



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 17TH JULY 2023 AT 7.30PM

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

Members of the Public: Stuart Bonnet
Ann Grimsdale
Caroline Hazel

County / District Councillors: CC Jeff Jones
DC Geoffrey Williamson

Police: None

Apologies: PC Leon De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

50.1 **Apologies** received from PC Leon De Bruyn.

50.2 **Personal / Prejudicial Declarations** : None received.

50.3 **Public Comments** : None.

50.4 **County / District Councillor Comments** :

CC Jeff Jones reported that the 'Our Tree, Your Future' scheme is being run again this year, link : [EHDC TREES](#)
4,000 residents took advantage of this scheme in 2023 with 46,000 trees allocated. To claim 5 x free saplings or hedgerow plants, please follow the link above. Eight varied species specifically suited to Hertfordshire's geography and climate are available for collection in Nov/Dec-23 – to note that North Herts DC pickup points were more available than East Herts DC.

There was an update on **Buntingford Medical Centre** which CC Jones has been heavily involved in during the past two years. The lease expires in Jan-26, although may be extended if no new premises are established. The Nevett's site (next door) was an obvious choice and work has been progressing with HCC, Herts Living, CCG, the development company and estates to agree either 15 residential units or a joint 8 residential and medical centre. This has been well supported by Buntingford residents, particularly the joint scheme. However, the Medical Centre Partners have now confirmed the size is insufficient, costs too high, and another site has been agreed with Taylor Wimpey's on Hare Street Road. The Wimpey site is still to obtain planning permission for an extension of dwellings. Opposite, Wheatley Homes have plans to extend 86 units across Owls Lane along the Wyddial plateau to the Fairview development. It was noted that a number of major planning applications have been received including 350 homes to the west of Buntingford, an infill towards Westmill. Whilst the new Green/Liberal joint administrations settle into Council, together with the review of the 5-year land supply and neighbourhood plan, developers may view this as an opportunity to challenge planning decisions. A public meeting is anticipated, date to be confirmed.

Flooding at both Cave Gate and Silkmead were discussed, and are both listed on the HCC integrated works plan. Unfortunately, there is no Ringway Officer currently in position. The Chairman confirmed that ditch and gully clearing undertaken last year needs repeating, they are blocked. A resident reported that a ditch had been dug at one of the properties, fencing had been concreted in at Horseshoe Meadow into the concrete pipe, and the water flows into a culvert under the road on the northbound side. On the left of Silkmead house, the water cannot drain past the driveway. The past winter was the worst flooding and there are concerns for this winter. Cllr Jeff Jones confirmed this will be highlighted to the Ringway Officer once appointed.



DC Geoffrey Williamson introduced himself as our new District Councillor and apologised for not being able to attend the May meeting. He has been an EHDC for 12 years, and at Little Hadham, Albury and the Hadhams for 8 years. He explained that due to the boundary review last year, Anstey is now encompassed into this large ward. The biggest issue facing the ward is planning. He has experience with travellers sites and offered his involvement with any district level issues the Parish Council have.

50.5 Police Report :

PC Leon De Bruyn confirmed the June crime report was sent but not been received, clerk to request resending. The Chairman notified councillors of a village robbery; number plates were taken from a parked trailer. A rave was held on the Meesden-side of Anstey on Saturday, 15th Jul-23, attended by circa. 500. Police were in attendance and multiple arrests made. Clerk to request further information from PC Leon De Bruyn.

50.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th May 2023

A change to the minutes was requested and accepted, item 49.23 should read 'defibrillator ready for use if needed'. Following the amendment, the chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2023.

50.7 Planning

50.7.1 Land at Cherry Tree House SG9 ODX : 3/23/1274/PIOP – erection of 2-storey detached dwelling was discussed, there was no known impact to neighbours or objections raised, clerk to respond on planning portal by 19 July-23.

50.7.2 Anstey Hall SG9 OBY : 3/23/0821/FUL (3/23/0659/FUL withdrawn) : **AWAITING DECISION.**

50.7.3 Dove Cottage SG9 ODH : 3/23/0558/HH and 3/23/0559/LBC : **AWAITING DECISION.**

50.7.4 Windy Ridge SG9 ODN : 3/23/0601/HH : **PERMISSION GRANTED 17/5/23.**

50.7.5 Windy Ridge SG9 ODH : 3/23/0559/HH and 3/23/0558/LBC : **AWAITING DECISION.**

50.7.6 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 : Appeal Lodged 14/1/22.

