



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON  
MONDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM**

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

Members of the Public: Ann Grimsdale  
Michael Davidson

District/ County Councillor: DC Peter Boylan

Apologies: CC Jeff Jones, PC De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman welcomed councillors and members of the public to the last meeting of the year.

**36.1 Apologies** received from CC Jones PC De Bruyn.

**36.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations** : Cllr Oxley has an interest with one planning application which he will leave the meeting for - Ref. 3/20/2102/HH.

**36.3 Public Comments** : Ann Grimsdale thanked the Parish Council for the great work undertaken at the War Memorial, the new fencing looked really good. Cllr House was subsequently thanked for his work. It was noted that hooks have been included on the front posts for chain linking if it is required at the front of the memorial in the future.

**36.4 County Councillor Comments** :

It was noted that DC Boylan had not received any direct requests for help from councillors or parishioners. He updated the Parish Council on the new application for the Gypsy / Travellers' Site in Hare Street. The original application had been withdrawn, 3/19/2256/FUL and a new application received, 3/20/2139/FUL. The council were awaiting feedback from a similar application at Little Hadham which was owned by travellers and originally refused by East Herts DC. Following an unsuccessful appeal by the applicant, it was taken to the High Court, which overturned the decision and permission was granted. There were flooding and highway access concerns over the Hare Street application. The chairman reported that the hedge at the entrance had been cutback some 2m. DC Boylan confirmed that no TPO's existed on trees on the site. It was noted that there was no current need for additional traveller sites in the region.

There were daily Herts and East Herts COVID updates. The region went through a period of low numbered COVID outbreaks but by the end of October, we saw numbers rise and are now relatively high for a rural district. Some levelling in numbers nationally is being aided by the closure of pubs and restaurants. We are looking to a brighter future with a vaccine and hopefully, reopening of shops, services and hospitality from 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

DC Boylan was asked for any feedback on the household waste site in Buntingford which has been closed for some 9 months. Currently residents are having to travel to Royston. DC Boylan understood that the Council were expecting to open the remaining closed refuse waste sites.

**36.5 Police Report** :

No police representation was currently available to attend meetings currently as they do not use Zoom and also due to operational requirements during these awkward times. There were no crimes in Anstey during August and therefore no report completed. Localised crimes for September 1st – November 9th: theft of batteries from outside a property in Furneux Pelham (Sept), business burglary in Furneux Pelham (Sept), residential burglary



near Chipping (Nov) – suspects gained entry to a vacant property and removed property from within before leaving in an unknown direction and by means unknown.

As the evenings are drawing in, there is a potential for more opportunities for criminals to commit offences. Light timers are an ideal form of security and we would recommend residents start to use these devices. Having a downstairs and/or upstairs light come on 2 or 3 times at various times during the night can act as a great deterrent for any unwanted visitors. Speak with reliable and trustworthy neighbours and look out for one another. With external lighting with sensors make sure it is bright enough and up to date, illuminate dark areas of driveways etc. as typically outbuildings are targeted for power tools and gardening equipment. Finally, use the non-emergency number 101 to report any suspicious incidents. If they involve vehicles, a registration number is most helpful along with a direction of travel.

There were also recent crimes in Anstey that were not reported : 2 x break ins at Little Thatch, 1 x break in at Oakwood, 2 x attempted break ins at Woodside Cottage and x break in at Bandons Barn.

We should have a monthly report now going forward.

**36.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020** The minutes were reviewed and it was unanimously agreed that they were a correct and a true record of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them after the meeting.

## **36.7 Planning**

**36.7.1 2 Castle Cottages Ref. 3/20/2102/HH** Demolition of outbuildings, conservatory and construction of single storey rear extension and rear terrace – deadline 17<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Oxley reported that items were missing from the planning portal but now a design and access statement had been loaded – he subsequently left the meeting for councillors to discuss the application. 3 Castle Cottages had been extended a few years ago and the plans were reviewed. The existing extension is planned to be removed, and a wider one built. There were no objections unanimously and the Clerk was requested to comment on the application as ‘no objections’.

**36.7.2 Church Gate Cottage Ref. 3/20/1569/HH** Demolition of conservatory and construction and erection of replacement garden room – PC made no objections – **approved 7/10/20.**

**36.7.3 Land at St. George’s End Ref. 3/20/1208/FUL** Erection of two 4-bed semi-detached dwellings – comments were made by the PC on this application and no decision has yet been made.

