



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Andrew Marchant
Simon Bagnall
David House
Jan Pledger

Members of the Public: Ann Grimdsdale

County / District Councillors:

Police : Apologies received

Apologies: David Oxley, Amanda Parker, DC Peter Boylan, PC L De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

45.1 Apologies received from: Cllr Oxley, Cllr Parker, DC Peter Boylan, PC L De Bruyn

45.2 **Personal / Prejudicial Declarations** : None received.

45.3 **Public Comments** : None received.

45.4 **Public Comments** : None.

45.5 **County / District Councillor Comments** :

CC Jones offered salt to the village which isn't required. The chairman confirmed we have stocks from last year. An HCC tree planning scheme was also forwarded; there are currently no new planting requirements in the village.

DC Boylan requested that details of the group solar panel buying scheme for East Herts be discussed; an opportunity for residents to invest in renewable technologies via a group-buying scheme, to be added to the next Newsletter. Details can be found via the Solar Together Website : [EHDC Solar Together](#)

45.6 **Police Report** : Although the August police report contained no crimes, it was noted that a Polaris 4-wheel drive Gator was stolen from Puttock End 2/9/22.

45.7 **Minutes of the Meeting held on 04 July 2022**

The chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 04 July 2022.

45.8 **Planning**

45.8.1 **Dove Cottage SG9 OBL** : 3/22/1677/HH and 1678/LBC – External alterations including refurbishment of existing timber cladding, insertion of g/f windows and doors – Parish Council submitted no objections. The Planning Case Officer recommended objection to the plans on 29/9/22 due to the size and visual impact of the windows and the extension.

45.8.2 **3 Cheapside SG9 OBL** : 3/22/1352/HH – insertion of f/f windows to side + replace windows – **GRANTED** 23/08/22.

45.8.3 **6 Lincoln Hill SG9 ODL** : 3/22/0478/HH – **AWAITING DECISION.**

45.8.4 **Elm Cottage SG9 ODL** : 3/22/1160/HH – **AWAITING DECISION.**

45.8.5 **Church Gate Cottage SG9 OBY** : 3/22/0018/HH – **AWAITING DECISION .**

45.8.6 **Silkmead SG9 ODE Ref. 3/21/1576/OUT** – Outline planning for commercial development in classes E(g), B2 and B8 for up to 25,200sqm – **AWAITING DECISION .**

45.8.7 **Plot 64 Ref. 3/20/2139/FUL** (Replaces 3/19/2256/FUL withdrawn on 1/11/20) **APPEAL LODGED 14/01/22.**

45.9 **Finance**

45.9.1 The Financial Report was approved and accepted.

45.9.2 The Bank Reconciliation 26/09/22 was approved and accepted.

45.9.3 Payments for September and October were approved and cheques signed after meeting.

45.9.4 The contracting out of village litter collection was discussed, together with the discontinuation of litter grants from Apr-23. Clerk has responded and will correspond with DC Boylan for further information.



45.9.5 The draft 2023-24 budget was considered. Additional items to include were: newsletter £900 – PC/laptop £750 – Playing field benches £500 – one bench is in need of replacement.

45.10 **Phone Box**

A culvert / drain map was requested from Highways on 4/7/22 with no response. Clerk to chase. The village response was to retain the K6 kiosk as a listed feature and not to purchase and restore. (For information; cost of K6 kiosk purchase: nominal £1 and approx. repair costs of £1,000).

45.11 **Highways / Vegetation** – reported overgrowth vegetation at the bridge did not need cutting currently.

45.12 **Flooding**

45.12.1 **Silkmead** has been flooded and is being monitored – there has been no reported flooded highway.

45.12.2 **Cave Gate** scheduled for Highway works with an unknown date. No recent issues due to lack of rainfall apart from September when there was a collection of water on the highway. Clerk to write to CC Jones (completed 4/10/22).

45.13 **Social Housing and Moatside**

Clarion Housing confirmed that no new social housing residents were being accepted at Moatside but an interested village resident was informed he could put an offer in. No. 8 has been derelict for several years and it is likely that the bungalows will be sold. Chairman has written to the land registry for a copy of the Beddington conveyance and governance 1972 documentation.

