



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 11TH JULY 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Present: Andrew Marchant
David Oxley
Simon Bagnall
Mandy Parker
Jan Pledger
Peter Sapsed

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. To Receive Any Apologies for Absence

None received.

2. To Receive any Personal or prejudicial Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

Peter declared a Personal Interest on item 8) The Playing Field : grass cutting.

Caroline Jones declared a Personal Interest on item 13) The Clerk's Remuneration.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th May 2016

Following no changes and a unanimous vote that the minutes were correct, it was RESOLVED that the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th May 2016 were a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

It was noted that the footpath mentioned in 14.5 of the minutes, the 'Pick up after your Dog' notices have been removed. It was also noted that Baron's Farm was misspelt.

4. Adjournment for PCSO Update

None received.

5. Adjournment for Public Comments

None present.

6. Planning Applications / Decision Notices

6.1 Decision Notice Little Thatch 3/16/08/LBC was refused on 26/5/16.

6.2 Decision Notice Chappell Cottage 3/0844/HH refused on 8/6/16.

6.3 No other planning applications had been received.

Information on High Trees was discussed, plans have been submitted to extend; another bedroom, extension to the kitchen at the back and a small bathroom. Clerk will search and circulate the information.

7. Finance

7.1 There has been no news on the external audit.

Clerk to write to our Internal Auditor as he may be moving.

7.2 Update on finances was received and approved.

The chairman confirmed it was all looking healthy. All items were in line with the Budget except for the Queen's Birthday Commemoration which will be covered in item 11).

Julian has been thanked and paid for the Hog Roast provided for the Queen's 90th Birthday.

7.3 July and August payment payments were agreed and the Chairman was permitted to sign cheques at the end of meeting.

7.4 The Chairman received a backup of correspondence.



8. Playing Field Cutting

Cllr Parker has been involved in discussions with Lynne Vinton at the School regarding grass cutting. Lynne is looking to be as efficient as she can with school finances and the Parish Council were requested if a contribution to cutting the playing fields could be made. The chairman explained that historically when the headmaster had plentiful funds, the school received funding for the playing fields. Now it comes out of tight school budgets. The chairman felt that the playing field was a community asset and therefore the responsibility of the village and not the school.

Two quotes have been received and the chairman asked Peter Sapsed to price cutting of the field. The school would need to ask their contractor to cut the field for running tracks and sports day to ensure it was short for putting in white running lines. It was agreed that it didn't need to be short all year round as no cricket was played on the field.

Peter was concerned that he didn't put the current contractor out of a job, especially as he's put in a quote – the last thing Peter wanted was to take his business away. The chairman explained that the Parish Council would go with the lowest price from the quotes received.

Quotes received:-

Peter Sapsed:	7-10 cuts Apr-Nov	£420	
	Strim entrance, swings, seats, climbing frame	£105	Total: £ 535
School Contractor:	Grass Cutting £185/month		Total: £2,200
Shaun Webb:	Grass Cutting £93.75/month		Total: £1,125

It was agreed that they will ask the school contractor to mow the walkway from the car park to the playing field and that the school will assume responsibility for keeping that cut.

Peter has also been asked to cut the hedge from the bridge to the school gates. It was suggested that a Risk Assessment should be arranged.

Following one abstained voter, it was RESOLVED that the Parish Council will assume responsibility of cutting the grass at The Playing Fields.

It was also RESOLVED to accept the lowest price for grass cutting, Peter Sapsed. Peter will contact the school with regards to sports day and commencement of work. Peter will arrange quarterly VAT invoices.

£1,700 was carried over from last year so there is money to cover the costs. Peter was thanked for offering to undertake the work.

9. Village Hall Update

The cinema system and screen are installed and the defective speaker replaced so there is now surround sound. A cinema club should start in the Autumn. It needs licensing and DVD's purchased. The installation company also put one in at Barkway and Bennington who purchase DVD's and publicise the facility jointly. The Village Hall may consider doing this.

The new chairs are on order and will arrive prior to the cinema club starting. Some original plastic chairs will be retained for children's events and for hire. The plastic ones will be needed for The Fair.



Forever Active for the Over 50's (although younger people can attend) started last week. They were attended by: 9 Pilates, 9 Table Tennis and 7 Yoga. It's only been advertised to those that answered the questionnaire. Leaflets will be organised to go out with the newsletter. There is also interest from a Table Tennis league that may run another session outside the Forever Active Club.

10. Highways

There are reportable potholes on Ian's corner and between that and High Trees. The chairman asked for councillors to report them and one on the Nuthampstead Road by the clubhouse and down the hill towards the sewage works.

11. Queen's 90th Birthday Feedback

The £50 donation and money from the bar paid for the Hog Roast and covered all expenses. Clerk to chase up the Bouncy Castle to obtain a receipt and reclaim VAT which will mean we are within the £300 grant. If this cannot be reclaimed we will be £13 over budget.

The event was a real success, the food and drink worked well and the children loved the Bouncy Castle. Visitors moved from the Playing Fields to the Village Hall to have tea and cakes. It was agreed that the DVD should go to the school.

12. Fields in Trust Update

The chairman reported that to apply for the field commemoration, we needed to have the deeds for the Playing Field. The clerk visited County Hall and managed to locate them. We don't own the footbridge and the piece beside it. The chairman explained that the Playing Fields was called The Folly. The Deeds were viewed together with an Abstract from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 31st May 1955; 'a portion of the land situated in Bone Alley, now known as The Folly should be conveyed to the Parish of Anstey for use as a Playing Field'.

Jenny Goymour kindly provided some clarification and wording for the clerk to use in the application, these were read out to the councillors. It was agreed to use the name, The Folly if the Field was commemorated which will give it protected space and may open more grant opportunities.

The clerk was thanked for her hard work on this.

13. To Discuss the Clerk's Remuneration

The Clerk left the meeting whilst the Parish Council discussed the Clerk's remuneration. The parish council RESOLVED to accept the NALC pay increase and backdating it to April 2016, together with an increase of hours to 12 per month.

14. Any Other Business

- 14.1** The chairman didn't attend the Brent Pelham Gigaclear Internet Provider meeting but has been looking into the private internet provider offering fibre-optic connections to every gate in the village. It is marginally more expensive and you will still need a landline if you don't want to use Wi-Fi or mobile calling. Anstey are included in the Nuthampstead Group of Villages with Meesden and Brent Pelham. There needs to be a 58% uptake to join. There are different costs depending on what speed you choose and you share the service with 25 users. BT promise 2meg and Gigaclear can be up to 25% faster.

There is a £100 connection charge and you have to sign up by DD at the point of joining and a 12-month contract, with 3 months' cancellation notice. Costs are guaranteed for 12 months.



They connect it to your gateway with a £100 connection charge, or you can self-connect at a high point. They also offer an internet phone service (via a US company Vonage) which allows you to answer your phone when away. Boosters are available for mobile phone connections. The chairman has asked if they can present at Anstey Village Hall.

John Hamilton is keen to move this forward in the next Newsletter and the chairman would like support it. It was agreed that the chairman will promote it.

14.2 Chalk Pit

A question was raised as to whether increased lorry movements meant that Anstey Quarry were exceeding 60 per day. There were increased movement of lorries in the area, they were going up to Barkway and through Hare Street. Work was being carried out at The Bund at Nuthampstead and it was agreed to monitor.

15. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 12th September 2016 at The Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____