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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018 COMMENCING AT 8 PM

Present: Andrew Marchant - Chairman  
David Oxley – Vice Chair and also Publicity, Village Hall Committee  
Amanda Parker  
Simon Bagnall

County Councillor: Rose Cheswright

Village Hall Committee: Kate Oxley – Chairman of Village Hall Committee  
Rod Hart – Treasurer of Village Hall Committee

Others Present: Mark Jacobs  
Ray Godfrey  
Pauline Kellett  
Dave Kellett  
Ken Emberson  
Jenny and Gus Goymour  
Tony Pledger

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting.

**1. Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Pledger, Patricia Hamilton and PC David Miller.

**2. Declarations of Interest** – none received.

### **3. Minutes of the AGM held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

Minutes from the last meeting were provided and the Chairman requested any changes or comments, with amendments of the date of the last meeting and names of the attendees. The Chairman accepted these changes and duly signed the minutes from the last meeting, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 as being a true record of the meeting.

**4. Chairman's Report** the Chairman read his Report to those present at the meeting for 2017-18.

*Firstly, the Chairman spoke of the lightning hit in the village and damage to one of the houses in Bury Fields. We will find out if those affected need any help in the village and co-ordinate any help to them through the church and parish council.*

*We welcome Mark Jacobs who has moved into the village.*

*Thank you for attending and I welcome you all to our 2018 annual Parish meeting.*

*I would like to express my thanks to my fellow councillors for their valuable attendance and input to council meetings, we are constantly being bombarded with new time consuming regulations with new financial audit procedures and data protection laws coming into force, with the data protection we now must pay for the services of a suitably qualified Data protection officer to monitor us and make sure that we comply, this would appear to have a bearing on the way data is stored with reference the village diary and perhaps the newsletter, so it may be prudent to incorporate both of these under the Parish Council umbrella to utilise our data protection officer and protect the producers of the diary and newsletter, but this is still early days and we need to check details and implications.*

*Also, especially thanks to Caroline Jones our Parish clerk who bears the brunt of this extra workload and for the dedication and time she puts into making sure the Parish council meetings and its responsibilities run smoothly and efficiently.*

*We are still keeping an eye on the Buntingford expansion although we don't believe it will have an immediate bearing on Anstey except for the strain put on the amenities and services in Buntingford which we are being told is being addressed although I doubt it will be a quick fix.*



*Our gratitude also to our local police team who when time permits attend our PC meetings otherwise sending us updates on what police input and crime is occurring locally, which thankfully up to now is very little.*

*This winter has brought some concerns with the road verges being damaged by machinery that was replacing electricity poles, although mainly superficial, we were able to chase Freedom Services to repair the more serious damage, apart from this Highways appear to be keeping up with road repairs that are reported. If you are aware of any potholes, please do go online and report it and we can keep on top of them.*

*We have had a few planning applications to consider throughout the year and were pleased that the eventual planning design was accepted for High Trees and look forward to the property being completed and welcoming the family to the village. An application to convert the large barn at The Hale was withdrawn apart from these there were a few minor extensions, most were granted; one involving a listed building was turned down.*

*The number of large lorries using the quarry is still of concern and we are cooperating with neighbouring villages in monitoring this, we have also been led to believe that the quarry will cease operations by the end of the year, but I think we've heard that before..!!*

*St George's Church requested a contribution towards the repair of the main wall and the Parish Council agreed to pay for half the cost of the rebuilding of the wall which was £1,500.00. We still have an amount of capital in reserve from the NHB and as it appears there is no desperate requirements from other areas of the village have agreed to support the village halls programme of works starting with the renovation of the windows and doors which a 50% contribution from the PC amounting to around £4,000.00.*

*We, as always thank David Moule for his time and vigilance in keeping our village tidy and monitoring the playing field equipment.*

*Our thanks also go out 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, which helps retain the village atmosphere and always attracts many visitors from near and far.*

*I would also like to thank John and Patricia Hamilton for their continued production of the newsletter, Stagestruck for the printing of the newsletter and all of those that help with the gathering of all of the information and its delivery.*

*Our thanks also go to Dave and Pauline Kellett for the village diary production and distribution. Our thanks also go to Paul Walton for the help doing our internal auditing and hope his and Kaye's move from Anstey House to The Old Rectory goes well and the removal men don't get lost. And, as always, I'd like to thank The Village Hall Committee for all their hard work in keeping the village hall a thriving asset to the village, which like the village fair helps so much in the social cohesion of our small village.*

*The playing field is now being mown regularly and the hedges surrounding it cut by Peter Sapsed, which we thank him for providing this service.*

*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.*

*Thank you.*

**Andrew Marchant Chairman of Anstey Parish Council**  
**5. 2016-17 Statement of Accounts**

A copy of the accounts were made available to parishioners which was self-explanatory. The Chairman signed off the accounts. Gus reported that the Church were very grateful for the donation to the Church Wall.



## **6. Village Hall Committee Report to Annual Parish Meeting April 24th 2018**

The Chairman read the Report to those present at the meeting.

