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**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON  
MONDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017 COMMENCING AT 7.45 PM**

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

District/County Councillors: Jeff Jones

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

Members of the Public: None present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the March Parish Council meeting.

**1. To Receive Any Apologies for Absence**

Received from Jan Pledger (away).

**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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Following a unanimous vote that the minutes were correct, it was RESOLVED that the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2017 were a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

Cllr Parker joined the meeting at 7.50pm.

**4. Adjournment for Police Update**

No police present at tonight's meeting and no report received.

**5. Adjournment for Public Comments**

Jeff Jones joined this evening's meeting, he is standing for election as County Councillor in May. He has leaflet dropped most the village and will continue to Meesden tomorrow. He has been selected as a Conservative Councillor to the new Buntingford Area with an electorate of 11,000.

Jeff is also a Councillor for Buckland and Chipping, where he has stood for 15 years. He has also been a District Councillor for four years ago and felt that he had done some of the groundwork already. His daytime is spent at County meetings, with District Councillor work usually done in the evenings.

Jeff plans to visit the Parish Councils that he may be representing so he can go into County with knowledge of his constituencies if he is successful. He feels his strengths lay in planning as he has had 2 years' development management experience and he's on the licencing committee.

Jeff thought that the biggest issues county-wise were highways, particularly potholes and drainage, and if elected, he will be the main point of contact via a dedicated highways officer.

Education is another area – when you join County there are committees and cabinets where you spend the first 3 months being briefed and then you specialise in the area that interests you.

Jeff is interested in local transport and highways.



There isn't sufficient employment for the new houses, Buntingford TC pushed for commercial development at the Sainsbury's site but it looks set for education now, another first school.

Ward Freman can expand within its own grounds and could increase its teaching staff. This is the same for Edwinstree, and Millfield can be extended above the existing building. There is no capacity to expand Layston.

There was a natural area for education on the Bovis homes 400 to the West but it was sited next to the sewage works.

It was good that HCC have found another site for a new school. Fairview Homes have had successful meetings at County to date and they've offered a fair price for the area so it will now be a school and retirement home.

There's allocation for retirement living North of the town before the Redrow site – the full Planning Application is due in next few months and it will commence build soon after.

The Chairman discussed the need for a Neighbourhood plan in light that Ansteys were a tier 3 village which has been recategorised to a 2. We decided against a NP but now question if it will be required. The Chairman questioned the cut-off for the category points. The process was discussed, it was agreed that it was regrettable that Ansteys were unable to join the Buntingford Plan.

The District Plan is due towards the end of the year after full council on Wednesday. If it gets approved it should be released in December at the latest.

Stevenage and Uttlesford Plan was thrown out. They were supposed to speak to Essex and Waltham Forest and they didn't consult, the inspector threw it out.

Housing allocations for new homes were discussed. On Redrow's social housing was 25 units per hectare, Taylor Wimpey were 40. Taylor Wimpey homes have been progressing well with over 100 occupied. Many of those wanting to live in Buntingford have been successful in securing homes.

## **6. Planning Applications / Decision Notices**

- 6.1** 3/17/0469/HH 3/17/0470/LBC Little Thatch – PC gave a neutral no comment response.
- 6.2** 3/17/0358/HH Well Cottage – reinstatement of an entrance – awaiting decision.
- 6.3** 3/17/0072/HH High Trees 2 Storey Extension – REFUSED 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The owners have been in contact with the Chairman and they will consult before putting in another application.

A reminder of planning application decisions for the PC :

1. Need for the development,
2. The visual impact on the village and surrounding countryside,
3. Environmentally friendly,
4. Affect it will have on the immediate neighbours.

**Action:** Add to next Agenda – revisit planning criteria.

- 6.4** No other planning applications or decision notices were received.

## **7. Finance**

- 7.1** Update on finances was received and approved.  
The proposed precept increased to cover the additional grass cutting to £4,750 has been agreed.



**7.2** March and April 2017 payments were agreed and the Chairman was permitted to sign cheques at the end of meeting.

**7.3** It was unanimously agreed to appointment of Paul Walton as Internal Auditor now that Mike Thompson has left the village.

**7.4** The Risk Assessment for 2016-17 was discussed, the majority of which had been covered at previous bi-monthly meetings. The Council are satisfied that the risks have been identified and managed. Risk assessments have been requested from the village hall and will be provided by the Annual Meeting.

**Action** : Joint Parish Council and Village Hall insurance will be revisited.

**Action** : Remove software used by the clerk from the Risk Assessment 2017-18.

## **8. Highways / Vegetation Issues**

Works have been carried out at Lincoln Hill after three years of lobbying. Anstey now need rain to test if it has solved the issue of water running down the hill and freezing in cold conditions.

## **9. Playing Field**

We are waiting for the next round of grants to apply for new play equipment. The grass cutting has been carried out.

## **10. Village Hall**

Four films have now been shown at the Pop-up film and cinema club. They have been well received and the intention is to show 6-8 films/year.

EHDC have offered to provide promotional material for the Forever Active classes which have been successful.

The committee are currently planning the Annual Quiz Night and the date has been advertised in the Newsletter.

A live music event will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July – clerk to organise staging via Stagestruck.

The hall flooring has been surveyed and to insulate it would mean raising the floor level. This would cause issues with the steps and disabled access. Skirting heaters and double glazed windows were recommended.

## **11.School**

The School have requested endorsement of grant application to provide a member of staff for the Easter and Summer Playscheme – clerk to write and agree to the endorsement.

## **12.Correspondence Received and Sent** was noted for information.

Cokenach Gas Guns were checked. They turn on at 06:30 and are switched off at night. Some deer shooting has been reported.

Cllr Jeff Jones will speak with Cllr Linda Haysey with regards to the Neighbourhood Plan.

## **13.Any Other Business**

Standing Orders are still outstanding. **Action** : Chairman/Clerk to progress during a quieter period.

**14. Date of Next Meeting: AGM** to be held on Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the Village Hall, commencing at 8pm.



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Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

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

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

*(Large, faint, stylized watermark text, possibly reading 'ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL')*