



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 12TH JULY 2021 AT 7.30PM

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

Members of the Public:

Apologies: Simon Bagnall

District/ County Councillor: CC Jeff Jones

Police : PC Leon De Bruyn and PC Robert Wenham

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman welcomed councillors and members of the public to the meeting and advised attendees to remain seated, wear masks unless they were speaking and to report any covid symptoms either today or in the next 2 weeks to the chairman or clerk.

39.1 Apologies

Apologies were received from DC P Boylan and Councillor Bagnall.

39.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : none.

39.3 Public Comments : None.

Procedural Matter : Following the chairman's suggestion, it was agreed that agenda items should be rearranged to allow the police to address the parish council first;

39.5 Police Report : PC De Bruyn introduced both himself and PC Wenham to the council. He had nothing to report re: local crime. He has not been able to attend meetings but has been regularly communicating with the clerk. The area 3 officers cover is wide; working out of Buntingford covering from Anstey, Meesden, through Hare Street, the Pelhams, the Hadhams, Hunsden, borders of Gilsden and over to Ware, also the corridor from Essex, Sawbridgeworth, Stortford and the A10. There is a team of 14 at Buntingford and collectively they cover 184miles². Most communication is via online. PC De Bruyn works hard to talk to communities and encourage them to sign up to neighbourhood watch and OWL; both the public and councillors. Criminality and community news is updated via Neighbourhood watch.

ECHO is a new communication platform, first nationally launched 2 years ago, and the information has been shared with the clerk who has forwarded to councillors and parishioners via the newsletter. It's an open text forum which notifies the police of any concerns in the village or community. It needs specifics; location, time, date. The data is shared at ECHO meetings. Hare coursing and fly tipping have been regular topics for discussion, together with agricultural thefts, shed break-ins and speeding. This isn't a platform to report crime; 999 or 101 should be used. Councillors can also raise concerns by e-mailing De Bruyn directly. Cllr Oxley gave feedback that ECHO did not formally acknowledge anything raised, no reference number was issued or any communication received. It was hard to know if the issue raised was being dealt with. PC De Bruyn will ensure this feedback is highlighted.

Speeding in the village was discussed, concerns over speeding delivery and courier drivers were raised. The Drive Scheme was discussed; it has been delayed during Covid due to staffing issues and there is a backlog. Clerk to obtain details as to whether Anstey have completed their paperwork. Speeding from the school to the church and up to the PH Blind Fiddler was of a concern to the village – it was noted that this could be a difficult area to safely set up any police speeding checks or the Drive Scheme.

39.4 County Councillor Comments : CC Jones reported on Covid. County meetings are returning in-person but chamber meetings cannot recommence safely; the last meeting was held at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage.



The next full council is on 28th July back at Gordon Craig. A precautionary approach was agreed even with restrictions being lifted, as not all councillors have been fully vaccinated. Chamber meetings will recommence hopefully from September. Highways Cabinet meeting are being held remotely.

There are still concerns over Covid, particularly the Delta strain. Herts has a 69.4% increase of Covid cases in the past 7-days as of 9th July. There is some evidence that double vaccination offers good protection to the new strain.

1M residents in West Essex and Herts residents have received double vaccinations.

There are 400 walk-in and pop-up clinics for 1st and 2nd doses.

Timing between vaccinations are now 8 weeks for people aged 18yrs+.

The first Hertfordshire quarantine hotel will soon open in Dacorum.

Flooding was discussed; CC Jones drove through Cave Gate tonight during heavy rain and agreed it was dangerous. He will escalate with Highways.

There was no update on the Quarry.

39.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th May 2021

The minutes were reviewed and amendments made; the meeting was held at the Village Hall and not via Zoom, and in 38.13, it should read the old village **sign** situated in the hedge will be removed. Following these amendments, the chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2021.

39.7 Planning

39.7.1 Silkmead SG9 ODE Ref. 3/21/1576/OUT – Outline planning for commercial development in classes E(g), B2 and B8 for up to 25,200sqm. Industrial units remain low and will not be intrusive. Safety accessing the site will be covered by highways. Councillors were unanimous in having no objection to outline planning.

