



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 28TH NOVEMBER 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

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

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

Members of the Public: Ann Grimsdale

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the November meeting and opened the meeting at 7.30pm. He thanked everyone for moving the date of this meeting due to the Clerk's absence and offered the Parish Council's condolences.

1. To Receive Any Apologies for Absence

No apologies received.

2. To Receive any Personal or prejudicial Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

None received.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2016

Clarification was requested on item 4. The Chairman reported that the crime statistics were concerning neighbourhood disputes at Moatside and there had since been a classification of criminal damage.

On item 11. clarification on the two designated areas in Anstey were requested – these were confirmed as Silkmead Industrial Estate and the piece of land at the bottom of the Playing Field.

Gigaclear was discussed, the Chairman hoped that the £300-400M Fibre Broadband Government allocation may go into Gigaclear to help rural areas and possibly reduce the numbers needed but it was not clear at this stage. The deadline for any parishioners wishing to withdraw from the Gigaclear contract is the end of December. For the number of parishioners signed up, the increase is currently £3 to date.

Following a unanimous vote that the minutes were correct, it was RESOLVED that the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th September 2016 were a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

4. Adjournment for Police Update

No police were available to attend the Parish Council meeting.

5. Adjournment for Public Comments

Item 7.2 was brought forward to discuss :

7.2 Finance – Request from St George's PCC - Brought forward item.

A letter had been received from Alison Cosser on behalf of Anstey PCC which was read out at the meeting. They were seeking support of a project to improve facilities by way of installing a toilet and kitchen area.



At this stage, no permissions had been sought and there was no confirmation of costs. It was agreed that the improvements may benefit the village.

The Chairman explained that as a Parish Council, the Councillors have authority to spend money in ways that the village would like to see it spent. To date money this has been used to upgrade the Playing Fields. There have also been informal discussions about the village hall driveway. The Parish Council look favourably at the Village Hall as Trustees of the hall that is owned by the village. The church, however is a public building and open to all and whether the Parish Council support it with village money will need to be discussed further.

A toilet was seen to be an important facility, and one that could add more value than a kitchen. There was already a kitchen provision at the Village Hall that could be used during events such as the Harvest Supper.

It was agreed that putting in drainage and water would be expensive, when Mel Brewer investigated it, the costs were high, in the region of £50,000. A waterless toilet was a possible consideration. Maintenance of the fabric of the church costs are expected; one window needs £25,000 repair and the wall costs are £4,000. Hormead had similar work done and it took years of fundraising on top of legacy money. An alarm system to protect the lead is also required at a cost of £4,500 – without this, insurance premiums will cost £7,500pa.

Following further discussion, the Chairman confirmed that the Parish council are interested to support this project in principle and if funds were available, they would be happy to assist the Church. The New Homes Bonus Grants could be saved for this type of project – we currently have £12,000 with a further £11,000 due over the next 3 years (not guaranteed). All councillors were in full agreement.

Councillor Sapsed reported that the PCC have requested another £400 towards the grass cutting. The Chairman was concerned that during the past the last 2 years the council had run at a slight deficit but had accrued money that rolled over each year. They had taken over the grass cutting at the Playing Field and there had been a slight increase in the Parish Clerk's salary which meant a 25% Precept increase to cover the three additional costs would be necessary. On the current Precept, these additional costs would be impossible to cover. The Precept had remained the same for 8 years. It amounted to an increase of £950pa, approximately £6.78 pa per household.

6. Planning Applications / Decision Notices

- 6.1** Decision Notice : Planning Refused on 2nd November 2016 : 3/16/1964/HH Flint Cottage, Andersons Lane, Gt Hormead – Proposed Detached Garage. Parish Council objected to this application.
- 6.2** 3/16/1356/CLP High Trees : Certificate of Lawful Use / Development granted 30/10/16. Notice was given that the materials used on the extension should be of similar appearance to those on the existing dwelling and the roof lights should be obscure glazed and non-opening. The planners insisted that two extensions had already been made but no additions had been made since it was built in 1968, the development is now going ahead.
- 6.3** Decision Notice : Planning Granted on 22nd September 2016 : 3/16/1512/HH and 1513LBC Anstey House : erection of a traditional Victorian style cedar greenhouse, demolition of wall, new wall and gates.

7. Finance

- 7.1** The Transparency Fund Grant was being approved with payment of £442 expected in December.



