



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON  
MONDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM**

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

Members of the Public: None

District/ County Councillor: CC Jeff Jones  
DC Peter Boylan joined meeting at 38.7.7.

Apologies: PC De Bruyn.

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman welcomed councillors and a member of the public to the March meeting.

**38.1 Apologies** received from PC De Bruyn.

**38.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations** : none.

**38.3 Public Comments** : None.

**38.4 County Councillor Comments** :

CC Jones reported that he has been selected to stand for re-election on 6<sup>th</sup> May, both elections for County Councillors and Police Crime Commissioner will take place on the same day. It will be different with polling stations restrictions; face coverings and sanitising etc. There will be screens, a requirement to bring your own pen/pencil and there will be a one-way system. Postal votes will be encouraged, and less polling station attendance is expected. Proxy voting will also be available. He will no longer be able to attend meetings from next week until after elections. Increase of postal voting is expected, with some members of the public using this for the first time. The count won't happen until papers have been quarantined, on the Saturday. Police Crime Commissioner will be counted on the following Monday.

COVID rates are down into double figures and reducing which we hope is due to the excellent vaccination programme. We can also look forward to lessening of the current restrictions.

Silkmead flooding is still a concern. CC Jones has checked the dates – the last highways communication states 24-28<sup>th</sup> May. He will recheck the dates for this and the one in Cottered. He confirmed the correspondence received regarding Silkmead being an EHDC issue was sent in error by CIRCO.

**38.5 Police Report** :

There have been no reports for Anstey for the month of February 21. The local Rural SNT Team have been conducted several rural operations focusing on Hare coursing, poaching using off-road scrambler bikes in addition to patrols for Covid breaches.

There is a team meeting on 31st March @ 7pm via Teams. Any items to raise should be sent to the chairman / clerk. CC Jones explained that County have similar meetings where priorities are set, and local issues / concerns are discussed. Once these are set, any reported incidences have police priority. CC Jones confirmed they have been really useful.

**38.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021** The minutes were reviewed and it was unanimously agreed that they were a correct and a true record of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them after the meeting.



**38.7 Planning**

- 38.7.1 **Flint Cottage, Anderson's Lane Ref. 3/21/0255/FUL** – no objections from Parish Council – awaiting decision.
- 38.7.2 **Silkmead Farm House SG9 ODX Ref. 3/20/2297/HH** – demolition s/s extension, erection of 2-storey side extension with Juliet Balcony – no objections from Parish Council – **APPROVED** 11/3/21.
- 38.7.3 **Coltsfoot SG9 ODE Ref. 3/20/2542/HH** – Retention light windows. There were three main issues and the Parish Council made the Planning Officer aware of renovations undertaken a few years ago without permission but received no reply. This application is retrospective planning. One was for the listed property.
- 38.7.4 **Coltsfoot SG9 ODE Ref. 3/20/2543/LBC** – Parish Council gave a neutral response on this, awaiting decision.
- 38.7.5 **Coltsfoot SG9 ODE Ref. 3/20/2545/VAR** – Parish Council objected to this due to the amount of change, absence of adequate parking or turning area **REFUSED** 10/02/2021.
- 38.7.6 **Land at St. George's End Ref. 3/20/1208/FUL** – **REFUSED** 19/2/21.
- Plot 64 Ref. 3/20/2139/FUL** (Replaces 3/19/2256/FUL) Change of use of land to Gypsy / Traveller residential : no news or decision. It was noted there are a new set of gates 10m into the entrance now. DC Boylan reported there was no update on Plot 64, the application adjacent to Anstey's border, other than some further work was being undertaken in terms of landowner's certification.
- 38.7.7 **Enforcement re: High Trees** – no response received from the Planning Officer with regards to works continuing at High Trees. This has been chased by the clerk three times and will be chased again. There are particular concerns about paving being installed, a new hardstanding on agricultural land, removal of existing gates to the house and fencing, together with a new entrance.

**38.8 Finance**

- 38.8.1 The Financial Report was approved and accepted.
- 38.8.2 The Bank Reconciliation was approved and accepted. Clerk to scan bank statements to chairman.
- 38.8.3 The payments for March and April were approved. Cheques signed at end of meeting.

**38.9 Phone Box**

The repair to the K6 phone box undertaken by BT was substandard and no further repairs were expected. A pane of Perspex is now missing and rain is getting in, clerk to chase BT again. Carried over to next meeting.

