



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER COMMENCING AT 7.30 PM

Present: Andrew Marchant
Simon Bagnall
Jan Pledger
Peter Sapsed

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

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

1. To Receive Any Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr Oxley and Cllr Parker due to holiday/ prior engagements and PC David Miller.

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

None received.

3. To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th July 2016

Changes to the minutes were made: that the chairman did attend the Gigaclear Meeting and the speed was higher than BT provision. Following these changes and a unanimous vote that the minutes were correct, it was RESOLVED that the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 11th July 2016 were a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

4. Adjournment for Police Update

No police were available to attend the Parish Council meeting and PC David Miller sent a report:

8 crimes were recorded between 11/7/16 to 11/9/16. Of these 5 related to criminal damage and 3 were public order offences. All of these crimes are linked to the on-going neighbour dispute in Moatside and the police are dealing with this alongside Partner Agencies; Housing and East Herts DC.

Out of 13 calls from the Anstey Parish via 999 or 101, 6 related to Moatside.

Police held a cross-border operation with Partner Agencies in Buntingford on Tuesday, 6th September targeting travelling criminals. Although not in the Parish, this has a direct impact on the rural community with 300+ vehicles stopped. Various vehicles and drivers were dealt with by different means and a few cars seized for traffic related offences.

The chairman did request some further information on the other calls that were made from Anstey.

5. Adjournment for Public Comments

None present.

6. Planning Applications / Decision Notices

6.1 3/16/1512/HH and 1513LBC Anstey House : erection of a traditional Victorian style cedar greenhouse, demolition of wall, new wall and gates – no comment made by the Parish Council.

6.2 3/16/1356/CLP High Trees : the Parish Council were not invited to comment as the proposals were within permitted planning development.

6.3 Planning Application 3/16/1964/HH Flint Cottage, Andersons Lane, Great Hormead – Proposed Detached Garage. Plans were considered and discussed. Whilst the Parish Council had no objection to a garage onsite, they did object to the proposal for a steel commercial building. The clerk will make an objection to the planning application.



7. Finance

- 7.1** The external audit is in progress and we had to make a change to the way our figures were presented, the Skateboard Ramp cost of £17,000 was moved across to be included in Fixed Assets. The amendment carried a fee of £30.
- 7.2** Update on finances was received and approved.
Budget to include the Playing Field grass cutting for the next meeting.
Clerk has chased the Litter Picking Grant that hasn't been received and will progress if no remittance is received.
It was noted that there may be an increase to the Precept next year.
- 7.3** September and October 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. Draft Woodland Plan at Scales Park

Scales Park is being maintained and draft woodland plans have been received. There is a lot of timber to come out of woodland and the Parish Council agreed that the HGV route through Nuthampstead should be used, they should not travel via Anstey. Clerk to request that HGV's are not allowed through Anstey. The Parish Council respect all the hard work being undertaken to maintain this deciduous woodland.

9. Playing Field and Grass Cutting Update

Grass cutting has been done 3-4 times since the last meeting which was allowed for at the July meeting. A resident offer to cut the grass and hedge monthly at a cost of £100/month. It was agreed that due to other competitive tenders received, this quotation would not be accepted. It was also agreed to maintain the decision to cut the hedge once annually to allow wildlife to occupy the hedgerow which currently was full of wild berries and looked tidy. Clerk to confirm that the Council to acknowledge that after considering financial, they have another viable option to maintain the field. It was noted that the school had agreed to keep the pathway clear and cut the field before sports day/events.

Village Hall

The projector has been replaced with a new one.

The launch of the cinema club is on Friday, 21st October showing a 12 certificate release at an annual membership cost of £12. Information and news on the cinema club will be in the newsletter.

New chairs on order will arrive soon.

The next dance is organised for 26th November.

10. Transparency Code and Grant Update

We made an application for a new computer and printer and we have been informed that the Transparency Code has changed since we applied for last year's grant. It now states that Parish Councils are no longer permitted to use their own laptop for work and funding should be provided and used to purchase new equipment.

It was agreed that £550 is spent from last year's Grant to cover a new laptop and a new printer. The Website costs from last year, £293 may be retained and a new grant be applied for this year, to the sum of approximately £442. We will purchase a software installed laptop, printer, cartridges and a solid-state hard drive.



11. Draft District Plan Revised Village Hierarchy and findings from meetings held on 25/8/16 and 8/9/16

Changes to the Draft District Plan are currently being considered and the public consultation was planned to take place this November. Anstey have been bumped up a tier in the Village Hierarchy changes – we are no longer Group 3, we are now a Group 2. The classification for our village needs clarifying – the new listing has 3 points for 3 public buildings and Anstey only have the Village Hall. The system is Village 3 have 17 points and 15 is Group 2. The Parish Council will continue to observe developments with the Hierarchy system.

The need for a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed, we may need to reconsider this. The chairman hoped that some interested residents come forward if there is a need to produce a Plan which would cost in the region of £12,000. The Government have identified a requirement for new homes and a Neighbourhood Plan would identify designated areas of land of where we would like to see them built, although developers can still appeal against the Plan. There were currently two designated areas in Anstey. The chairman confirmed that he would seek guidance from Cllr Linda Halsey if this was moved forward.

12. Field in Trust Update on The Folly Playing Field

Historic information and deeds for the Playing Fields were researched by the clerk with the help of Jenny Goymour for The Centenary Programme with the Fields In Trust to commemorate those that fought in WW1. The chairman and clerk met with the Development Manager, David Sharman to discuss the site and progress the field to be included in the programme. Following the meeting, legal advice was sought which highlighted that the field would become trust land and we would not have the authority to make future decisions without the permission from Fields in Trust.

It was therefore unanimously agreed that the Parish Council wanted to retain the Playing Field as parish land.

It was unanimously agreed that as a village, the Playing Field will be commemorated and renamed 'The Folly Centenary Field'.

Clerk Actions: write to Jenny Goymour to thank her for the assistance given, write to Fields in Trust to confirm that it was with much regret that the Parish Council will no longer pursue the Centenary Status.

It was agreed to not register the land at this point. We have the deed information and it is a registered charity that protects the land.

Chairman Action: To arrange a plaque.

13. Highways

Work at Snow End took place today, a new grate was installed and painted outside High Bank and Roding House. A tanker was onsite and work was carried out. Clerk to write to CC Cheswright to ask for further information.

Pot holes between High Trees and Nuthampstead were reported on Sunday and complete on Monday.

A number of fridges were dumped on the Quarry Road and The Quarry moved them straight away. The chairman thanked them for their swift action.

14. Church War Memorial Condition

On inspection of the leaning War Memorial, it was agreed that it was secure. There was a huge area of concrete keeping it in position. There was an earlier attempt to level it some years ago without success. It was agreed that it would be monitored.



Clerk Action: Order Poppy Wreath.

15. Correspondence Received / Sent
Noted.

16. Any Other Business

16.1 Mike has confirmed that it was likely that he will be moving and we therefore need to locate a new internal auditor. A qualified accountant was recommended, clerk to progress.

16.2 The chairman was progressing Gigaclear, he has a copy of the presentation if anyone required it. He is liaising with Mandy to send it out to those interested that were unable to attend the meeting.

A commercial representative visited Stagestruck and a number of residents have been signed up.

17. Date of Next Meeting: Monday, 14th November 2016 at The Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed _____

Date: _____