



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ANSTEY VILLAGE HALL
09 MAY 2022 AT 7.15PM**

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

Apologies: Simon Bagnall
PC De Bruyn

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

District/ County Councillor: DC Peter Boylan

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman welcomed councillors and a members of the public to the AGM Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Bagnall and PC Leon De Bruyn,

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None Received.

3. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEEING HELD ON 24 May 2021

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting held on 24 May 2021.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021-22

Firstly, I welcome you all to our annual Parish Council and village hall meeting, we appear to have seen our way through the terrible Covid 19 situation and can now, hopefully, look forward to our village and personal lives returning to some normality. Whilst Covid gave us an understanding of how fragile our lives are we are yet reminded again that world peace is not to be taken for granted and many challenges now face our world which makes us appreciate our quiet environment of Anstey.

It is now eleven years since I accepted the chair of Anstey Parish Council and I would like to repeat my first Chairman's reports opening comments, which I make no apologies for.

I hope the rest of the councillors share my view that the reason that I am happy to be on the Parish Council is that our little village which derives its name from Hean (Anglo Saxon – high) & Stige (pathway) and was described by a Mr John Peile in the mid 19thC as “a place somewhat remote” and by Olive Cook in her 1970 publication to help prevent the 3rd London airport at Nuthampstead as “ almost completely untouched by 20th C development” which I rather hope it remains, it is not a village in which we want to have street lights, cats eyes, parking restrictions, I would rather hope that in years to come the previous quotations are used again, remote, and untouched and like many generations before us villagers happily getting on with their lives, either within the friendship of their neighbours, The Church, The School, The Blind Fiddler or even on their own enjoying their peaceful bit of this glorious country in the various hamlets that make up Anstey. The village has and will continue to evolve, in fact one of the greatest changes that I have observed is the 43 years that I have lived here is that in 1979 there were 24 households dependant on agriculture for their income within the village, last year there was not one house in the village with a farmer or farm worker living in, this has had its effect on the use of the school, pub, village hall and church,



so whilst we would prefer the village to remain as rural as possible we must recognise this major shift in the social structure and expectations of our community and to those ends we must allow the village to evolve to suit its inhabitants.

It is important that whilst we may wish to remain “somewhat remote” that we as a community retain pride in our village and to this end the PC have been busy on your behalf over the last 12 months.

I would like to express my thanks to my fellow councillors for their valuable attendance and input to council meetings and also especially thank Caroline Jones our Parish clerk for the dedication and time she puts into making sure the Parish council meetings and its responsibilities run smoothly and efficiently. The present Councillor for our Braughing ward is Peter Boylan who along with District Councillor Jeff Jones attend our Parish Council meetings when time permits and we thank them both for their time and assistance with any local issues that we may have concerns about.

Our gratitude also to our local police team who when time permits attend our PC meetings otherwise sending us updates on what police input and crime is occurring locally, which thankfully up to now is very little.

We have had various planning applications to consider throughout the year and I hope we have responded to them in a way that enhances the local environment, there have been problems with our local planning department responding and acting on our concerns and we continue to keep chasing any concerns raised by villagers.

After many years of chasing highways we finally have managed to get the flooding at Silkmead resolved, we now have the same issue with the dangerous flooding at Cave Gate and the annoying flooding by the well.

Anstey Quarry is still an ongoing saga with the directors of Winters, which is now in liquidation, being pursued for reparation, it is therefore not possible to give any idea of how it will move forward, as the owner, Hugh Kemsley cannot make plans until the outcome of any prosecution is known, but we as a Parish Council are keeping a close eye on any future plans to ensure that no situation like the Winters debacle occurs again.

The village Hall continues to go from strength to strength and we thank the committee for their time and energy in pushing the success of the village hall forward, this year there are further plans for improvements which Kate will describe later.

As always, I would like to thank David Moule for his help in keeping the village litter free.

