



Anstey Parish Council

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT STAGESTRUCK, ANSTEY ON MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2013 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Councillors Present: Simon Bagnall (SB)
Andrew Marchant (AM)
Jan Pledger (JP)
David Oxley
Amanda Parker (AP)

Others Present: Jonathan Ling – Buntingford Town Council

Officers Present: Caroline Jones (clerk)

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Welcome to Jon, thank you for attending the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from District Councillor Rose Cheswright and PCSO Higham. Cllr Wylie sent his apologies via e-mail.

2. Declarations of Interest None declared

3. Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

The chairman welcomed Jonathan Ling from Buntingford TC who was invited to provide information on the NP. Following the HAPTC planning meeting mid-September the chairman wished to readdress the parish council's decision to not to move forward on a NP plan. Buntingford have decided to move forward in a cluster Neighbourhood Plan involving adjacent parishes only.

Main points : Neighbourhood Plan – Jonathan Ling

A plan can give East Herts an idea of what Anstey want and where they want it. The Localism Act two years ago gave rights to local parishes to have a say and decision in planning. A Plan is a guide of development and investment in the neighbourhood. The Localism Act gives communities the right to challenge, right to bid and right to plan and build. See the website : <http://mycommunityrights.org.uk/>

The East Herts Plan is delayed. There will be some development, although small in Anstey. Where there is a building opportunity that may come from developers / land owners, a NP can secure what the community wants, where and when they want it. Type of development can be influenced by the NP. May be infrastructure improvements necessary with broadband, water, telephone etc. It can also preserve the character and amenities for residents and businesses in their area.

It identifies the assets in the community – village hall, church, pub, playing field and the school. It influences infrastructure and services, e.g. bus services in the village and Buntingford.

Buntingford NP includes the contiguous village boundaries of Cottered, Wyddial, Westmill, Aspenden, Hormead and Hare Street, Buckland and Chipping. There are 3 Councillors from Buntingford working on the NP – GB, JL and Eddie Plume, together with a Neighbourhood Forum (any interested parties) and public involvement. Plan is due to be published April 2015 just before the parish elections. The sites identified in Buntingford have been surveyed and those that Buntingford see as viable will be included in the NP.

If Anstey wish to consider a NP it will be useful to look at other parishes nearby Meesden, Brent Pelham, and Langley. **Lorraine Hart is the National Support Provider** and is assisting with Buntingford. She can provide assistance. Her points were that the NP should say something about policies and sites, be a light-touch but robust plan yet flexible, innovative and inspiring.

ACTION



Anstey Parish Council

Should give ideal rate of growth and conservation. With any sites submitted by landowner, a survey should be undertaken to determine if any infrastructure is required. Once this is detailed in the plan, the infrastructure East Herts are bound to consider any improvements requested. A NP enables more partnership with EHDC and within the community. It must be in conjunction with the Planning Authority. It can either have a selective approach (focused) or comprehensive (addressing the bigger issues). It would consider conservation and listed buildings or those areas of interest. The Plan can cross over to North Herts.

Steps to take PC applies for an area to be designated – one parish or a number
Consultation Period – Neighbourhood area agreed
Community Liaison / work
Proposal Submitted
Independent Enquiry/ Examination (appointed)
Proposal check by EHDC
Referendum
Plan is made

Cost £5-7K. Grants available up to £7K.

The chairman has attended NP Meetings and thanked Jonathan for his presentation. The Parish Council will now reconsider whether a NP is something Anstey wish to progress.

4. Approval of Minutes 2nd September 2013

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting had been previously circulated and were reviewed. **Resolved** – that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 2nd September be duly signed as correct by the chairman.

5. Police /Public Adjournment

PCSO Higham sent her apologies and submitted a report stating that three crimes had been reported in Anstey. Two have been thefts from motor vehicles, one on 12th September and the other on 21st September. The third crime was an attempt theft of a motor vehicle on 1st November. Late night patrols have been increased. Add David to the OWL's.

6. Planning

6.1 3/13/1772/FP Sunnyside Replacement Single Storey Rear Ext no objections

6.2 3/13/1466/LB Snow End House – Single Storey Extension approved

6.3 3/13/1434/FP North End Farm – Tennis Court approved

6.4 Buntingford New Homes Planning Applications – no update

7. Finance

7.1 Payments were approved, cheque signing deferred to end of the meeting

7.2 The Budget was approved, unanimously **RESOLVED** to accept the 2014 budget

7.3 Precept – unanimously **RESOLVED** that the 2014 precept will be £3,800

7.4 A backup was provided to the Chairman

8. Broadband

The chairman attended a meeting with Stuart Campbell at Herts CC regarding Broadband. There is no allocation of money available to Anstey. It is unlikely to sustain more than 2MB speeds by 2016. It was suggested that a single line will link Stagestruck with Hormead to allow them a faster speed, this is to be investigated.

ACTION

clerk

clerk

SB/chair

ACTION



Anstey Parish Council

9. S106 Stagestruck no update

10. Highways / Road Surface

Highways have filled the majority of holes reported.

11. Playing Field Inspection

Deferred to January

12. Grass Cutting at Anstey Chapel

Is being arranged by the chapel. Although the Trustees are resuming responsibility for the grass cutting, the parish council would consider one off requests, e.g. hedge cutting etc.

13. HAPTC Training – Practical Guidance and Basic Councillor

DO is attending the Basic Councillor on Thursday. The Chairman attended the Planning Practical Guidance workshop.

14. Correspondence Sent / Received

The correspondence list was received by the council.

A complaint had been received regarding the hedgerows to which Cokenach have reported that the hedge on Lincoln Hill is part of a conservation programme. The hedge may have been cut independently by the sewage works company. Clerk to confirm that the PC has been in contact with Cokenach and that they are unable to progress further.

clerk

The clerk has investigated what can be done to improve the phone box which has to be made in writing to BT. Clerk to ask for the Perspex to be returned to glass (Perspex has deteriorated) and repaint and to check if the internal light works. The route is popular with walkers and cyclists and useful in the poor mobile signal area

clerk

A request has been made to cut back the privet hedge – clerk to add to the newsletter a reminder to all residents to keep their hedges cut along the road. The parish council would like to thank those who have trimmed their hedgerows and remind all residents that hedges should ideally be trimmed a good foot back from the verge to allow for next year’s growth.

clerk

15. AOB

In the Queen’s Birthday Honours, Patricia Hamilton got her BEM medal for her services to the community of Anstey, Meesden, Hormead and Brent Pelham. Councillors agreed to put a piece in the newsletter to thank her.

AP

JP reported that the carpet bowls grant application is being prepared, the first application was not accepted – need bank account details – the Bowls Club need to have an account which is in progress.

JP

16. Next meetings 13TH January 2014

It was noted that the next meeting would be held in the Village Hall on Monday, 13th January. The meeting was closed at 8.55pm

Signed _____

Date _____