



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 8TH JULY 2024 AT 7.30PM

Present:

David Oxley
Simon Bagnall
David House
Amanda Parker
Jan Pledger

Members of the Public: Kate Oxley

County / District Councillors: CC Jeff Jones

Police: None present, apologies received

Apologies: Andrew Marchant
DC Geoffrey Williamson
PC Leon De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

56.1 Apologies received: Councillor Andrew Marchant, District Councillors Geoffrey Williamson and and PC Leon De Bruyn.

56.2 County / District Councillor Comments :

CC Jones updated the meeting with regards to **Anstey Quarry**. Sharon Threlfall, Principal Planning Officer visited onsite and met the new owners, Castle Wren. The new owners intend to restore the site and comply with planning. There will be an Environmental Agency meeting arranged. It was noted that the planning directorate was to restore the site back to agricultural land, remove the overfill and reduce land to the correct height.

The new **Chief Executive** has been appointed and following the completion of her notice period, will join Herts CC in the autumn. In the interim, Scott Crudgington (previously Finance Director) is acting CEO and doing an excellent job.

The **Robotic Pothole Trial** was small scale with Nottingham University and now needs to be put into practice on a larger scale.

56.3 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : None received/raised.

56.4 Public Comments

No comments raised.

56.14 Village Hall – item Brought Forward

The hall was hired for a wedding and a film night held.

At the last film night, there was no hot water and a new cylinder will be installed, costing £100.

Fire door survey has been carried out and doors are being constructed. These will be aluminum, similar to the front doors. Cost is £1,600 which will be invoiced to the Parish Council for payment. The VH will transfer funds less VAT.

56.5 Police Report : no crimes were reported at Anstey – PC Leon De Bryn sent apologies.

56.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 May 2024

The minutes were approved and the Vice Chairman authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2024.

56.7 Planning

56.7.1 High Trees SG9 OBE : 3/24/1206/HH : Erection of S/S detached garage consisting of 2 open car ports and enclosed garden store, comments due by 18th July.

The Chairman confirmed that no further planning applications should be considered with outstanding planning actions on this site. The application was reviewed and it was noted there was no encroachment on arable land and the proposed garage was discreetly positioned. However, the Parish Council questioned how any new application



could be determined when the site had enforcement issues outstanding. The neighbours will be checked to ensure no objections. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not object to the application as such, but that a letter would be sent to East Herts Planning questioning the outstanding enforcement.

56.7.2 Granary Cottage SG9 OBY : 3/24/1186/HH and 1187/LBC : Creation of raised terrace to south elevation, associated landscaping – comments due by 17th July. No objections had been raised by neighbours – Parish Council to respond with no comments.

56.7.3 Little Thatch SG9 OBL : 3/24/0649/LBC : Approved 03 Jun-24.

56.7.4 Elm Cottage SG9 OBN : 3/24/0516/HH : Granted 08 May-24.

56.7.5 8 Moatside SG9 ODD : 3/24/0155/HH : Appeal lodged 23/04/24.

56.7.6 8 Moatside SG9 ODD : 3/23/2214/HH : Appeal lodged 25/04/24.

56.8 Finance

56.8.1 The external audit for the year ending 2023-24 is complete.

56.8.2 Summary of funds for this financial year approved and accepted.

56.8.3 The bank reconciliation dated 08 July 2024 was approved and signed.

56.8.4 Payments for May and June 2024 were approved and authorised to be arranged by bank transfer when due.

56.9 Highways / Vegetation

Litter collecting and bin emptying was discussed, the clerk will write to North Herts to ensure bins are being emptied in the village. Cllr Parker will contact our litter picker to review the works.

Hedge opposite Woodside Cottage is being monitored, this will soon need attention.

56.10 Flooding

Digging undertaken (not by the Council) at **Silkmead** has assisted but it continues to collect some water during heavy rainfall. **Cave Gate** has a temporary large puddle at times but, currently, is not serious.

An area has been dug at **The Well** but this has been unsuccessful. The ditch was previously filled, and it continues to be problematic. It is likely that any gully will not showing on the map. To be monitored.

56.11 Playing Field

Remains clean and tidy. Undergrowth has filled the hole in the hedge/fencing and will be monitored.

56.12 Church – no items raised.

56.13 School / St George's End Parking

Parking at the School, St George's End and The Well have all improved.

56.14 Village Hall – brought forward, see above (after item 56.4).

56.15 Newsletter

The Newsletter deadline for the Aug/Sep-24 issue is 10 Jul-24 which will include an update on the Fair.

56.16 Anstey Quarry

See update in item 56.2 above.

56.17 Defibrillator – this was checked recently and confirmed to be in good working order.

56.18 Correspondence – a list of correspondence received and sent was accepted.

56.19 Any other Business

56.20 Matters Carried Forward :

56.20.1 Laptop performance to be monitored – it was suggested to have Oops! IT clean/check its performance.

56.20.2 BT Kiosk renovation quotations to be progressed.

56.20.3 Funds to be monitored to assist with the churchyard grass cutting additional costs – a holding email will be sent to the PCC to confirm there was currently no budget to increase payments and request an estimate of costs to end of this financial year.

56.20.4 Budget 2025-26 : consider increase of funding for churchyard grass cutting (+£230).

56.21 AOB

56.21.1 Phone Box

We resolved to buy at the AGM. Clerk to write to BT.

56.22 Next Meeting : Next meeting to be held at the village hall on Monday, 9th September 2024.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.