**38.10 Highways / Vegetation**

The chairman reported several potholes which have been filled, including a large hole at High Trees. There has been potholes by Two Acres Farm which have been reported and deemed safe – clerk to re-report.

**38.10.1 Silkmead**

Reported in County Councillors report, see 38.4 above.

**38.11 Playing Field**

It was agreed there were no changes to the insurance cover to notify Came and Company. Any playing ground improvement ideas will be discussed after lockdown. There have been some occurrences of dog fouling on the playing field – dogs must be kept on a lead information to be added to the newsletter, Anstey link and clerk to request signage from East Herts.

- 38.11.1 Pathway, tree and goalposts will be organised after the lockdown, to remain on Agenda.

**38.12 Church**

Church gates are complete. Parking is currently better, and the Village Hall car park is holding up well.

**38.13 School / Parking :**

Salt was collected from the school; we now have some 50 bags for public areas / pavements – Chairman to put a note on Anstey Link. The Chairman reminded the Headteacher that when the Parish Council originally agreed to be fully responsible for cutting the playing field grass, the school agreed to ask their contractor to keep the pathway cut, however this has not been cut. Await response.

**38.14 Speeding**

An e-mail was received from Carolina Davey to confirm that traffic monitoring will commence in the warmer months.

**38.15 Village Hall**



Cllr Oxley reported that things remain the same as last meeting, it is being regularly checked and available to school for recreation when it's bad weather. It isn't being used for school lunches, they are having lunch in their bubbles. The Village Hall Committee are looking forward to getting back to activities soon; it is expected yoga and table tennis will be the first to recommence. Other social events or cinema nights are a way off yet.

## **38.16 Anstey Quarry**

Cllr Pledger sent some photographic evidence of tyres that appeared to have been dumped. Hugh Kemsley confirmed they were not new.

He believed a court case with Winters would be arranged later this month, there has already been a non-appearance to one court meeting.

**38.17 Defibrillator** was checked today, all in good working order and has not been used. It's checked regularly and all in good working order.

**38.18 Correspondence** – a list of correspondence received and sent was received. Cllr Oxley commented about Castle Cottages as more sheds are being built. The Chairman reported that enforcement have inspected the site – there is currently no evidence of business and size of sheds are permitted development.

## **38.19 Any other Business**

**38.19.1** Cllr Oxley reported that food waste was no longer permitted with the new paid-for Brown Bin collection that commences Apr-21. The waste online portal confirmed that food waste must now go in the Black Bin or composter. He was informed that any issues should be taken up with our District Councillor. DC Boylan responded it is not currently affordable to collect food waste but becomes statutory by April 2023. Many neighbouring districts have charge for garden waste collection for some time, including North Herts who now collect food waste. As a local authority we aren't allowed to charge for food waste collection. EHDC were left with no option but to stop food waste collections, although recycling has been encouraged by the district for many years. In the short term we are encouraged to compost food waste or put in the black bin from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. The Chairman did not see anything positive in this; composting encourages vermin and recycling companies will close; it will become costly to reestablish food waste recycling facilities. CC Jones confirmed they were against the decision.

**38.19.2** Fly tipping by the Quarry – Cllr Pledger reported this, nearest postcode is SG9 0BS.

**38.19.3** New signs were reported behind Woodside Cottage, by the footpath. They are not well produced and there are a lot of them. Dogs should be on a lead through the field and the electric fence is live.

**38.19.4 Section 78 Coronavirus Act 2020** came into effect on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2020 allowing local authorities to hold remote meetings until 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. It is expected that a restriction of numbers will be in place until 21<sup>st</sup> June and the date will be extended on this new Act.

**38.20 STANDING ORDERS** : It was unanimously voted on and agreed that the Standing Orders will be amended to allow the Annual Parish Meeting (AGM) to move to the month of May in light of the current restrictions and COVID-19.

**38.21 Next Meeting** : It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting (AGM) will be moved to 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 to be held with the next Parish Council Meeting at 7.30pm and the Annual Parish Council Meeting (voting of Chair and Vice-Chair for the ensuing year). It is expected that this meeting will be held via Zoom. Members of the public are advised to check notices the week before for an update on COVID-19 restrictions.

Meeting closed at 20:47pm.