



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 09 MAY 2022 AT 7.45PM**

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

Members of the Public: Ann Grimsdale
Jenny and Gus Goymour
Kate Oxley
Tony Pledger

County / District Councillors: DC Peter Boylan

Police: None

Apologies: Cllr Bagnall, PC L De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

43.1 Appointment of Chairman

Following one nomination, seconder and vote, it was **RESOLVED** that **Andrew Marchant** was appointed **Chairman** for the ensuing year 2022-23.

43.2 Appointment of Vice Chairman

Following one nomination, seconder and vote, it was **RESOLVED** that **David Oxley** was appointed **Vice Chairman** for the ensuing year 2022-23.

No further nominations were received.

43.3 Apologies received from Cllr Bagnall and PC De Bruyn.

43.4 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : None received.

43.5 Public Comments : None received.

43.6 County / District Councillor Comments :

A review of East Herts Council **ward boundaries** was being conducted on behalf of the Boundary Commission. The public consultation ends today and addresses population changes over the years. Proposals will, if adopted, be in place May-23. It is proposed that Anstey will be grouped with Little Hadham, all the Pelhams and Meesden, and not Braughing. Hormead, Braughing and Standon will become one including Thundridge. Braughing will have 2 councils, Standon and Braughing.

DC Boylan has been leading work for 2 years and recently presented to full council the **5 year EH Housing Strategy**. This includes affordable and specialist housing. There are four priorities; increase of affordable homes, accommodation and support for vulnerable (rough sleepers, homeless, people/families fleeing abuse), and the development of extra care facilities for the elderly. There is a focus on keeping people in their own homes to maintain their independence and sustainable homes.

DC Boylan has also been leading on **Homes for Ukraine**. It was clear that the Home Office has been slow in getting systems organised for Ukraine families. Herts CC are the lead agency who are sharing information locally and liaise with District Councils. District Council focus is to sponsor housing a Ukrainian and / or their family (150 in East Herts) in Hertfordshire. One main role has been environmental and housing checks prior to families arrive and ensuring individual / family needs are met. There is a responsibility to assist when sponsorship has broken down and the Ukrainian family may present as homeless or a rematching process is needed. Individual sponsorship is £350/month. No rent or additional payments are permitted.



It was noted that the church vicar is assisting with homing Ukrainian families with an arrival route via Luton Airport with WhizzAir.

There were no changes to highlight on the **Housing Strategy**. Hotspots were highlighted for those fleeing domestic violence to facilitate removing them from danger. Likewise, during COVID, there was a national move to get rough sleepers off the streets via central government funding. 24 were housed in an East Herts hotel and specialist workers supported them to move into long-term accommodation. 17 were successfully housed. These are often complex individuals with challenging behaviours. Funding to convert four properties in Stansted Abbots for rough sleepers had support from a specialist housing officer to assist with their lives. Temporary hostel accommodation has opened to increase bed capacity instead of using hotels.

Jubilee Grant applications are being processed and notification will be confirmed in the next few days.

43.7 Police Report : April report was submitted; there were 2 reports of arson at Anstey Quarry. Suspects gained entry to the unused premises and set fire to a large pile of car tyres. They returned the following day and set fire to an abandoned vehicle before leaving by means unknown in an unknown direction.

43.8 Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2022

Following corrections, the chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2022. 42.5 Storm Eunice second paragraph was reworded 'Thankfully roads were quiet, the Police managed all storm cases throughout Hertfordshire satisfactorily'.

42.8.1; St Georges payments were unequal, reworded 'the reason for the unequal payments this year was that the first request was for a higher amount. Payments totaling £1,200 were paid as usual and as per the budget'.

42.9; the phone box was not discussed and should read 'to be discussed at a future meeting'.

43.9 Planning

43.9.1 Church Gate Cottage SG9 0BY : 3/22/0018/HH – awaiting decision.

43.9.2 Holly House SG9 0BP : 3/22/0249/HH – GRANTED 13 April 2022.

43.9.3 Silkmead SG9 0DE Ref. 3/21/1576/OUT – Outline planning for commercial development in classes E(g), B2 and B8 for up to 25,200sqm – awaiting decision.

43.9.4 Coltsfoot Farm SG9 0DE Ref. 3/20/2542 and 3/HH – Retention light windows – awaiting decision.

43.9.5 Plot 64 Ref. 3/20/2139/FUL (Replaces 3/19/2256/FUL withdrawn on 1/11/20) Change of use of land to Gypsy / Traveller residential : see 41.1 above, referred to Inspectorate as an Appeal. Waiting for appeal decision.

43.9.6 Little Orchard, Anstey Road SG9 0DX – 3/12/2288/LBC : regulation of repairs to G/F and timber sole plates following flood damage from water pipe – awaiting decision.

