



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON
MONDAY, 16TH MARCH 2020 AT 7.30PM

Present: Andrew Marchant
Simon Bagnall
Amanda Parker
Jan Pledger

District/ County Councillor: CC Jeff Jones
Public: None

Apologies : Peter Boylan
David House
David Oxley

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman welcomed councillors to the March Meeting.

- 31.1 To Receive Any Apologies for Absence.** DC Boylan, Councillor House, Councillor Oxley and PC Miller.
- 31.2 To Receive any Personal or Prejudicial Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda** – none received.
- 31.3 Adjournment for Public Questions/Comments** – no comments.
- 31.4 Adjournment for County Councillor** – CC Jeff Jones reported that the DC were working extremely hard with the Health Professionals with daily updates on the Coronavirus status.

The local elections have been deferred for a year.

No charge will be made for VE Day Road Closures.

There is a large music event planned behind the Community Hall in Buntingford on Saturday 11th May.

A parishioner contacted CC Jones directly regarding blocked gullies in Mill Lane which has been reported – it needs CCTV to access the fault. It's on the works schedule and we should continue logging the fault until it was complete.

The Village Hall Drive was discussed, we can request a retrospective grant from the County Councillor's May Budget.

There was no decision on the change of use to residential at Plot 64, Hare Street currently.

It was noted that the Travellers Site at Wellpond Green had been successful.

The update on the Doctor's Surgery is that meetings have been held with the Buntingford Health Centre Practitioners who are looking at two options; expanding their own premises into Nevitts giving them an extra 50% in size or move to new premises at Nevitts. It's now with the CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) for a decision.

Adjournment for District Councillor : CC Boylan forwarded his apologies for tonight's meeting and welcomed any matters arising that he could help with. He will be attending our AGM, if it goes ahead with the COVID19 situation.

- 31.5 Adjournment for Police Update** : there have been a number of burglaries in Meesden.
Sgt Nicky Hunt is now covering our area.
- 31.6 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2020**
The minutes were reviewed and it was unanimously agreed that they were a correct and a true record of the meeting held on 22nd January 2020, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.
- 31.7 Planning Applications / Decision Notices**
- 31.7.1 4 Castle Cottages Ref. E/19/0199/ENF** the clerk reiterated the telephone conversation and requested confirmation that the development is allowed via permitted development within conservation area. Clerk to forward the e-mails to DC Boylan and ask for his assistance in this matter.
- 31.7.2 3 Castle Cottages Ref. 3/20/0352/HH S/S Side Extension** – the Parish Council had no objections to the application.



- 31.7.3 High Trees Ref. X/19/0503/CND** Discharge Notice for materials and roofing.
The Planning Department were due to update on this application in December but there has been a delay. A response is expected soon.
- 31.7.4 The New House Ref: 3/19/2497/HH** Demo of conservatory & erection of S/S rear extension.
The chairman spoke to the neighbours and there were no issues raised. Awaiting decision.
- 31.7.5 Maran House Ref. 3/19/2429/HH** Part Single Storey, Part two-storey extension GRANTED 24/1/20.
- 31.7.6 Plot 64 Ref. 3/19/2256/FUL** Change of use of land to Gypsy/Traveller residential for siting of 4 caravans (incl. 2 static) No decision.
- 31.7.7 Church Cottage** an application will be submitted for two properties (pair of semi's) on the piece of land beside and behind the Village Hall. There may be a piece of land available to the Parish Council / the School. Piece of land behind the garages is to be made into a natural area. The right of way footpath will have to be maintained. Chairman will inform the landowners that the Parish Council have no initial objections to their plans.
- 31.7.8** No further applications or decision notices received.
- 31.8 Finance**
- 31.8.1** The latest financial report was accepted by the Parish Council.
Church Tree and Village Hall repairs will be paid from the Capital Funds, clerk to transfer funds appropriately.
- 31.8.2** The Bank Reconciliation dated 16th March 2020 was accepted as correct and approved.
- 31.8.3 Grants :**
- 31.8.3.1** Community Grant = £2,275 and must include crowdfunding.
£1,000 reduction received on the roundabout.
Brings total down to £7,527.
It was agreed that it was £5,300 was too much to fund.
Clerk to contact EHDC and check if we can change what we requested at a lesser cost.
- 31.8.3.2** VE Day Commemoration. Once grant funding has been secured, the parish council will discuss supporting a proposed event at the Blind Fiddler PH, but this may be on hold with the Coronavirus situation.
- 31.8.4** Payments for March and April were approved (cheques were signed at the end of the meeting).
- 31.9 Anstey Quarry** – Cllr Parker informed the Parish Council that we should receive information of the landowners future plans by 4th April.
- 31.10 Highways / Vegetation** – hedge has been cut on the corner.
- 31.11 School / Parking** – Repairs to the Village Hall drive have been completed.
- 31.12 Church** – no update.
- 31.13 Defibrillator – Box Number 1580**
The Heartsafe Monitoring System ceased operation on 2nd March and the Local Ambulance Trust in conjunction with the British Heart Foundation no longer wishes to receive reports of public access defibrillator sites (PAD) from third parties. Instead, a National Defibrillator Database will be created to be called 'The Circuit'. All Guardians (DO) who were reporting the rescue readiness of their defibrillators to Heartsafe have been asked to re—registered with the Local Ambulance Trust – in our case, the East of England Ambulance Service which has been done.
- 31.14 Phone Box** – Clerk has chased again and it will be repainted.
BT confirmed that no glass was broken – it is opaque, not glass, within a conservation area and needs replacing.
- 31.15 Village Hall**
Exercise classes are going well.
Film club is cancelled due to Coronavirus.
The Village Hall's major fundraisers is the annual quiz on Saturday, 25th April has also been cancelled.
Broadband is ongoing; a new telephone pole will soon be installed.
- 31.16 Playing Field** – no outstanding items.
Ronnie has cut the hedge and verges.



31.17 Correspondence Received / Sent – report received.

31.18 AOB

31.18.1 Neighbourhood COVID-19 Help Scheme

Adrian is home daily and has offered to be the first point of call for anyone who wishes to volunteer to assist elderly / vulnerable people in the village. There will be a leaflet drop with the next Newsletter.

31.19 Date of next meeting : AGM on Monday, 20th April at 7.30pm.

It was agreed that in light of COVID-19, the AGM may be not open to the public or arranged online. Any minutes will be published online.

The May meeting will be held on 4th May.

Meeting concluded at 8.50pm.