC to look into activities at the paddock in Cromer, on the corner of the B1037 and the junction with the road to Luffenhall, where the present owners appear to be developing the plot in stages, without planning consent. Cllr Noble to follow up by email to EHDC.

CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERK'S REPORT

17.043 Following the May meeting, the clerk gave notice of resignation to the Chair. It was received and the vacancy was posted as available immediately, however the clerk has advised that she is willing to continue until a suitable replacement can be found. It was noted that a number of applications had been received for the role, and it was agreed to interview 3 of the applicants.

CLERK

17.044 Cllrs Young and Noble met with the clerk prior to the Parish meeting, to review the clerk's performance, the position and salary. It was agreed that the salary should be adjusted, as of 1 April 2017, to meet the NACC/SLCC 2017 salary scale as stated in the contract, and increase the working hours from three hours to four hours per week.

RESOLVED: Salary increase accepted and amended contract for A Lauezzari accepted.

17.045 Following the meeting, cllrs agreed time and place to interview prospective candidates for the position of clerk.

URGENT MATTERS NOT PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED

17.046 It was brought to council's attention that the railing of the village pond was in need of repairs. Cllr Young agreed to undertake the repairs.

17.047 Cllr Egginton reported that there is still a survey to be undertaken on the pond in Moor Green before the works will be carried out.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17.048 18 September 2017, 7:30pm

The meeting closed at 8:20pm.

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. A parishioner urged council to take the activities at the paddock in Cromer seriously and to follow up with EHDC. Cllr Noble confirmed his intention to follow up by email, as mentioned in the meeting.
2. A parishioner spoke of his ongoing concerns with activities at Church Farm, specifying that he was certain that the structures used for businesses were not approved through the planning process. Cllr Noble stated that at this time these structures are not an issue before EHDC planning. This parishioner also questioned the camping guidelines, and Cllr Noble agreed to ask for clarification on these matters.
3. A parishioner thanked council for the invitation to attend the EHDC planning meeting and asked council to maintain openness and transparency in these matters. He felt that EHDC should follow their policy and laws. Cllr Noble replied that from the meeting, he felt that there were no "black and white" answers, and that the planning officers are doing the best they can, within the law. He also said that council intends to continue to follow up on these matters. The parishioner expressed the concern that choices might be made in planning due to lack of resources, but Cllr Egginton replied that they were told that lack of resources were not restricting the actions or decisions of the planning officers, but that they were satisfied with the progress. Cllr Neale restated that the only issues open before planning are: Hudson Stoves building, a 6th static caravan and camping. The parishioner acknowledged progress made.
4. A parishioner asked about comments collected previously about Church Farm. It was clarified that council saw all comments, but that none were shared with EHDC or Church Farm. All those who responded were acknowledged and informed that comments would not be shared by Ardeley Parish Council to anyone else.
5. Tim Waygood, of Church Farm, stated that he had not had direct communication from the council. He again extended an invitation for councillors to visit the farm and speak with him. He spoke about the issues he has heard of, mainly traffic and noise. He said that the farm has stopped holding music events and weddings and will welcome family camping. He said his legal advice about the camping indicated that there is flexibility and he is looking for a solution that will keep the impact on the village to a reasonable level while allowing the business to earn money. He acknowledged that there will undoubtedly still be peak activity levels at times in the summer. He said that noise has been dealt with and is being monitored. He explained that camping brings in more revenue with less traffic than day visitors. He confirmed the situation with Hudson Stoves, as described in the meeting. Cllr Noble asked for clarification on limits on camping. T Waygood said this would be limited pitches, rather than limited days.
6. A parishioner shared the information that possible changes will be coming in flight paths and increased traffic for Luton Airport.