45.14 **Playing Fields** – no maintenance works are due following the playing equipment inspection on 21/09/22.

Three hooks are missing from the new goals – Cllr Bagnall to investigate different hooks that can't be removed. Tree surgery to be arranged; three quotations will be obtained. All councillors were **RESOLVED** to request works to be carried out by Chris Hart if the quotation was in line with others obtained.

One bench needs repair/replacing; Cllr Bagnall agreed to investigate if repair was possible.

45.15 **Church** – the next fund raiser quiz will be held on 22 Oct-22 at the Village Hall and will be publicised.

45.16 **School / Parking**

No current issues, although some parking problems still occur at school start/finish times.

45.17 **Queen's Platinum Jubilee :**

It has been agreed that the jubilee tree will be planted opposite Anstey Hall, called Lilibets Oak.

45.18 **Village Hall**

All exercise classes continue to run, with small but acceptable number attending. The school uses the Hall as and when required. Following a summer break, the Film & Social Club will resume with a screening of Operation Mincemeat on Friday 7th Oct.

New windows have been installed in the toilet areas, and new flooring to much of the lower level. The Committee are pleased with these improvements and would like to thank the Parish Council for their assistance in this regard. We would very much like to move forward with the car park improvements, though need additional quotations before we can proceed.

The Committee are planning to celebrate the Hall's 40th anniversary on Sat 19th Nov-22. As per the upcoming Newsletter, 'We can promise live music (with an '80s flavour) from Sky West and Tony Pledger, a hot supper with licensed bar, and plenty of opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours'. Entrance is £7.50, including supper. We would be very grateful if you could please RSVP to Colin Smith colingsmith@gmail.com or Jan Pledger janpledger99@btinternet.com so we have some idea of numbers for catering.

If anyone has any photographs, or even film, of village hall events over the years, we would love to show them on the night. Please email Kate Oxley oxleykn@yahoo.co.uk if you have anything we could borrow.

We look forward to seeing you on the 19th!

45.19 **Newsletter**

The next edition of the Newsletter, for the period Oct-Nov 2022, will be distributed later this week. There was, on this occasion, just enough copy for 8 pages, and I took the decision not to bulk it out with four extra pages of free adverts. This will save us over £50 on the printing costs. Of course, if each page had six paid ads, each costing £5 (or £30 for six issues), those four pages would generate £120. Advertisers will be contacted over the next few weeks to understand their intentions going forward. It will be interesting to see how many wish to contribute for advertising, and how many will be content with a directory listing.



- 45.20 **Speeding** Several residential complaints have been received regarding speeding at Lincoln Hill. This has been included in the Newsletter.
- 45.21 **Anstey Quarry** : the owner is aware that the gates are not locked.
- 45.22 **Defibrillator** : was checked by Cllr Oxley last week - all in good working order.
- 45.23 **Correspondence** – a list of correspondence received and sent was accepted.
The Chairman informed the council of a letter received from Puckeridge with play equipment suggestions. Chairman replied detailing the cost of new pieces.
DC Boylan forwarded details of the solar panel scheme which will be added to the next newsletter.
- 45.24 **Any other Business**
- 45.24.1 **Wood** dumped in school grounds and village ditch may derive from BT Open Reach – PC to liaise with school.
- 45.24.2 **Mirror** opposite playing field – this has been previously discussed and is not permitted (confirmed by HCC Highways).
- 45.24.3 **Noticeboard** lock broken – clerk to contact A10 Locksmiths (who successfully removed the super glue on 26/9/22).
- 45.24.4 It was noted that the clerk omitted to forward the **reminder** for this meeting via Anstey Link but all noticeboards and the website were updated with the relevant notices as legally required.
- 45.24.5 It was noted that the **bench** at the **Well** is padlocked and Mel Brewer has passed the key to Cllr Pledger.
- 45.25 **Next Meeting** : The next meeting to be @ 7.30pm on Monday, 14th November 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.