39.7.2 5 Two Acre Farm SG9 OBN Ref. 3/21/1120/HH – s/s oak framed orangery extension – no objections raised – awaiting decision.

39.7.3 Coltsfoot SG9 ODE Ref. 3/20/2542/HH – Retention light windows. There were three main issues and the Parish Council made the Planning Officer aware of renovations undertaken a few years ago without permission but received no reply. This application is retrospective planning. One was for the listed property.

39.7.4 Cherry Tree House, Hare Street Ref. 3/21/1120/HH – two-storey side extn, accommodation into roof space, FF Front and Rear Extension – no objections. Made a similar application 2 years ago – there were no objections from the PC previously but it was refused. It was noted that the rear of the property was not residential but industrial units and so any development would not have a detrimental effect on the surrounding area. Awaiting decision.

39.7.5 Coltsfoot SG9 ODE Ref. 3/20/2543/LBC – Parish Council gave a neutral response on this, awaiting decision.

39.7.6 Plot 64 Ref. 3/20/2139/FUL (Replaces 3/19/2256/FUL withdrawn on 1/11/20) Change of use of land to Gypsy / Traveller residential : no news or decision. It was noted there are a new set of gates 10m into the entrance. There was no update, no comments were raised by either Anstey or Hormead or PC's.

39.7.7 High Trees Ref. 3/20/0639/HH and 3/20/0640/FUL – received a response from the officers that states the applicant has submitted a wrong title and they are awaiting a reapplication. Site visit is due. The case is ongoing.

39.7.8 No further applications or decisions.

39.8.1 Finance

39.8.2 The Financial Report was approved and accepted.

39.8.3 The Bank Reconciliation 4/7/21 was approved and accepted.

39.8.4 The external audit completion was noted. Clerk to upload documentation to the website.

39.8.5 A new internal auditor is required following Paul Walton's confirmation that he could no longer assist with this next year. Councillors to ask if anyone with some professional understanding of finances and understanding of parish councils could assist.

39.8.6 July/August payments were approved to include 6 months grass cutting @ £315.

39.9 Phone Box

Clerk will now re-chase this with BT.

The repair to the K6 phone box undertaken by BT was substandard and no further repairs were expected.



A pane of Perspex is now missing allowing rain to get in, clerk to chase BT again.

39.10 Highways / Vegetation

Following various complaints regarding the state of our footpaths, it was agreed the PC will write to landowners to request they cut their paths or log it with Herts CC.

It was noted that Northey Lodge and Essex Cottage hedges are encroaching slightly onto the highways.

39.11 **Silkmead** discussed in 39.4 above.

39.11.1 **Cave Gate** discussed in 39.4 above.

39.11.2 Playing Fields

39.11.3 Grass cutting has been completed.

39.11.4 Goals to be ordered tomorrow. Old goals will be removed once delivered.

39.11.5 Tree Works – trees are in full leaf, to be reviewed at end of summer.

39.12 **Church** Beech trees works have completed.

39.13 School / Parking :

There are still some parking concerns at school pick-up times but it has been a small number of vehicles since May. Notices are still being put on cars. A small number of cars were parked opposite Anstey Hall one Sunday forcing cars onto the wrong side of the road coming around the corner – to be monitored.

39.14 **Speeding** : as discussed in 39.5 above. Concerns raised with police.

39.15 **Village Hall** : Nothing new to report, it remains being looked after. The school aren't using it for lunches. A request for daily use will be considered.

39.16 **Anstey Quarry** No update.

39.17 **Defibrillator** Thankfully has not been needed or used. It is checked regularly and all in good working order. New national network which we are signed up to links up to ambulance services.

39.18 **Correspondence** – a list of correspondence received and sent was received.

39.18.1 It was noted that although correspondence has been received from Sara Saunders at Highways, there is no procedure for how PC issues or complaints are dealt with.

39.19 Any other Business

39.20 **Next Meeting** : 27th September 2021 – this date has moved from 20th September.
Notices and website to be updated.

Meeting closed at 20.58.