



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
PREPARED ONLINE**

MEETING CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

No Councillors or Members of the Public Present

1. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 15th APRIL 2019

Uploaded online – unsigned.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2019-20

Monday, 20th April 2020 – Cyberspace 20.00 onwards

Firstly, thank you for downloading this and I hope that in this extraordinary spring you, your friends and families are all keeping well and are managing to cope with this very new world that we find ourselves in amid this COVID-19 virus pandemic.

During this lockdown it is a desperate time for many, living in cramped accommodation with difficult situations, whether young energetic children who don't understand this strange change, to the teenagers who should be experiencing a hugely memorable spring and summer of their formative years, which now has been taken from them. Not forgetting those who may have lost someone close to them.

Fortunately for most of us in Anstey, this doesn't apply to us, we are hugely privileged to live in such a fabulous village and area, we have glorious countryside to take our exercise in, experiencing all that spring offers, from cowslips, primroses, dog violets and orchids growing in the meadows and hedgerows to the bluebells carpeting the woodland with their heady perfume and dizzying haze.

We also are so very lucky to have so many kind and caring people living in our community, no names mentioned as I wouldn't like to leave anyone out, but the arranging of a helpline for any suffering under lockdown, the fetching of prescriptions and food, picking up pet food etc etc, we are truly blessed to live here in Anstey.. That's the sappy bit over.....

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow councillors for their invaluable attendance and input to council meetings.

Also, especially thanks to Caroline Jones, our Parish Clerk for handling the ever-increasing workload and for the dedication and time she puts into making sure the Parish council meetings and its responsibilities run smoothly and efficiently. Our gratitude also to our local police team who, when time permits, attend our PC meetings or otherwise sending us updates on what police input and crime is occurring locally, which thankfully up to now is very little. We have a new contact now, Sgt. Nicky Hunt as PC Miller has moved on, we wish him the best and thank him for his past help. The present District Councillor for our Braughing ward is Peter Boylan who along with County Councillor Jeff Jones attend our Parish Council meetings when time permits and we thank them both for their time and assistance with any local issues that we may have concerns about.

After such a wet winter we have been fortunate that not too many road repairs have been required as there have also been virtually no frosts to damage them either.

BUT... at least now we will know where in the village we are, thanks to Gus Goymour, who is in the process of putting the historic names of areas of the village on new signs



around the village, so far we have Snow End, Cheapside and The Knoll, I thank Gus for not only this great idea, but for implementing it as well, hopefully I now won't get lost on the way home from The Blind Fiddler..!!

We have had various planning applications to consider throughout the year and I hope we have responded to them in a way that enhances the local environment.

As we all know St Georges is a fabulous building and takes a monumental effort to keep maintained, it is for this reason that the Parish Council have assisted financially this year in some unplanned works, one was to help with the costs of rebuilding the perimeter flint wall that was falling into disrepair and also of some tree surgery for the beech trees that overhang the road on the corner passing the church which I hope you agree that this was a village responsibility.

Anstey Quarry is still an ongoing saga with the directors of Winters, which is now in liquidation, being pursued for reparation, it is therefore not possible to give any idea of how it will move forward, as the owner, Hugh Kemsley cannot make plans until the outcome of any prosecution is known, but we as a Parish Council are keeping a close eye on any future plans to ensure that no situation like the Winters debacle occurs again.

The final outcome of the conservation review has now been published, and although our preferred option of linking the small hamlets together throughout the village was not accepted, we were assured that the revised County Plan would give virtually the same protection that we were seeking to these areas.

The Village Hall continues to go from strength to strength and we thank the committee for their time and energy in pushing the success of the village hall forward, this year the Parish Council have been able to assist with the repairs and new covering for the drive and car park which should make access to the hall and school more acceptable, which we thank Dig and Dump for their assistance.

As always, I would like to thank David Moule for his help in keeping the village litter free.

Our thanks also go out again to the fair committee who help so much with raising additional and substantial funds for different aspects of the village and to Adrian and Alison Cossor for allowing their beautiful grounds to be taken over for the fair. I would also like to thank John and Patricia Hamilton for their production of the newsletter, they have now decided to call it a day and I thank them on behalf of the village for their dedication in the production of past newsletters.

I would like to thank Dave and Pauline Kellett for their help in circulating the village news, as mentioned last year we now also have the village link which was set up by Sarah Cruise, we have now decided to amalgamate both of these within the AnsteyLink platform and hopefully it will do the same job with less individual effort needed for its circulation.