Our thanks also go out again to the fair committee who are resuming the fair this year after the covid restrictions and which helps so much with raising additional and substantial funds for different aspects of the village and to Adrian and Alison Cossor for allowing their beautiful grounds to be taken over for the fair.

I would also like to thank Dave Oxley for taking over the newsletter production from John and Patricia. The online production was forced upon us by changes in circumstances but Dave has now managed to revert to the printed version for the production of the newsletter, we received a grant from Jeff Jones' community fund for the first year's production and we are looking at ways to finance it in the future, but failing outside finance the parish council will assume responsibility as we feel it is a general village asset that we are all responsible for.

Our thanks also go to Andrew Hodson for the help producing our internal audit which is much appreciated.

We on the Parish Council look forward to serving the villages' interests for the next year and are always open to any suggestions or ideas that anyone in the village may have to improve our living environment.

Thank you and please stay safe and well.

Andrew Marchant
Chairman of Anstey Parish Council

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The AGM Statement of Accounts were discussed and will be uploaded to the Anstey Village Website.



Support to Anstey Chapel was explained, the Parish Council supported the Chapel with funds for a lawnmower and they are now self-sufficient for maintaining the grass cutting.

6. VILLAGE HALL AGM REPORT

The use of the hall has gradually increased since last May, as the threat of Covid has receded.

Yoga, table tennis and carpet bowls sessions restarted during the autumn, and the monthly Film and Social Club resumed in March. Attendance at all these activities is more or less back to normal.

The school continues to use the hall for some activities, though they are not using it for lunches presently.

The hall has been hired by various individuals and organisations for a range of events such as workshops and family parties.

The hall finances are very healthy, thanks to a number of government Covid recovery grants received during the last year, totalling over £18 000. The committee plan to use some of the money to make further improvements to the hall during the coming months.

The first project is to create more car parking spaces and to improve the surface of the drive. We have received a quote for this from Chris Hart of £3160 plus VAT, which I think would be an additional £632, so £3792 altogether.

Another improvement we'd like to make is to complete the replacement of the windows, by having three new windows fitted to the gents, disabled and ladies toilets by 'Clearview', who installed the new windows in the hall and lobby, as we obviously want them to match. The existing wooden windows are in quite a bad state, and as you may have noticed, the toilets tend to be very cold and we're sure that new double glazed units would help. Clearview have quoted £1650 for the job, plus £330 VAT, totalling £1980.

Thirdly, we would like to lay new flooring in the toilets, the corridor outside them, and the kitchen and bar areas, as the existing lino tiles are very worn and shabby. Melbourn Flooring have quoted for a flooring that they can lay on top of the tiles so we don't have to remove them. The cost of this would be £2814 plus £562 VAT - £3377 altogether. The total cost of the three projects would be £7624, plus £1524 VAT- £9148 in total. If one or more of the projects could be ordered on behalf of the Parish Council, as for example the replacement windows were in 2018, there would obviously be a considerable saving in VAT.

We very much hope to organise a wider range of activities and social events during the current year as normal life resumes post pandemic. 2022 is the 40th anniversary of the opening of the hall, and we have begun to plan an event in the autumn to celebrate the occasion.

Kate Oxley, Chair of Village Hall Committee. May 2022

7. Open Forum

Repairs at the Village Hall were discussed. It was agreed that three quotations are required for the groundworks and flooring. Any works agreed should be invoiced to the Parish Council.

Newsletter funding was discussed. Both parishioners and councillors agreed that returning to a printed version was beneficial to the village. The newsletter was a village asset. The Parish Council were grateful to East Herts District Council for the £1,000 grant which allowed printing to restart following the withdrawal of a local business that printed the bi-monthly publication pre-Covid.

Small businesses in future will be able to advertise for a small fee.
All businesses will be entitled to a free one-line listing of their details.

The Parish Council will support the Newsletter costs going forward.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.41 pm

Signed _____

Date: _____ (Page 3 of 3)