



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 15TH JANUARY 2018 COMMENCING AT 7.45 PM

Present: Andrew Marchant
David Oxley
Simon Bagnall
Mandy Parker
Jan Pledger
Peter Sapsed

Members of the Public: None present

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first Parish Council meeting of the year.

18.1 To Receive Any Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from PC David Miller and CC Jeff Jones.

18.2 To Receive any Personal or Prejudicial Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

A declaration was made by Cllr Marchant with regards to his property which is listed in planning for the purpose of transparency.

18.3 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2017

Following a change to the minutes to include Cllr Parker in attendance at the last meeting, a unanimous vote that the minutes were correct, it was RESOLVED that the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th November 2017 were a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

18.4 Adjournment for Police Update

Police Report: 20/11/17 – 12/1/18

Crimes : 1 – Fly Tipping. This has been finalised as there are known suspect.

Police Incidents : 2 – 1x Fly Tip (above), 1 x Suspicious Circumstances (unusual internet usage).

Last Year Crimes : 5 – 2 x Harassment, 1 x Assault, 1 x Theft and 1 x Communication Offence.

Police Incidents : 4 – 2 x Suspicious Circumstances, 1 x Advice and 1 x Missing Person Report.

Crime was down on last year, as were reported Police incidents.

There are still reports of Hare Coursers at day and night causing considerable damage to the fields. The fields surrounding Anstey are some of the favourite areas especially the land between Anstey and Meesden. Police patrols continue where possible to provide a visible presence and offer reassurance to landowners. Since 1st October 2017 there have had over 20 reported criminal damages to fields across East Herts mainly north of Buntingford near Buckland and south of Buntingford near Braughing.

18.5 Adjournment for Public Questions/Comments

None.

18.6 Planning Applications / Decision Notices

18.6.1 Planning Application 3/17/2877/FUL Natrilstree, Hare Street – erection of two 4-bed semi detached dwellings. Clerk to respond with no comments from the Parish Council.

18.6.2 Decision Notice 3/17/2487 Cherry Tree House Hare Street – remove Condition 3 residential annex shall not be occupied other than for purposes ancillary to the residential use of dwelling and ref. 3/16/1618/HH to allow it to be used as an independent dwelling, refused 14.12.17.

18.6.3 Decision Notice 3/17/2408/FUL Hill Farm, Anstey SG9 0BZ – Conversion of existing garage to annexe, planning granted 19/12/17.



18.6.4 Decision Notice 3/17/2641/FUL High Trees, Barkway Road - Demolition of dwelling and erection of replacement four-bedroom, permission granted 5/1/18.

18.6.5 Appeal APP/J1915/W/17/3179148 – Little Thatch for planning applications 3/17/0469/HH and 3/17/0470/LBC. Awaiting Decision. Parish Council Response : Neutral.

18.6.6 For information purposes only an application for a lawful certificate for use of an agricultural dwelling as a house at The Grove, Mill Lane SG9 0BJ Ref: 3/17/2916/CLE was discussed – it was built as an agricultural house to be used only for such residence and a lawful certificate has been requested.

18.7 Finance

18.7.1 The financial report was received and approved. It was agreed that the 2017-18 Precept increase had allowed enough funding to cover grass cutting in village. A small surplus of funds will be carried over at the end of the financial year and the Precept will remain the same for 2018-19.

18.7.2 The Parish Council Bank Account had been put on hold due to a statement being returned to sender. The Chairman and Clerk visited Barclays to clarify the situation. Statements and a new cheque book had now been received. The Bank Reconciliation 9/1/18 was agreed against the bank statement and approved.

18.7.3 Payments for January and February were approved, cheques signed at the end of the meeting.

18.7.4 The precept for 2018 had been agreed at the last meeting to remain the same, £4,750. It was RESOLVED to complete and sign the relevant paperwork.