43.10 Finance

43.10.1 It was RESOLVED to accept Section 1 : **Annual Governance Statement 2021/22** and the chairman authorised to sign the paperwork.

43.10.2 It was RESOLVED to accept Section 2 : **Audit Accounting Statement 2021/22** and the chairman authorised to sign the paperwork.

43.10.3 It was RESOLVED to accept the **AGAR 2021/22 Exemption Certificate Form 2** and the chairman was authorised to sign it.

43.10.4 The Financial Report was approved and accepted.

43.10.5 The Bank Reconciliation 09/05/22 was approved and accepted.

43.10.6 Village Hall Improvements – 3 new windows in the toilet area – it was proposed and agreed that the same company that fitted the main hall, Clearview would return and fit these, cost @ £1,650. Kitchen and toilet area flooring (lay-over existing flooring) @£2,814. Car Park resurfacing and creation of extra spaces @ £2,814. Total project cost @ £7,624 + VAT = £9,148.

It was agreed to obtain 3 quotations for the flooring and groundworks. Window replacement can be organised without quotations as it is an extension of the hall improvement works. Invoices should be made payable to the Parish Council.

43.10.7 May and June payments were approved and cheques signed after meeting.

43.10.8 Internal Audit complete, clerk will collate the documentation required for the external audit and write to thank Andrew Hodson for his assistance.



43.11 Phone Box

The substandard BT kiosk repairs were discussed. Clerk has written to BT and complained about the poor quality. This kiosk is still operational and sited within a conservation area. Restoring the phone box was discussed, it would cost a nominal £1 to buy the kiosk with restoration costs of around £1,000. It was agreed to add a piece to the newsletter or via Anstey Link to get feedback from parishioners on restoring the Phone Box.

Clerk to request a map of drains and culverts to ascertain further information with the constant flooding outside the Phone Box.

43.12 Highways / Vegetation – none to report.

43.13 Flooding

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

43.13.2 Cave Gate scheduled for Highway works with an unknown date.

There have been no recent issues due to lack of rainfall.

The blocked drain and collection of water outside the phone box is on the list of works for Highways.

What3words of both this and 3-6 Castle Cottages have been provided.

Mill Lane Pothole is still ongoing, the bollard has been removed and it is now full of water /silt.

Clerk to request a map of drains/culverts in the village to assist with investigation of current and future flooding.

43.13.3 Playing Fields - no urgent works or repairs required.

43.13.4 Goals have been installed and steel from old goalposts removed.

Concerns over a deer becoming stuck in the new goals has been raised and responded to.

The goal netting is small; it was not expected that a deer would be trapped.

Smaller mammals could; this was noted and will be monitored.

Chris Hart will be asked to carry out tree surgery work at the Playing Field as the usual contractor has been out of the country for 6 months. Cost per day including chipping branches is £650.

Branches encroaching the play equipment will be removed. One tree will remain.

All councillors were in favour, **RESOLVED** to request works to be carried out by Chris Hart.

43.14 Church

Representation to a Veteran Day on Sunday, 29th May was requested by Ann Grimsdale – Service is @ 10am.

The vicar is trying to arrange a fly-past and details will be circulated via Anstey Link.

US veterans will also attend the museum visit and a ceremony lunch at The Woodman.

A beech will be planted in the center of the village to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee to replace the tree lost in the churchyard.

43.15 School / Parking

Parking is somewhat improved, however ad-hoc flyers are still being added to vehicles.

It is more problematic during school drop-off times.

The Village Hall car park is holding well with only a few dents occurring.

Additional Village Hall spaces were discussed in 43.10.5 above.

43.16 Queen's Platinum Jubilee : celebration dates 2nd to 5th June 2022.

Planned event is at the Blind Fiddler PH on Friday, 3rd June from the afternoon into the evening. Two bands have been booked. The PH wish to use the field as the carpark to free up their own carpark for a children's party. No road closure is required. A tree naming children's competition was agreed. As a lasting legacy of the Queen's Jubilee, planting of a tree will be in the center of the village. An EHDC £300 grant has been applied for.

43.17 Village Hall

See 43.10.5 for information about proposed VH improvements.

At last year's open forum, it was agreed that £1,000 would be donated to the Parish Council.

Village Hall committee will arrange transfer of these funds.

43.18 Newsletter : next deadline is tomorrow for a 12-page edition.

43.19 Speeding : awaiting necessary paperwork from PC De Bruyn. Clerk to chase again.

43.20 Anstey Quarry : The Quarry has not been sold or bought. Legalities are still ongoing with Winters.



43.21 Defibrillator : checked and in working order, not been used. It was confirmed the battery renewal is due Jan-23.

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

43.23 Any other Business – none received.

The tanker parking in Anstey village has not been sited, it will be reported if it returns.

43.24 Next Meeting : The next meeting to be @ 7.30pm on Monday, 4th July 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9 pm.