



## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.30PM

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

Members of the Public: None

County / District Councillors: CC Jeff Jones

Police: None

Apologies: DC Peter Boylan and PC L De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

**46.1 Apologies** received from DC Boylan and PC De Bruyn.

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

**46.3 Public Comments** : None received.

**46.4 County / District Councillor Comments** :

CC Jones reported there had been a new appointment, Charlotte Dunn is the new DSA Ringway Engineer. He will ask if she will attend a future meeting or provide further information via e-mail on the flooding issues at Cave Gate. He also confirmed that logging all future flooding was useful for historic information.

The new proposed Buntingford Waste Site is not going ahead. From site surveys completed on eight sites, the favoured was at the Buntingford Business Park on the A10 roundabout at a cost of £1.8M. Due to a council shortfall of £23M 2022-23 and an estimated £62M next year, the cost cannot be justified. It will be reconsidered if/when there is budget for the project. It has been requested this site is included in the Town Plan to preserve the land as a waste site.

**46.5 Police Report :**

Report received on 1/11/22 : Suspects gained entry to a business Farm yard and attempted to break into the workshop and a metal storage container on site, causing damage to a lock. Suspects were unsuccessful and have left in an unknown direction. Police enquiries are in progress and Prevention 1st advice was provided.

**46.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 September 2022**

The chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2022.

**46.7 Planning**

**46.7.1 Dove Cottage** : 3/22/1677/HH + 1678/LBC – Ext. alterations incl. refurb of existing timber cladding, insertion of D/G windows and doors – awaiting confirmation of the expected refusal as per the Listed Building report.

**46.7.2 Cheapside** : 3/22/2244/HH – removal of rear S/S projection and open pitched roof shed. Councillors had no objections the planning application, clerk to upload comment to portal.

**46.7.3 Elm Cottage** : 3/22/1160/HH – demolition of conservatory and erection of 2-storey rear extension – parish council had no comments or objections – awaiting decision.

**46.7.4 Church Gate Cottage** SG9 OBY : 3/22/0018/HH – refused 19/10/22.

**46.7.5 Silkmead** SG9 ODX : 3/21/1576/OUT - Outline planning application for commercial development in classes E(g), B2 and B8 for up to 25,200sqm – WITHDRAWN. **46.7.6 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.

**46.7.6** To discuss any new applications or decision notices not listed above:

**46.7.6.1 Cherry Tree House** : 3/22/2344/PNHH – demolition of rear extension and erection of S/S rear extension. Councillors raised no objections to the application, comment were uploaded to the planning portal.



## 46.8 Finance

46.8.1 To receive an update on finances together with the summary of funds available 2022/23.

**Members of the press and public to be excluded from the next item :**

46.8.2 The clerk's salary was agreed and ratified by all councillors, including the backdated payment to Apr-22.

**Members of the press and public invited to return to the meeting following item 46.8.2**

46.8.3 The **bank reconciliation** dated 14/11/22 was approved.

46.8.4 The **payments** listed were ratified including additional payments: Sharpe Print £286 newsletters Aug-Nov-22 and the total playing field grass cutting costs for the year; 2022/23 £630.00.

46.8.5 No update on the **litter picking grant** has been received from EHDC.

46.8.6 The final **2023-24 budget** was agreed and ratified.

46.8.7 The **Precept** paperwork for **2023/24** was completed, there would be no change and remained at £4,750.

46.9 There was no update on the **Phone Box** repair from BT.

46.10 **Highways / Vegetation** : no issues highlighted.

46.11 **Flooding : Cave Gate flooding**; monitoring and logging any occurrences continue. It was unknown if the recent survey onsite was by Highways or Rivers Authority. **Silkmead** Ind Estate; monitoring continues.

46.12 **Social Housing** : Land Registry conveyancing documentation has been received – they contain no statement that the Beddington houses were to be retained as social housing or owned by Anstey. The properties were passed to EHDC and therefore can be sold onward. The Deeds will be filed with the clerk.

46.13 **Playing Field** : three quotations were obtained for tree surgery; the most competitive price was ratified and the works will be carried out by Chris Hart. Cllr Bagnall has carried out works on the new goals to secure them more firmly. One bench has been taken away for repair but unlikely to be repairable and may need replacing.

46.14 **Church** : The annual church quiz was well attended by 60 at the Village Hall and raised >£900 for St George's Church.

46.15 **School / Parking** : Cones are put out for church services which has improved the situation with congregation parking. There are still ongoing issues at school pick-up / drop-off times. It would be useful to have some 'no parking' signage along a small stretch where parking is particularly dangerous. Cllr Oxley will liaise with a school governor to ask for assistance.

46.16 **Village Hall** : A further quotation has been received for the **car park** to accompany those received from Poultons and Chris Hart. Poultons is the most competitive, £3,100 +VAT and they were ratified to carry out the works.

Exercise classes continue to run with small but acceptable numbers. There are remaining Forever Active funds to cover low attendance. Table Tennis and Carpet Bowls have no cost overhead apart from the hall hire – attendees pay towards the class. Classes continue for yoga, table tennis and carpet bowls.

Film Club; there will be no film showing in December and the next film will be Top Gun on 20 January 2023.

There is a celebration planned for 19 November 2022 for the Village Hall's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday – further news is included in the Newsletter. Any old photographs or memorabilia would be gratefully received.

46.17 **Newsletter** : A 12-page edition is going to print on 15 November 2022. Advertisers have been and continue to be contacted for 2023-24 at a cost of just £30 per annum. Meesden and Brent Pelham have offered to contribute to the printing costs, but it is not the full amount to cover the distribution to their village, discussions continue.

46.18 **Speeding** : The Parish Council responded to a concern raised on speeding on Lincoln Hill.

46.19 **Anstey Quarry** : There was no update to report.

46.20 **Defibrillator** : The defibrillator continues to be checked and is in good working order.

46.21 **Correspondence**: The correspondence report was received and accepted.

46.22 **Any other business**

46.22.1 It was noted that vegetation had been planted on the council verge between the fence and road at High Trees. No action was required unless it infringes onto highways.

46.23 **Dates of Meeting** : Next meeting to be held on Monday, 16 January 2023 commencing at 7.30pm. Further dates confirmed as: 20th March, **15<sup>th</sup> May**, 17 July, 18 September and 20th November 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.32 pm.