*The hall has continued to be used quite extensively during the year.*

*Anstey School use the hall regularly for PE lessons and sports clubs, assemblies and activities which require a larger space, such as their Christmas play, winter fair and other special events.*

*Five exercise classes take place every week for adults, under the Forever Active Scheme – Zumba on Monday evenings, two Yoga sessions on Tuesday early evening and Thursday morning, table tennis on Weds morning and Pilates on Weds afternoon - and in addition there is a second table tennis session on Tuesday evening and carpet bowls on Weds evening (during the autumn and winter). Sport England funding for the Forever Active scheme will finish in October, but we will be able to continue the classes as we have, as advised by the scheme's organisers, generated £4,550 from fees paid by participants over the last two years, which we can use to subsidise classes in the future.*

*Our Pop-up Film and social club continues to be popular. We have about 70 paid up members, and showed 9 films in 2017 (at the bargain price of £12 for the lot!), and have shown 4 so far this year, with an average attendance of about 40. We anticipate that the profits made, including at the bar, will cover the initial outlay on equipment within 3 years.*

*Since the last Annual Parish Meeting we have organised a number of fundraising and social events, including a Village Quiz, a Summer Music Evening, and a Christmas Dance, all of which have been well attended and enjoyable. We also organised an Emergency First Aid course in September. Events planned for the coming year include a Village Quiz, kindly masterminded by Edward Burton, this coming Saturday, April 28th; a wine tasting and cheese nibbling evening on June 2nd; a Race Night on September 22nd and a Christmas Dance at the end of November. We very much hope for a good turnout for these events too.*

*The hall is available for private bookings, and has been used for monthly flower arranging classes, parties for birthdays, weddings and anniversaries and band rehearsals, amongst other things.*

*We have saved nearly all the money we have raised during the year to put towards a major project which we hope to complete in the next few months. As you may know, the floor and the air a metre or so above the floor are very cold during the autumn and winter, which makes the hall less comfortable, for example for toddlers playing or for floor based exercise classes. We have taken advice from a Chartered Surveyor who said that just laying down a floor covering would be unlikely to solve the problem, and that we need to improve the insulation of the whole building. We asked the Sustainability Officer from East Herts Council to visit the hall, which he did, and he advised us to borrow his thermal camera to identify where heat was being lost from the building. We did this on a cold day in December, and found that the most serious heat loss was from the front door, which has warped and sagged, and from the windows, which are only single glazed. After taking advice from several window replacement companies, and having discussions with the Parish Council, we have decided to replace the front doors with double glazed aluminium doors, and the windows in the main hall and lobby with double glazed PVC-u units. Both these and the doors would be coloured to match the existing woodwork, and so the look of the hall shouldn't change very much. The cost of the new doors and windows will be approximately £7500, excluding VAT. We have obtained three quotations for the work and have chosen which company we think would be best to use.*

*As well as this, we would like to cover the floor of the main hall with an insulated, hardwearing vinyl type covering which would be suitable for the various activities that the hall is used for. We are currently researching floor coverings for the main hall, and expect that a good quality durable 100m<sup>2</sup> floor will cost several thousand pounds.*

*These improvements will be of great benefit to users of the hall but are obviously costly. As you can see from the accounts, the village hall committee have raised several thousand pounds through holding events and hiring out the hall, though of course some of this is spent on running costs. We are very grateful to the Anstey Fair committee who gave us a donation of £1,280 last summer, and we also*



received a legacy of £2,748 from the estate of the late Hubert Beddington. I believe that following discussion at their last meeting, the Parish Council have kindly offered to make a contribution to the cost of the doors and windows from the New Homes Bonus. I am not sure whether their generosity will extend towards helping with the floor as well..... We would very much like to complete the improvements before autumn sets in.

You should find a copy of the village hall accounts on your seats; many thanks to Rod, our treasurer, for preparing these. The current account balance includes a total of £4550 ring-fenced for Forever Active from the fees income over the last two years, as I mentioned earlier, and the legacy from the late Mr & Mrs Beddington. Payments into the current account are all net of expenses. Our expenditure has been unusually low this year as we have been saving up for the insulation project. The savings account is kept in reserve for major emergencies, such as problems with the roof. We are happy to answer any questions you may have about the accounts.

Finally, I would like to thank the village hall committee members for all their hard work over the year, the Anstey Fair committee for their generous donation, the estate of Mr and Mrs Beddington for their kind and unexpected legacy, and above all, those who have attended village hall events or supported the hall in other ways during the year.

**Kate Oxley – Chairman of Anstey Village Hall Committee**

Tony Pledger congratulated the Village Hall Committee for the fantastic they are doing.

Kate answered questions about the heat loss from the hall – the majority of heat loss was through the windows. It was agreed that the hall was a village facility that we should retain. The type of flooring was discussed, this is currently being investigated. Wooden flooring was discussed – it would cause problems with our disability access. The temperature change in the hall would not also be good for a wooden floor. Antigo flooring was discussed which would go straight onto the floor as it is.

**7. Open Forum – Public Session**

Concerns over recent fly tipping was raised; Clerk to follow up the tipping that Cllr Sapsed reported.

A new resident asked how he could get involved with the Parish Council. The Chairman explained co-option and the election process.

One resident raised concerns over the frequency of gully cleaning explaining that at times the roads were rushing with water. The Chairman explained that we have been chasing gully clearing down by the playing fields. It was reported to East Herts DC in the winter – together with concerns over the narrowing of the road at the same location.

Anstey Telephone Box was discussed. The Chairman explained that it was a listed building with a working telephone.

Cllr Sapsed voiced concerns over the war memorial steps which were in a state of decay – they look damaged. Chairman will survey them. The War Memorial was surveyed last year for the slant and no action was required – it had a marginal lean that would be surveyed annually to ensure it did not deteriorate.

One parishioner asked about how he could keep up to date with village news, the Chairman explained there was a weekly e-mail and details were published on the village website.

As there were no further items, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and subsequently closed it at 8.39 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Page 4 of 4)