**36.7.4 High Trees Ref. 3/20/0639/HH** Vehicular access originally refused on 7/8/20 was rediscussed. Reinstatement of the existing driveway to the property and retained brick pillars are within agricultural land. The original agricultural field entrance is being used to access the property. The PC are awaiting feedback from the Enforcement Officer following concerns raised in the village. Clerk has chased a response and will re-chase next week.

**36.7.5 Plot 64 Ref. 3/19/2256/FUL** Change of use of land to Gypsy / Traveller residential : **withdrawn 2/1/20.** A new application **Ref. 3/20/2139/FUL** has been submitted with the siting of four caravans of which no more than two would be static caravans, widening of vehicle access, part retrospective. Chairman reported that the application was similar to the original one, he will speak to Hormead PC and review the new application with regards to responding in due course.

## **36.8 Finance**

**36.8.1** The Financial Report was approved and accepted.

**36.8.2** The Bank Reconciliation was approved and accepted.

**36.8.3** The payments for November and December were approved and accepted. Grass Cutting will be signed by another Councillor and the invoice includes repair to the playing field hedge from car damage. There were tax refunds to the clerk. Two Councillors will countersign the Poppy Wreath reimbursement in the absence of any receipt.

**36.8.4** The Final 2021-22 Budget was approved and accepted following unanimous agreement it was correct.

**36.8.5** The Precept will remain the same as last year @ £4,750.

Chairman proposed to sign the Precept Form, all agreed unanimously, and it was signed accordingly.

## **36.9 Phone Box**

The repair to the K6 phone box undertaken by BT was substandard and no further repairs were expected.



If adopted, the cost of replacing Perspex panels would be approximately £600. It was questioned what we would use the phone box for if adopted. The actual phone is no longer required in the village. Clerk to request that BT complete the repair to the appropriate standard in the first instance.

## 36.10 Highways / Vegetation :

Hedges have been cut back.

There are flooding issues at Cave Gate on the curve – the camber is wrong – needs reporting. Continued flooding at Silkmead has been re-reported – clerk to request assistance from CC Jones to get this resolved.

## 36.11 Playing Field :

36.11.1 The pathway from car park to playing field was being cut at the same time as the playing field previously. Cllr Pledger has been cutting the edges of the carpark and the path. Cllr Oxley will assist so they can take it in turns.

36.11.2 Hedge damage from a car accident early one icy morning has been repaired. PC thanked the Chairman for this.

36.11.3 A suggestion for smaller goalposts and additional play equipment had been received for younger members of the community. Cllr Oxley will investigate.

Trees will be examined once the leaves are down with a view of any works required.

36.12 **Church** : Cllr Parker has liaised with the landowner's assistant with a view of replacing /repairing the gates and post from the church path which is well used by the community. She will speak to them again to progress.

36.13 **School / Parking** : Cars are still parking up the road. There was a recent case at a church service where a number of cars parked on the approach to the corner at the church, notices were put on cars. There was space in the Village Hall carpark. Cllr Parker did inform the school before. Ann Grimsdale offered to speak to the Vicar to ensure parishioners were informed and that any members of the community that need dropping off repark in the car park.

36.14 **Speeding** : There was no update from the speeding survey petition.

20mph was discussed, it was agreed that it was more relevant to towns and not to our rural village.

36.15 **Village Hall** : There was little to report, although Cllr Oxley reported that the school wasn't using it for lunches due to COVID Bubble Lunches in classrooms, he further updated the PC that the school are using the Village Hall on Monday and Wednesdays from 3.30=5pm for school clubs. They are also using it for PE during inclement weather. The Hall is inspected regularly. There was a request for the clock time to be reset.

36.16 **Anstey Quarry** : Nothing to report. There was vegetation / mulch being left at the opening gates by the Quarry which is making the footpath a little messy at the moment.

36.17 **Defibrillator** was checked yesterday, all in good working order. Not been used.

## 36.18 Correspondence

36.18.1 **Luton Airport Consultation Videos** shows how they are proposing to change the Luton Flight Paths. It details a new holding bay with the Eastern and Western Approaches. Details to be sent out on the Anstey Link.

36.18.2 Cllr Oxley offered to liaise with the Census Engagement Manager regarding the next census being digital.

36.19 **Any other Business** – no items raised.

36.20 **Next Meeting** : The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – to be held via Zoom or at the Village Hall depending on COVID-19 recommendations.

Meeting closed at 20:41pm.