50.8 Finance

50.8.1 To receive an update on the 2022-23 audit

Due to village hall renovation works, the turnover was higher during 2022-23 than previous years. The Parish Council went just over £1,000 on the maximum allowance for exemption. Forms will be resubmitted via an extension to 31 Jul-23 and will need ratifying at an extraordinary meeting on Monday, 24th Jul-23.

50.8.2 VAT Reclaim update : VAT claim was not logged at HMRC and has been resubmitted on 06 Jul-23.

50.8.3 Update on Finances : the Financial Report was approved and accepted.

50.8.4 Bank Reconciliation dated 17 Jul-23 was approved and accepted.

50.8.5 Bank Payments for July/Aug-23 were approved including the additional item, picnic bench £538.13. An additional payment is expected from the Hatfield Chamber Music Festival, £15 donation.

50.9 Phone Box – no update, this will be re-chased.

50.10 Highways / Vegetation - several hedges are encroaching and will be monitored.

50.11 Flooding – covered in County Council report, 50.4 above.

50.12 Playing Field

Thanks were extended to Cllr Bagnall for repairing one bench and sourcing a new one.

Anstey First School moved the goals and pegs for sports day. Cllr Marchant's grass cutting machinery was damaged by one steel peg which was hidden in long grass where the posts were permanently set. Goals were not replaced into position, clerk to request they are resited.

Apologies were received from the local farmer who kindly cuts the playing field hedge for not cutting this spring, this will be cut as soon as possible.

50.13 Church

Nothing to report.

The Remembrance Wreath will be soon organised and the invoice forwarded to the clerk for payment.

50.14 School / Parking - parking continues to be problematic on the corner.

50.14.1 School / St George's End

Waste flowing from the septic tank into the ditch to the playing field was discussed. It appears that the company has not been emptying the tank as frequently as in previous years. Cllr Pledger to investigate and establish if there are any formal arrangements to monitor this.



50.15 Speeding

Lincoln Hill speeding is being monitored. Warning speed signage costs are £5,000 per sign. It was agreed that statistically, speed signs only work for a short period.

50.16 Litter Picking

The EHDC litter picking grant ceased in Apr-23 leaving 2 months of revenue remaining. It was agreed that the Parish Council's current litter picker does an excellent job and this should continue. Due to the increase of cost to the Parish Council, the budget will be reviewed in November and a decision made whether the precept needs increasing by £720 for the fiscal year of 2024-25.

50.17 Village Hall

Three exercise classes continue, costs covered by the original grant received by forever active. The film club remains popular with circa. 30 attending including a number from Meesden and Hare Street villages. There will be a summer break during Jul/Aug-23, recommencing on 15th September with a new film. The village hall receives funding from private hire and donations from glass/crockery hire. There are no expected major projects planned over this financial year. The new heating has been a success, a new BT Wi-Fi hub installed – password displayed on the noticeboard.

50.18 Newsletter

The Aug/Sep-23 edition has gone to print. The Hatfield Chamber Music Festival at Hatfield House have sent material and offered a £15 donation. Councillors forwarded their thanks and appreciation to Cllr Oxley for his newsletter work.

50.19 Anstey Quarry

It is understood that Mr Kemsley is in the process of selling the Quarry to a Furneaux Pelham company. Any permission for chalk working will have ended and a new license will need to be obtained. The 4m land height and waste onsite was discussed, this is outstanding and requires rectifying. It is expected that the new business would be recycling and would require planning permission. The Quarry situation will be monitored by the chairman.

50.20 Defibrillator – was checked last week, it remains in good working order and ready to go if needed.

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

50.22 Any other Business – none received.

50.23 Matters Carried Forward : Salt Bin at Snow End to be requested in Sep-23.

50.24 Next Meeting : Extraordinary meeting to be held next Monday, 24th July at 7.30pm to ratify audit papers. Parish Council meeting will held on Monday, 18 September 2023 commencing at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

The chairman thanked Councillors and members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 8.45pm.