



## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.40 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 7.40pm.

### 1. To Receive Any Apologies for Absence

None received.

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

None.

### 3. To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 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 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016 were a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

### 4. Adjournment for PCSO Update

The Parish Council were pleased to receive a visit from the local police. PC David Miller had been at Buntingford for over 7 years. He did cover the town centre but realistically he is everywhere, with 5 PCs and 5 shifts, one on days and one on lates, they cover 180 miles<sup>2</sup> area. Two officers went out as far as Stansted Abbots, Hertford and the Buntingford area.

PCSO Amanda Higham (our previous PCSO) is now at Sawbridgeworth. PC Miller looks after Nuthampsted to the A120, he also gets called out to the West of Buntingford, to Cottered and Walkern. He deals with neighbour disputes, hare coursing and stated that anyone from the team will come over to Anstey if he's on another call or off duty. Steve Blanks starts tomorrow as our new PCSO and will be based at Buntingford. He was covering West of Buntingford previously.

Since the AGM on 18<sup>th</sup> April there have been 2 crimes. High Hall and Barron's Farms sustained criminal damage where fields were damaged by vehicles driving over their fields making wheel tracks across wheat and barley. PC Miller confirmed they will investigate any camera footage. It was believed that the damage was caused by drivers training dogs for hare coursing. Deer were also a problem with criminals, the carcasses fetch £150 so poaching was currently prevalent. There have been reports of huge herds of deer, the police have spoken to the Deer Authority regarding culling. They are generally culled by farm owners locally but reproduce fast.

Cambridge have reorganised their crime team which may push criminals towards us. They still have the farm buggies based in Buntingford but getting out on them was all down to resourcing.

Out of 6 reported 999 or 101 incidents, one was a suspicious vehicle at the pub. One was a parking complaint and 4 were a person involved with a neighbourhood dispute. Shed break-ins weren't a problem with the lighter nights. There has been more vehicle crime in Puckeridge and Standon, a couple of BMW's stolen but this area as a whole has been. On this side it's been relatively quiet.

The chairman understood that their workload was huge and understand that they cannot attend the Parish Council meetings and asked if they are unable to come, they send an update via e-mail.



PC Miller confirmed that Sgt Wallace was still staying and they have David Lloyd which was good.

Cllr Oxley asked about firearm licence checks made with regards to deer culling. PC Miller confirmed that if they are called out they do check all firearm licences. General firearm checks are managed by Clive Hall from the Firearms Licencing Unit.

## 5. Adjournment for Public Comments

None present.

## 6. Planning Applications / Decision Notices

- 6.1 3/16/0841/LBC & 3/16/0840/HH Chappell Cottage Part Single, Part Double 2 storey side extension, demolition of existing garage, construction of new double garage – no comment made.
- 6.2 3/16/0829/HH & 3/16/0828/LBH Little Thatch Single storey side extension – no comment made.
- 6.3 3/16/0678/HH Fiddlers Lodge 2 storey extension – no comment made – plans approved.
- 6.4 3/16/0433/FUL Stagestruck Ltd Car Park Resurfacing / enlargement Decision Notice – Granted
- 6.5 Any other planning applications/notifications received :  
There is a variation on the Noy Buntingford expansion – there are plans to show an increase of the size of houses. Previous plans submitted showed the higher buildings situated the wrong way around.

## 7. Finance

- 7.1 The Annual Governance Statement was approved by the Parish Council.
- 7.12 The Accounting Statements were approved by the Parish Council.
- 7.13 The Annual Return was accepted and approved.
- 7.2 An update of finances together with the summary of funds available were approved.
- 7.3 Payments for May and June were agreed and the Chairman was permitted to sign cheques (deferred to end of meeting)
- 7.4 The Chairman received a backup of correspondence.

## 8. HAPTC Planning Meeting Feedback

The Chairman described the local planning statement that tiered villages into Groups 1,2 and 3 and explained that there were only 3 or 4 classified 1 villages and they were due to take all the expansion. However, they are now considering spreading all new development through all the categories.

They are considering taking out the boundary lines of the villages; if we had produced a Neighbourhood Plan, we would have a black line around Anstey showing the village boundary. Some villages are 8-10 months into their Neighbourhood Plans and they may not have the clout that they were expected to have.

This de-tiering doesn't mean that we should start a Neighbourhood Plan. It was agreed that it does provide some influence in planning decisions but is not set in stone. Anstey is a tier 3 village and does not have the sufficient infrastructure to sustain large scale development and does not predict any problems. It was agreed that conservation had some bearing on development in the Village. Whatever the case, the national policy was to build new homes and when planners turn down applications there is no Neighbourhood Plan to protect them from going to appeal.

The chairman reported that the majority of delegates that attended the meeting were against changing the tiered system. The next meeting is in September and the chairman will attend and report back. He didn't feel that any applications accepted in Anstey would be detrimental to the village.

A discussion of all villages taking an increase of 5% in development was discussed and was a more acceptable option at the HAPTC meeting.



**9. Highways Together Meeting Feedback**

The chairman and Cllr Sapsed attended a Highways meeting in Hatfield to establish what the Parish Council could and couldn't do. They were now qualified to apply and carry out Risk Assessments. They can download a RA template and complete one for highway jobs. The Parish Council cannot dig out ditches but can dig out gullies, clean road signs, clear undergrowth and grass on paths and hedges. If these responsibilities are taken on, a RA has to be carried out to keep the village clean and tidy. The Parish Council may need to formulate a RA for picking litter and for clearing the gullies and cleaning signs.

There was no assistance for the flooding and the cost of temporary traffic lights to do remedial works would be £14,000. It was agreed that the ditch opposite the Playing Fields needed digging out.

**10. Highways**

Resurfacing had been carried out from the Well to Meesden. The Wyddial Road has also been done.

**11. Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Plans for the Queen's Birthday celebrations for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June were discussed and an action plan formulated.

**12. Village Hall / Village Hall Clock**

They are waiting for the clock to be put up which is imminent.

**13. To Receive Correspondence Sent and Received**

The correspondence list was accepted.

**14. Any Other Business**

**14.1** A legal agreement needs to be drawn up with the County Council to allow the three houses to feed into the School's septic tank. Norman Marston/Natasha Lawrence from Herts County Council will keep the Parish Council informed of this progress. Without an agreement it could be difficult for the owners to sell their houses. Any cost would be minimal. The chairman only knew of the hall and school feeding into the tank but it is a new tank that goes across council land at the bottom of the Village Hall drive.

**14.2** The Playing Field Climbing Frame shackles were incorrectly delivered and they should have been replaced, the chairman will follow this up.

**14.3** The British Legion are trying to get recreational land designated at centenary land for their Centenary Fields campaign. This is poignant with all the work that Jenny has completed. To have the Playing Field as a Centenary Field would be a pleasant gesture and the Clerk was instructed to complete the relevant paperwork.

**14.4** It was agreed that the School Noticeboard must now be replaced – the chairman will speak to Paul Creswell to see if one can be built.

**14.5** [It was noted that Neil Richards and Alison Norfolk have cut the footpath from the Well down to The Blind Fiddler.

**14.6** At the last Parish Council meeting there was a discussion about the clerk's salary. The clerk was requested to send the chairman information on the salary structure. A subcommittee will be formed to discuss this further.

# ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL



**14.7** There will be a Music Night held this coming Saturday at the Village Hall and tickets were for sale.

**15. Date of Next Meeting:** Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm.

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_