



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 11TH MARCH 2024 AT 7.30PM**

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

Members of the Public: Ann Grimsdale
Gemma Fry
Robert Cadwallder
Kate Oxley
Kate Hurst
Rod Hart
Colin Smith
Mark Parrot
Tim West

County / District Councillors: DC Geoffrey Williamson

Police: None present, apologies received

Apologies: David House
PC Leon De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

54.1 Apologies received: Councillor David House and PC Leon De Bruyn.

54.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : None received.

54.3 County / District Councillor Comments :

DC Williamson reported that from May-25, a new waste regime will commence for East Herts residents. Three-weekly collection of mixed paper and cardboard and a three-weekly collection of the remaining mixed dry recycling at a different collection day/week. Brown bin collection is expected to remain same.

54.4 Public Comments

Discussed under planning applications, see 54.7.1.

54.5 Police Report : no crimes were reported at Anstey.

Residents were reminded that burglaries are on the increase at dwellings and non-dwellings. There had been reports at the Pelhams and Hadhams; keyless thefts were on the increase. Attendees were reminded to ensure keys were not left in accessible areas / use of car key protection pouches recommended.

54.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th January 2024

The minutes were amended; spelling of 'utilising' was corrected in the first paragraph on item 53.3. Following this amendment, the chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2024.

54.7 Planning

54.7.1 Adj. Church Gate SG9 0BY : 3/24/0174/FUL : Erection 2x2 bed and 2x3 bed dwellings – ext to respond to 12/3/24. The main concerns were discussed in full with residents attending; concerns over the density of proposed properties, parking configuration one in front of the other could encourage parking in the close/main road, concerns of residential access to properties, agricultural and footpath right of way access onsite – particularly during the construction works, loss of natural light to the Village Hall due to the bank and erection 6ft fencing, lack of recognition on plans of the electrical substation/underground cabling, historical sheep dipping on site and the likelihood of organophosphorus being present, and a protected species found on the boundary of the site/school site; slow worms.



In summary, councilors unanimously agreed to object to the planning application and a suitable response will be arranged to be uploaded to the planning portal by 12/3/24.

54.7.2 Two Twitts SG9 OFD : 3/24/0076/FUL : Demolition temporary pole shelter, erection metal storage shed – awaiting decision.

54.7.3 8 Moatside SG9 ODD : 3/24/0155/HH : Removal of rear canopy roof and conversion of loft to habitable space with 2 rear dormer window/front rooflights – awaiting decision.

54.7.4 8 Moatside SG9 ODD : 3/23/2214/HH : Removal of rear canopy roof, loft conversion with rear dormer windows and bi-fold doors – no comments raised by PC – awaiting decision.

54.7.5 Anstey Hall SG9 OBY : 3/23/1803-1804/CND condition 3 discharge refs. X/23/0508/HH and X/23/0519/CND – for information only.

54.8 Finance

53.1.1 Update on Finances

53.1.2 The Chairman reported that as previously discussed, the current account would hold literally a few pounds at the end of the financial year until we receive our next Precept payment. Funds have been transferred from the Capital Account to cover any shortcomings.

53.1.3 Bank Reconciliation dated 11 Mar-24 was approved and accepted.

53.1.4 Bank Payments for Mar/Apr-24 payments due were approved to be arranged by D/D.

54.9 Phone Box – quotations have been received and previously shared – the clerk will provide ongoing updates at the next meeting.

54.10 Highways / Vegetation

None raised. Councillor Oxley has communicated with the driver parking outside the well which was difficult to pass. Parishioners were reminded to report any potholes on the Herts Highways portal.

54.11 Flooding

It was confirmed that Silkmead flooding had improved since a culvert had been dug in the verge.

The gully map received from CC Jones was reported to be incorrect. A walk-around the village was needed to ascertain inaccuracies.

54.12 Playing Field – Clerk to write to Mr Johnson to thank him for cutting the hedge.

54.13 Church nothing to update at this meeting.

54.14 School / St George's End – A defibrillator has been installed in school office, open 8am to 4pm weekdays term-time. School parking issues continue, notices are put on vehicles as needed.

54.15 Village Hall Three exercise classes continue to run; carpet bowls, yoga and table tennis with variable attendance, PAYG. Film Club continues; next showings are 15 Mar, 17 May and 21 Jun. The Quiz Night event is on 23 Mar. The next Ukrainian themed event with a free historical film premiered in Aug-23 will be shown on 04 May. Donations welcomed, details to follow.

A grant application has been submitted for new fire doors, awaiting news as to whether it had been successful. The current doors are losing heat and difficult to lock.

Car park continues to see holes forming which need repair – Chairman to progress with Joe Poulton.

A Village Hall heating app is being arranged to enable heating to be switched on/off remotely.

54.16 Newsletter

The next edition is a bumper, the copy deadline for Apr/May was 10/3/24.

There are 15 paid adverts contributing £450 to the printing costs with a total of 19 advertisers (4 free). There is a limit to a maximum of 20 advertisers.

54.17 Anstey Quarry

Works carried out onsite have been witnessed; materials going into site, portacabins used and burning observed.

This is being highlighted with Enforcement. Any photographic evidence of activity should be forwarded to the Chairman/clerk. The site remains 4m over the height it should be. Drilling found no contamination.

The site should have been returned to agricultural land in 2020.

54.18 Defibrillator – was checked today, it remains in good working order and ready for use if needed.

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

54.20 Any other Business – none.



54.20.1 Speeding was raised by parishioners in attendance. The Chairman reported that a group was formed to monitor speeding but the police force were unable to find a safe place to arrange speeding checks or park / no layby or pavement available through the village. Nothing can be actioned unless accidents occurs. Slow Down / Speeding cameras were investigated but high costs did not enable any progress.

54.21 Matters Carried Forward:

53.1.5 Laptop performance to be monitored.

53.1.6 BT Kiosk renovation quotations to be progressed.

53.1.7 Funds to be monitored to assist with the churchyard grass cutting additional costs.

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

53.2 Next Meeting : Next meeting to be held at the village hall on Monday, 13th May 2024 – Annual Parish AGM and Parish Council Meeting.

Meeting closed at 20:30.