



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 20 MARCH 2023 AT 7.30PM

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

Members of the Public: Lynn Whitbread

County / District Councillors: None

Police: None

Apologies: CC Jeff Jones, DC Boyland and PC L De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

48.1 Apologies : received CC Jeff Jones, DC Boylan and PC De Bruyn.

48.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : None received.

48.3 Public Comments : None received.

48.4 County / District Councillor Comments : none received.

48.5 Public Comments :

Speeding on Lincoln Hill was discussed which appeared to be worsening.

It was noted that the 30mph limit starts too late, just before residential houses and whilst a number of vehicles are ignoring the limit completely, many do not begin to reduce speed until they reach the 30mph zone. Excess speeding appeared more prevalent before/during school drop-off and pickup times.

The Chairman explained that a petition was completed prior to COVID to arrange police speeding checks in the village. This was discussed at a police forum and couldn't be progressed due to Anstey not having a safe location for police to park and undertake speed checks.

He added that the criteria on the density of housing allows for the classification of where reduced speeding limits apply, our village does not currently qualify to extend the limit at either ends of the village.

There is a new funding scheme open which the Parish Council will progress to ascertain if the criteria will cover speed signage, e.g. infrared indicator signage at Lincoln Hill and Cheapside to remind those motorists that exceed the limit. Signage at the church could also be included in the funding application, to ask motorists not to park at/near the blind corner.

It was felt that walking in the village was dangerous; it being a small, rural village with no pavements.

The school have been contacted by a local resident with regards to speeding around school start/finish times.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council were doing all they could to highlight the speeding issues.

Parishioners were advised to individually report speeding occurrences to the police.

The **Rave** at Anstey Quarry was discussed. The police were notified by Anstey residents who were recommended to await participants to disperse on their own accord, which was the next day at around 3pm. Those attending the Rave were clearly trespassing.

Improving the access security to the Quarry Site has been requested to the owner, which is dually used by the owners and farmers.



- 48.6 Police Report :** No crimes were reported for Anstey Village in Mar-23. It was noted that several residential burglaries had occurred in other villages, including the removal of vehicle registration plates.
- 48.7 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 January 2023**
Following two amendments, the chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 16 Jan-23; 47.4 : £2 capped fare funding on the Herts Lynx travel and 47.11 : flooded highway is being monitored.
- 48.8 Planning**
- 48.8.1 The Grange SG9 ODG :** Ref. 3/23/0236/HH S/S side and F/F side extn, installation of north facing glass balustrade – no objections were raised by Parish Council – decision awaited.
- 48.8.2 Plot 64 :** Ref. No: 3/20/2139/FUL – Change of use of land to Gypsy/Traveller residential – Parish council objected – APPEAL LODGED 14/01/22.
- 48.8.3** To discuss any new applications or decision notices not listed above;
Granary Cottage SG9 OBY : Ref. 3/23/0486/LBC : removal of steps to north, construction of s/s garden room extension to south and 2-storey extn to the north. Subsequent application for listed building – no objections were raised by the Parish Council – clerk to upload comments to the planning portal by 05 Apr-23.
- 48.9 Finance**
- 48.9.1** The Mar-23 finance report was accepted by the Parish Council.
- 48.9.2** The latest bank reconciliation was accepted for 20 Jan-23.
- 48.9.3** Payments for Mar/Apr-23 were approved, including a change to clerk's March salary (due to tax liability), £154.90.
- 48.10 Phone Box Kiosk :** Communication has restarted to deal with the Parish Council's complaint that the kiosk repairs were not to the required standard following remedial works in 2021.
There is no response from Highways with regards to the culverts and drainage to ascertain why a pool of water collects in front of the kiosk. Historically there was a ditch along the road but has since been filled in.
- 48.11 Highways / Vegetation :**
Hedges and overgrowth encroaching onto highways was reviewed, together with potholes in the village.
- 48.12 Flooding :**
It was noted that **Cave Gate** flooded during recent heavy rainfall and is being monitored. The highway B1368 south of **Silkmead** Ind Estate is also being monitored which also continues to flood during heavy rainfall. Clerk to write to highways and thank the winter gully clearing at Silkmead, and request it is repeated.
- 48.13 Playing Field :**
Cost to replace one playing field **bench** vary, and several local and national suppliers have been contacted for prices. Once three quotations have been obtained, Cllr Bagnall will place an order with the lowest priced item via a national supplier.

It was noted that waste flows into the ditch from the jointly used village hall, school and cottages **septic tank** and pools adjacent to the skateboard ramp when there is no flow of water. This is being monitored. The septic tank is emptied quarterly. This will be raised with the school who also use the playing field.

UK Power Networks undertook **tree surgery** at the playing field and left branches after the works completed – clerk to write and request these are removed.
- 48.14 Salt Bin at Snow End :** CC Jeff Jones has confirmed any application will need to be made in the autumn – only one application per division is allowed and he already has one for Puckeridge School.
- 48.15 Church :** It was confirmed that the font has been renovated.
- 48.16 School / Parking :** It has been requested that the school display no parking signage between school and church. A small amount of water was noted to pool in the lower car park – to be monitored.
- 48.17 Speeding :** see item 48.5.
- 48.18 Village Hall :**
Councillors unanimously agreed that the new village hall heating installation was effective and quiet. DAIKIN units were installed by Acorn, who appeared a very good and competitive company.
Film Night is on Friday, 23 Mar-23 – Ticket To Paradise.
Future film showings are every month – future dates include : 28 Apr, 19 May-23.
These continue to be successful and are not only a film club, but a social event for the 30+ attendees.



Two **exercise classes** continue to run; table tennis and carpet bowls.

Yoga is not currently being held but set to return after Easter on Thursday mornings.

The annual fundraiser is organized for 1st April, **Quiz Night** – 7.30pm for 8pm start.

Ukrainian Folk Song and Dance celebrations are arranged for Sunday, 2nd Apr-23, 4pm at the Village Hall.

48.19 Newsletter – the digital edition will be circulated this coming weekend with the paper version currently going to print. The next deadline is : 10th May.

48.20 Anstey Quarry : No further update received or expected until the outcome from the court case.
See 48.5 above for details of recent trespassing.

48.21 Defibrillator : Cllr Oxley was notified the defibrillator had been removed – it was taken by a parishioner for a member of family taken unwell but was returned unused. It is fully functional and ready for service if needed.

48.22 Correspondence Received : To receive details of correspondence for information.

48.23 Any other business

48.23.1 Cllr Boylan has confirmed that he will not be standing for election and thanked councillors for their support over the past 4 years.

48.24 Dates of Meeting : Next meeting to be held on Monday, 15th May : Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (councillors take office following election results), Annual Parish AGM and the Parish Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.52 pm.