- 7.2** Church Request: discussed, item brought forward – see above.
- 7.3** Update on finances was received and approved. The Parish Council is spending more than income received and it was agreed to ensure enough money was received to cover running costs. There has been an amount carried forward each year of £2,000 from an end of year balance.
- 7.4** November and December payments were agreed and the Chairman was permitted to sign cheques at the end of meeting.

7.5 2017-18 Budget

Church Grass cutting request has increased to £1,200 for St George's PCC.

To cover the extra costs of Grass Cutting at the Playing Field of £570 and £400 at St George's Church, together with the increase of the Clerk's salary of £210 pa, the precept will increase by 25%. Some money needs to be retained to cover repairs like the clock, noticeboard and play equipment.

7.6 Precept 2017-18.

After careful consideration and a unanimous vote to cover the additional £400 grass cutting costs requested, it was RESOLVED to increase the Precept by 25% to cover the additional costs as listed in item 7.5.

A report will be made for the newsletter giving a breakdown of these costs explaining that no raise has taken place for 6 years (the last was for the year of 2011 with an increase of £500 from £3,300) and the Parish Council has taken on responsibility of maintenance of the grass cutting of the playing field and covering the full costs at St Georges Church, together with covering a small increase for the clerk. A third of the Precept will now go on grass cutting. With 140 households, the additional cost of £950 will be an increase of £6.78 per household. The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the village; assisting with the village hall, church, playing field and keeping the village clean and tidy.

8. East Herts District Plan Pre-Submission Consultation

The District Plan Pre-Submission was discussed. Level 2 and 3 villages are now identical. Ansteys weren't identified as a village requiring their own Neighbourhood Plan with a village category status of 3. Without a plan, new homes can be built anywhere. Large scale building wasn't envisaged in a conservation area with our current infrastructure.

It was agreed that to produce a Neighbourhood Plan would be time consuming, expensive and would add little value in this consultation. When asked what risks had been identified, the Chairman responded that due to our conservation area, there was little risk of large scale building. The most recent development in the village benefitted the community.

The Parish Council and residents have the right to submit comments to the Consultation by 15th December.

It was agreed that due to changes of the hierarchy to include Ansteys in Village 2 the criteria would be checked and a consultation response be made. The cut off is 15 points and Ansteys currently score 17. How the 500 new homes to be split between Tier 1 and 2 villages wasn't clear, it would have been more logical to state the increases for each group with a breakdown of what villagers would be expected to take as new builds.

9. Highways / Vegetation Issues

Cleared a gully at Snow End and done investigatory work. Clerk to chase again. There were concerns over the increase of horses riding along this road in icy conditions.

The Playing field corner was still a concern following an incident. Gravel is encroaching onto the road and the kerb does not allow any room to manoeuvre around any oncoming vehicles.

The missing school and deer signs have both been reported.



10. Playing Field

A wooden oak carved sign has been installed on the gate renaming the field 'The Folly Centenary'.

A grant application is available of up to £8,000.

The school have shown interest in an outdoor climbing wall which is shown to aid reading.

A roundabout was considered and quotations reviewed. The Orbit was the most suitably priced and is appropriate for a wide range of ages from 3 to 14 –one at Steeple Morden is very popular. This would provide play for every age range, from 6-9 months to 16 years.

The council unanimously agreed and the clerk was requested to arrange a site inspection and arrange the grant application.

11. Village Hall

The village hall continues to run five successful and well attended exercise classes, three are forever active funded.

The inaugural Cinema Club meeting allowed 62 members sign up with further members expected to join. The next meeting will be held on 13th January with 6-8 film nights running throughout the year. The new chairs have proved very comfy.

The next project being investigated is the flooring, although the hall gets warm with the new heaters, the floor remains cold. A wooden floor will be considered and grants applied for.

The Christmas Dance last Saturday was very successful with a great Band.

Costs to improve the driveway are estimated at £20,000.

12. Correspondence Received / Sent were noted.

Councillor Sapsed was researching the family information request on the private residence that dated back to Rev Taylor. There was no further information available yet. The Clerk to reply stating that it was being investigated but was unable to provide any information to date.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 The Noticeboard has been installed outside the School with a combination lock. Clerk to write Paul Creswell to thank him.

13.2 The Chairman offered the council's thanks to Councillor Sapsed for cutting the playing field grass.

13.3 An internal auditor was required, the Chairman will follow up on a contact.

14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 16th January 2017 at The Village Hall.

Other dates were circulated : 20th March, 24th April (AGM), 15th May, 17th July, 18th September, 20th November.

Meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____