18.7.5 Audit Task List – it is unclear if the Parish Council will be duty bound to organise an external audit this year due to having a qualified last year. Clerk to ask for clarification.

18.7.6 Risk Assessment for 2018-19 was approved and signed. One amendment was that the backup of documents are now made onto a hard drive and kept offsite.

18.8 Standing Orders and Code of Conduct

Following a unanimous vote, it was RESOLVED to adopt the new Standing Orders.

Register of Pecuniary Interests were given out for signing and return at the next meeting.

18.9 Anstey Chalk Quarry

Anstey Quarry have applied to increase the number of movements of their Operator's License to allow them to store more trucks at the Quarry. This has been highlighted to the traffic commissioner.

Clerk to request a truck movement count and measurement of the bund – it should be 4m high.

18.10 Village Defibrillator

Still ongoing, a report will be made at the next meeting. Cllr Parker has liaised with the school and they have agreed it can be housed on the outside of the school.

18.11 Playing Field - Nothing to report.

18.12 Village Hall

Since the last meeting, the Village Hall had a successful Christmas Dance with a great atmosphere. The numbers were slightly down but it worked well. After paying the band, the event made £510.

The Film club restarted on 12th January with 45 attendees, most renewed their subscriptions. The next films will be held on 9th February and 9th March.

Forever Active has resumed after the Christmas break.



David Thoroughgood, EHDC Sustainability Officer suggested curtaining the entrance which has been organised and created a difference to the lobby temperature. A Thermal Imaging Gun was used in December after the heating had been on all night to investigate heat loss – significant loss was at the front door and windows. The roof and floor were not losing any large amounts of heat.

Floor is a long term, complex issue which needs attention for pilates, yoga and the nursery group - advice is being taken. The lobby heaters need upgrading. Samples of floor coverings are being investigated. The Parish Council questioned if the floor was priority.

Secondary glazing of the windows from the inside and a new front door will be the highest priority. Quotations have been received from Hertford Glass and Clearview with Clearview being favorable. There was no considerable loss from the fire doors. £8,160 is the total cost to replace the front door and secondary glaze the windows.

Grants have been considered but they are getting harder to obtain – it may be possible to receive a community grant of £500. There is a £2,740.50 Beddington Will Legacy payment due for the maintenance fund, but they will fall short of the required amount with this and several thousand pounds raised through events.

The Village Hall Committee requested support from Parish Council to pay half of the costs, £4,080. That figure includes VAT of £1,360 which may be reclaimable. A further quotation will be sought. Clerk to investigate of the logistics of paying it and reclaiming VAT.

There was a unanimous vote to support the Village Hall Committee work and it was agreed, in principle, to fund 50% of the costs. The management committee were asked to consider if the double glazing was the best way forward to make the building more heat efficient.

18.13 Fly Tipping / Highways

Hare coursing could be a highways issue and was being addressed by the police.

Fly tipping – sizeable pieces of wood from the last tip were left on the verge of the road. Lincoln Hill fly tipping is not on the highway – same side as SS. Sign down at the bottom of Lincoln Hill was knocked over in the snow, clerk to report.

There has been some village damage from the work carried out on the electricity poles. Chairman to scan the letter to the Clerk and request details of damage caused. Clerk to write to Freedom Group requesting repairs of damage caused.

Clerk to write to Highways cc: CC Jeff Jones regarding the road by the Playing Field with regards to the narrowing of the road.

18.14 Correspondence Send - Received no comments.

18.14 AOB

18.14.1 Broadband for the Village Hall was discussed; this would be useful for planning and parish council meetings and would benefit hirers. Clerk to enquire much will BT charge for a new line with agreement from the Village Hall Committee. Transparency Fund could be used.

18.14.2 The Annual Meeting was proving difficult – this will be changed to **Monday, 21st May**. Clerk to change notices and website.

18.15 Next Meeting to be held at the Village Hall commencing at 7.45pm on Monday, 19th March 2018.

Meeting concluded at 9.04pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____