



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 23RD SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM**

Present: Andrew Marchant
Simon Bagnall
Amanda Parker
Jan Pledger

Members of the Public: Mark Parrott
Ann Grimsdale

County / District Councillors: DC Geoffrey Williamson

Police: PCSO Leon De Bruyn
PCSO Rhona Blackham

Apologies: Councillor David Oxley
Councillor David House

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

57.1 Apologies received: Councillors David Oxley and David House.

57.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : None received/raised.

57.3 District Councillor Comments :

DC Williamson provided an update on the changes at EHDC – the Chief Executive, Richard Cassidy has stood down and Deputy, Helen Standon is the interim executive until a new CEO is recruited.

An additional bin will need to be accommodated in the new 3-weekly cycle waste contract that comes into effect in May-25 with the contractor Veolia. Food waste will also be collected. More information will be provided as the new arrangements become nearer. This is a joint venture arrangement, the NHDC being the lead authority.

Hertford theatre has reopened with good, positive feedback.

EHDC are promoting a home upgrade grant, HUG, aimed at low-income households for energy efficiency home improvements; [Home Upgrade Grant – Free energy-saving improvements for your home \(hugapply.co.uk\)](http://hugapply.co.uk).

A parking provision review and online survey at EHDC /in-person meeting at Seth Ward, Buntingford 24/09/24.

57.4 Public Comments

No comments raised.

57.5 Police

PCSO Leon De Bruyn introduced Rhona Blackham and apologised for the length of time since the police last attended. The area is now managed by 11 officers: 6 PCs and 5 PCSOs.

No crimes were reported in Anstey and North Herts remains relatively quiet. An increase of motor thefts from Hunsdon down to Standon/Braughing was reported; thefts from within vehicles or car thefts. Range Rovers were commonly targeted, and keyless thefts. Police reminded those attending not to leave valuables on show and to park on drives with sensor lights. Gravel drives and Ring Doorbells deterred criminals.

Herts Connected has been live since Apr-24 and replaced OWL. This is an initiative that Herts Police are promoting. Parishioners / Councillors were encouraged to join this service : [Home Page - Herts Connected](#) It provided an interactive service on crime, featured events being held and surveys for the community.



A Policing Priorities meeting was held in Aug-24, a meeting held every 4 months to set policing priorities via crime reports and logs, together with ECHO to understand the needs of the community. There were some conflicting requirements over the 184sqm large community with different issues raised. All information is collated to set priorities for EH Rural and Buntingford TC. For Buntingford, antisocial behaviour in Norfolk Road Bike Ramps is in place and hare coursing in the rural communities, focusing in Wellpond Green where quad bikes are being used. There are also four 4x4 trucks providing off-road capabilities.

Speeding was discussed. Hormead are considering school speed restrictors. The camera at Barley is self-funded. Whether 20mph at Anstey First School could be considered was discussed. This would need to be progressed via Highways, in conjunction with the police.

Unfortunately, roadside monitoring cannot be progressed in the village due to no safe space to conduct the checks. Herts police have one speed gun for the area which is requiring recalibration.

57.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 08 July 2024

The minutes were approved and the Chairman authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 08 July 2024.

57.7 Planning

57.7.1 5 Castle Cottage SG9 OBW : 3/24/1551/PASE : 9 Solar Panels on flat roof on attached sheds at back of the house – comments due : 23 Sep-24. A ‘no comment’ response to this planning application was agreed.

57.7.2 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 – **PLANNING REFUSED** 23 Aug-24.

Enforcement actions is under appeal, under the inspectorate.

57.7.3 Granary Cottage SG9 OBY : 3/24/1186/HH and 1187/LBC : Raised terrace to south elevation, associated landscaping – **PLANNING APPROVED** 20 Aug-24.

57.7.4 8 Moatside SG9 ODD : 3/24/0155/HH : Appeal lodged 23/04/24.

57.7.5 8 Moatside SG9 ODD : 3/23/2214/HH : Appeal lodged 25/04/24.

57.7.6 New Applications

57.8 Finance

57.8.1 The external audit for the year ending 2023-24 is complete and the audit exemption accepted.

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

A Clearview payment is due which will be arranged once funds have been received by the Village Hall Committee.

57.8.3 The bank reconciliation dated 23 Sep-24 was approved and signed.

57.8.4 Payments for Sep-Oct 2024 were approved and authorised to be arranged by bank transfer when due.

57.8.5 Drafted Budget for 2025-26 was presented.

Due to the cessation of the Litter Picking grant and the new arrangement with NHDC, a village litter picker was no longer required or could now be afforded. Cllr Parker to inform Mr Moule and thank him for his work. Following a month’s notice, his last payment will be Oct-24.

Churchyard grass cutting increases were confirmed to be £1,950 this year.

No additional payments could be made this financial year but consideration for next year would be made in the budget to be agreed Nov-24.

57.9 Highways / Vegetation

Communication with the council has been made regarding Essex Cottage’s hedge but it was deemed not yet dangerous. Member of the public asked if verge cutting throughout the village would be arranged. Clerk to write to CC Jones to enquire if another cut was due before winter and the chairman confirmed he will discuss with Mike Johnson. The back of Two Acres will also need cutting.

57.10 Flooding

Silkmead coped well with today’s rainfall, it was confirmed that drainage was improved.

The Well continues to be of concern - the chairman will discuss with David Tweedle at the Chapel via Ann Grimdsdale.

57.11 Litter Picking

Discussed as above in budget, item 57.8.5.

57.12 Playing Field



Goalposts have been pulled out and now remain unanchored.

57.13 Church

Grass cutting costs of £1,950 were discussed, PCC will obtain comparable quotations to the current contractor.

The Parish Council were asked to order future Poppy Wreaths for Remembrance Day.

War Memorial works were confirmed; weed killing and routine grouting of steps by Mark Parrott in conjunction with the chairman.

A recent successful well supported concert was held to raise funds and a quiz is arranged for 19th October.

57.14 School / St George's End Parking

Nothing raised.

57.15 Village Hall

The defective water cylinder has been replaced and new fire doors have finally been installed. Funds will be transferred from the VH committee so that the PC can pay Clearview, for the doors, minus VAT. Once funds are received, it was agreed Clearview will be paid.

57.16 Newsletter

The 12 page Oct-Nov edition was published digitally on 18th September. Printed copies will be distributed this week.

57.17 Anstey Quarry

Concerns continue with business activity onsite. Previous owners went into receivership with planning enforcement in place. New owners have started a business and provided assurance to EHDC that enforcement will be complied with. The chairman will continue communication with Sharon Threlfall, Principal Planning Officer at EHDC.

57.18 **Defibrillator** – the monthly monitor check is due and was carried out – confirmed as fully functional 27/09/24.

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

It was noted that no requirement was needed for tree planting.

57.20 Any other Business

57.21 Future Items / Matters Carried Forward :

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

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

57.22 **Next Meeting** : Next meeting to be held at the village hall on Monday, 11th November 2024.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.