Our thanks also go yet again to Paul Walton for the help doing our internal auditing which is much appreciated.

We have recently been informed of the sad passing of Sir Roger Du Boulay who lived at Anstey House (now The Old Rectory) for nearly 50 years and was dedicated to the running and maintenance of St Georges church, I remember hanging the bells in the tower with Sir Roger and Jock Kent after the renovation of the tower and recasting of various bells.



We also held the Anstey Fair for many years at Anstey House with Sir Roger and Elizabeth being heavily involved in the organising and running of it.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.

We on the Parish Council look forward to serving the villages' interests for the next year and are always open to any suggestions or ideas that anyone in the village may have to improve our living environment.

As the village meeting has now been cancelled, if there are any queries of questions please direct them to either the Parish Clerk or directly to me.

Thank you and please stay safe and well.

Andrew Marchant
Chairman of Anstey Parish Council

3. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The AGM Statement of Accounts was uploaded to the Anstey Village Website. If there are any queries or questions, please direct them to the Clerk.

4. VILLAGE HALL AGM REPORT

Use of the Hall

Until the COVID-19 crisis, the hall continued to be used very regularly, almost on a daily basis, by various different groups in the community.

- Anstey School uses the hall every day in term time for the children's lunches, unless the hall is being hired out, which has made it much easier for the school to cope with their rising numbers. They also continue to use the hall for PE lessons, after school clubs and special events.*
- Five exercise classes or clubs take place in the hall every week: two yoga sessions, two table tennis sessions and a carpet bowls club. We expect that the capital we have accumulated under the original Forever Active scheme, when classes were subsidised by EHDC, will allow us to keep the classes going for several years.*
- Our Film and Social Club continues to be popular, with between 30 and 40 people normally attending the nine films we show a year (for the bargain price of £12). Having subtitles for the films has proved helpful for many of us!*
- Other social and fundraising events we have held since our last report to the PC include our annual Quiz in late April 2019 (many thanks to Edward Burton for devising and running it) and a Square Dance in September which was enjoyed by all who attended.*
- The hall is also hired privately for classes, rehearsals and parties etc.*

Improvements made to the hall during the last year

- We are very grateful to the Parish Council, the Cokenach Estate and 'Dig and Dump' for the improvements made to the main car park and the lower drive, which have significantly reduced the problems of mud and puddles. The Village Hall committee's contribution was to enlarge the usable area of the car park by paying for the removal of the overgrown Russian Vine.*



- *We have built new storage cupboards in the kitchen area – many thanks to the Marstons for their hard work.*

Improvements planned

- *Once the Covid-19 crisis is over, we should have a broadband connection installed in the hall. The pole needed to support the wiring has been erected, and we expect the engineers to come to make the internal connections as soon as possible.*
- *We have asked a specialist contractor to repair cracks in the main hall floor, and to sand and reseal the surface, which has become very worn in the 38 years since it was laid. We expect this work to be completed during May.*
- *We hope to be able to add further car parking spaces in the upper car park, where currently there is a patch of grass between the upper drive and the school grounds.*

Financial Accounts

Our annual accounts have been uploaded separately to the website. Many thanks to our treasurer, Rod Hart, for preparing them and managing our finances.

- *The Current Account balance includes £4862 ring-fenced for exercise classes, as agreed when we took part in the Forever Active programme; the savings account is kept in reserve for major emergencies such as re-roofing.*
- *We are very grateful to the Anstey Fair Committee for their donation of £1250.*
- *Thanks again to the Parish Council for paying the bulk of the cost of the carpark and drive improvements.*
- *The East Herts Community Lottery has provided a useful income of £474 this year. Participants agree to pay a regular sum of £1 a week for a ticket, which can be paid annually or monthly; if the tickets are sold through our webpage, the hall gets 50% of the profits. There is a weekly draw, with £25000 prize money. If anyone reading this would like to support the hall, please look at the hall page on the village website, where you will find a link to the community lottery.*

Future Events

Obviously, resuming community events in the hall will depend on the easing of measures to defeat Covid-19. We hope to be able to restart exercise classes and the Film and Social Club as soon as this is recommended, and to reschedule the Annual Village Quiz which was planned for April 25th. We also hope to hold another Square Dance – the provisional date for this is November 21st.

Kate Oxley, Chair of Anstey Village Hall Committee

Due to COVID-19, there was no open forum.

Parishioners were invited to forward any questions or comments to either the Chairman or the Clerk.

Signed _____

Date: _____ (Page 4 of 4)