

MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN ARDELEY VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.30 PM

Councillors: David Young (Chairman) James Egginton
Paul Andrews Tim Noble
Andrew Cannon Adrian Waygood
Ken Crofton (County and District Councillor)

Officer attending Marty Kilby (Clerk and RFO)
Present: 1 member of the public

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

MINUTES OF MEETING

15.082 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2015 were signed as a correct record.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

15.083 The Chairman had nothing to add to the agenda.

FINANCE**15.084 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.

15.085 Budget and Precept

A draft suggested budget was before the meeting. Councillors to consider and finalise at the January 2016 meeting when the 2016-2017 Precept would have to be submitted.

15.086 Bank Mandate

The bank mandate had not yet been agreed with Barclays Bank because the Bank has been unable to find their records of previous signatories. Clerk to continue to press Bank to finalise the change in mandate.

15.087 Village Hall notice board

The chairman reported that the second village hall notice board would be removed and taken to the repairers within a few days.

PLANNING**15.088 Current planning applications**

The planning list was before the meeting and noted. 2 Crows Croft was added to the list.

15.089 District and Neighbourhood Plans

Buntingford Neighbourhood Plan had been published for comment on line between 1st September to 12 October 2015. No new information had been received.

HIGHWAYS**15.090 Drive Safe Update**

There was a Drive Safe meeting on Thursday which Andrew Cannon would attend.

15.091 Cromer B1037 – Contaminated Water and drains

The work to the drains had been completed, and the road closure had been carried out without problems. The drains down Cromer Road were now clear and the problems on this length had been solved. The one remaining problem was the drains at the bottom junction of Ardeley Road and Cromer Road. This still floods.

15.092 School Lane

The resurfacing had been completed and the road markings replace. Clerk to write and thank Ringways.

RIVERS AND WATERCOURSES**15.093 Ardeley Brook and River Beane**

The junction at the bottom of Ardeley Road and Cromer Road still floods badly and at times is impassable. James Vine from Ringways had agreed to meet parish councillors, and clerk to arrange a meeting with him including David Young, Ken Crofton and Jim Egginton. Sir Oliver Heald to be written to asking for help to address this ongoing problem.

RIGHTS OF WAY**15.094 BOAT 10**

Cllr Ken Crofton had generously agreed to donate a full grant to replacing the two wooden picnic benches along BOAT 10 at a maximum cost of £500 each. Clerk to obtain quotations for benches (to be seat and back only with no armrests). Council thanked Cllr Crofton for his help.

15.095 Signs on Highbury Farm land

Rights of way signs on Highbury Farm land had been removed and laid on the floor. Julian Thornton (Rights of Way Officer) to be asked to inspect and ensure they were replaced.

15.096 BOAT 6

HCC Rights of Way had carried out repairs to BOAT 6 and stated that more work is needed and wondered what the Council would prefer as a surface. Tim Noble had inspected the path and said he thought it should be filled with hardcore. A local farmer had harrowed it to the detriment of the path, and the neighbours also are not happy with the surface. Clerk to arrange a site meeting between David Young, Paul Andrews, Tim Noble and Julian Thornton (HCC).

POND**15.097 Works to pond**

Bob Vincent was asked to inspect the rail round the village pond to see if it needed replacing. If it did, then Cllr Crofton might be able to help with a grant towards the repairs.

RECREATION GROUND**15.098 Repairs to play equipment**

Agreed to accept the quotation from Broadmead Leisure for the repairs to the play equipment identified at the annual play inspection. The quotation was for swings, stepping stones and Burma Bridge and dated 31 October 2015 in the total sum of £1,065 plus VAT.

Agreed that Clerk obtain quotations for installation of a roundabout and a seesaw and apply for a grant.

15.099 School Lane hedge cutting

Agreed to accept the quotation from Giles Scrivener for cutting the hedge round the recreation ground at a cost of £50.

15.100 Cromer High Street hedge

Andrew Cannon to speak with the owner of the property whose hedge was encroaching on the highway.

MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE**15.101 Withdrawal of mobile library services**

The School would be willing to provide space, but concern was expressed that there seemed to be little demand. No feedback had been received from the Forum article. A bookswap had been proposed with no response from the Leisure Club. Jim Egginton would ask the Leisure Club again if they were interested in helping with a bookswap in the Village Hall, as was the Village Hall Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERK'S REPORT**15.102 Comments**

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

URGENT MATTERS NOT PREVIOUSLY NOTIFIED**15.103 Town and Parish Conference**

Jim Egginton reported on the recent parish conference at Hatfield which had highlighted mental health in retired armed services, libraries, public health, Herts health walks, and Highways Together.

Highways Together was a scheme whereby PCs were given grants to carry out works on the highway themselves by applying for a letter of enablement and with a Leader who must do a health and safety course and must be a councillor. Groups could then be made up of volunteers. Jim Egginton offered to take a health and safety course.

15.104 Retirement of Clerk

The Parish Clerk gave notice that for personal reasons she would be unable to continue. She might not be able to attend more meetings, but would carry on with the remainder of the clerk's work until 31 March 2016. She hoped a replacement could be found before then. Agreed that a councillor might be able to take the minutes with close liaison with the Clerk. Agreed to inform HAPTC and also put notice in the Forum and the website. Clerk to draw up job specification.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 18th January 2016 at 7.30 pm

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed _____

Date _____

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**1. Flooding at Ardeley Road/Cromer High Street junction**

A parishioner stated that on two occasions recently the road had been closed because of flooding. The water became very deep in that location and will soon become a serious issue if the brook to the side of the road is not cleared and made deeper.

Marty Kilby
November 2015