



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM ON
MONDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM**

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

District/ County Councillor: CC Jeff Jones

Apologies: DC Peter Boylan
PCSO De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman welcomed councillors to the September Meeting.

35.1 Apologies received from DC Boylan and PCSO De Bruyn.

35.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : None received.

35.3 Public Comments : None.

35.4 County Councillor Comments : CC Jones reported that there were daily e-mails and social media posts concerning household waste at Buntingford – it's a small site and social distancing for staff and members of the public is not possible. There were also concerns about traffic queuing outside. There are just two sites closed in Hertfordshire. CC Jones was concerned about the viability of the site as social distancing continues and has been speaking to the Executive member about relocating the facility – a sensible facility could be located at the Buntingford Business Park site. A new site was never requested via Buntingford's S106 money. The Royston facility is excellent and well laid out. The Westmill Ware Supersite is due to open on 20th October – it has no steps, has a reuse centre for resale (proceeds go to charity) and is very well laid out. CC Jones welcomed support of a new Buntingford Site.

A number of COVID outbreaks had been recorded in Hemel Hempstead, Bushey, Welywn (37 from a factory) and Hatfield. There has been a spike in ages 17-30 and the over 70's.

35.5 Police Report : There are no crime statistics – clerk to check if there were any crimes in the area.

Item brought forward:

35.9 Anstey Quarry : CC Jones had no update on Anstey Quarry but will check with the Officers for any news. There have been some vehicles getting through as the gates off the road have been left open. The vehicles can get around the main Quarry gates and get onto the site. This was reported to the owners. This will be monitored.

35.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th July 2020 The minutes were reviewed and it was unanimously agreed that with the amendment below, they were a correct and a true record of the meeting held on 27th July 2020, and the Chairman was authorised to sign them after the meeting.

There was an amendment to 34.13: Speeding Item is unclear that began 'Karen Noble requested a 30mph after the Chalk Pit turning between the entrance and houses to slow traffic down' Clerk to amend to : 'driving to Anstey from North End Farm, past the junction that goes to the Quarry – between that junction and Bandons Cottage, a 30mph restriction was requested.

The speed of cars travelling on this unrestricted road was discussed further, CC Jones explained that he could assist by way of a speed survey of which the results determine what the speed restriction should be there. It is solely funded via other budgets at a (cost of approximately £4k and there is some locality budget available for this.

Parish Council agreed they needed to identify priority areas of speeding before considering a survey.



Point 21 of the minutes needed enforcing: future meeting details to be posted on the Anstey Link in future.
CC Jeff Jones was thanked for his County Council Report and input, he left the meeting at the end of this item.

35.7 Planning

35.7.1 **Church Gate Cottage Ref. 3/20/1569/HH** Awaiting decision.

35.7.2 **Land at St. George's End Ref. 3/20/1208/FUL** Awaiting decision.

35.7.3 **Broadview Ref. 3/20/1059/HH** Refused 10/8/20.

35.7.4 **Plot 64 Ref. 3/19/2256/FUL** Awaiting decision.

35.7.5 No other applications / decision notices received.

35.8 Finance

35.8.1 The Financial Report was approved and accepted.

35.8.2 The Bank Reconciliation was approved and accepted.

35.8.3 The payments for September and October were approved and accepted.

35.8.4 The Draft Budget was agreed – clerk to check salary increase from April.

The Litter Picking Grant covered the cost of litter picking salary and the purchase of bins.

35.8.5 External Audit is all complete.

35.8.6 The Clerk's salary increase was agreed and ratified. This will be backdated to April 2020 – all agreed.

35.10 **Highways / Vegetation** : Essex Cottage hedge is encroaching into the road. Clerk to write to the landowner to request it is cutback. The Chairman has reported potholes at the Two Acres Farm.

35.11 **School / Parking** : School parking is still a problem up the hill. Several cars have reparked when notices have been applied to windscreens. Clerk to write to ask if the school can remind visitors and parents not to park up the hill on the bend, especially with the increase of cyclists through the village during COVID-19.

35.12 **Speeding** : Cllrs Bagnall and Parker to sign Carolina's speeding survey petition.

35.13 **Church** : Cllr Parker has left a message and e-mailed the field landowner to determine if the gate is on her land and ask if she would be willing to contribute / replace the church gate that opens onto her land.

A remembrance wreath has been ordered; a receipt should be passed to the clerk for reimbursement.

Cllr House will organise a neat new estate fencing around the memorial. The Chairman thanked him for arranging.

35.14 **Defibrillator** : all in good working order and hasn't, thankfully been needed.

35.15 **Phone Box** : the larger Perspex panels have been replaced and fit poorly. The smaller panels are a different type of plastic – it is an extremely poor renovation and the clerk has already written to complain to BT.

35.16 **Village Hall** : the 6-person rule doesn't apply for public buildings and as long as it is COVID secure, events may be held. The hall is being cared for and monitored. There is only one hiring at present, for socially distanced coaching lessons. The School aren't using the hall for lunches currently but will use it on a Wednesday afternoon for PE if it's raining. Yoga classes may restart. It's very low-key use at the moment. Cracks in flooring to be reported by Councillor Oxley.

35.17 **Playing Field** : Following the summer playing field inspection, trees are hanging over the skateboard ramp and towards the climbing frame – Cllrs Marchant and House to inspect and clerk to make enquiries for prices.

Cllr Parker to ask if the school can arrange cutting of the grass track to the playing field via their contractor.

Cllr Bagnall was thanked for cutting the hedge on the internal side.

35.18 **Correspondence** : Clerk to chase up BT.

35.19 Any other Business

35.19.1 School have excess salt for bad weather – add to the salt bins at Snow End and the Blind Fiddler.

35.19.2 High Trees are installing a new driveway – to be monitored.

35.19.3 It was reported that tape across the footpath in the field behind Woodside Cottage has been removed.

35.20 **Next Meeting** : The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday, 16th November 2020 – to be held via Zoom or at the Village Hall depending on COVID-19 recommendations.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.