



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 14TH MARCH 2022 AT 7.30PM**

Present: David House
David Oxley
Amanda Parker
Jan Pledger

Members of the Public: None

County / District Councillors: None

Police: PC L De Bruyn

Apologies: Cllr Marchant, Cllr Bagnall, DC Boylan.

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

- 42.1 Apologies** received from Cllr Marchant, Cllr Bagnall and DC Boylan.
- 42.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations** : None received.
- 42.3 Public Comments** : None.
- 42.4 County / District Councillor Comments** : No councillors present, Cllr Boylan forwarded apologies ahead of the meeting and requested escalation of any items that need his attention.
- 42.5 Police Report : No crimes were reported as of 31 January 2022.**

PC De Bruyn attended the meeting and reported there had been no crimes in Anstey. The nearest crimes last month were; Brent Pelham, criminal damage to the BT Exchange door and lock which has been targeted twice in the last two months, and at Little Hadham, fuel removed from a van and damage to the vehicle.

Storm Eunice caused some chaos, the East Herts Make Safe Team of 14 attended over 50 jobs in 12 hours. An ash tree fell in the centre of the village - Cllr Oxley confirmed he had been impressed with the speed of response. There were instances from Anstey all through Hertfordshire. People had people stayed off the roads and the team got good results with clearing carriageways.

A school initiative has been restarted. Following limited community engagement during Covid, the team are now doing pop-in visits to the 9 schools in their area. Classes available during the drop-in session can see the quad bike, go in the police vehicle, see road signs and the kit police carry. These visits are arranged 3 times/year.

There is enthusiasm to get back into the community and attend events. Those planned: Much Hadham Fire Station, Brook Cottage Farm Horse Event in May, Little Hadham Market on 30th April. It was noted that Anstey Fair date is 10th July if the police were available to attend.

Concerns were raised about a tanker being parked on a public highway overnight. It has signage stating it is carrying hazardous material and is often parked by the school layby or at the Knoll, by the Well. The index number was provided to PC De Bruyn for investigation. Councillors have been further asked to photograph the index number, the hazardous signage and coding and provide what3words location.

Flooding on the B1368 was discussed, Cllr De Bruyn confirmed that when flooding is deemed dangerous, it should be reported via 101 for signage. In the meantime, the correct channel of communication is via Herts Highways.

42.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th January 2022

The vice chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2022.

42.7 Planning

- 42.7.1 Holly House SG9 OBP** : 3/22/0249/HH – single storey extension, comments by 1/3/22. No objections raised.
- 42.7.2 Church Gate Cottage SG9 OBY** : 3/22/0018/HH – awaiting decision.
- 42.7.3 Well Cottage SG9 OBN** – 3/21/2490/LB and 2489/HH : approved on 2nd March 2022.



- 42.7.4 **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 – awaiting decision.
- 42.7.5 **Coltsfoot Farm SG9 ODE Ref. 3/20/2542 and 3/HH** – Retention light windows – awaiting decision.
- 42.7.6 **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 : see 41.1 above, referred to Inspectorate as an Appeal. Waiting for appeal.
- 42.7.7 **Little Orchard, Anstey Road SG9 ODX** – 3/12/2288/LBC : regulation of repairs to G/F and timber sole plates following flood damage from water pipe – awaiting decision.
- 42.7.8 **Village Hall Plot** – it was acknowledged that some interest on this site has been highlighted.

42.8 Finance

- 42.8.1 The Financial Report was approved and accepted.
The latest payment to Sharpe print should be added to the finance report (report reissued 22/3/22).
An explanation of St George’s payments were made, the first one this year was a higher amount which was why they weren’t equal payments this year.
- 42.8.2 The Bank Reconciliation 14/03/22 was approved and accepted.
- 42.8.3 March and April payments were approved and cheques signed after meeting.
- 42.8.4 Internal Auditor has been contacted via e-mail, Cllr House will speak to him.
- 42.8.5 The clerk’s new hourly rate and backdated increase was ratified.

42.9 Phone Box

The substandard BT kiosk repairs were discussed. Clerk has written to BT and complained, clerk will chase. This kiosk is still operational within a conservation area. Restoring the phone box was discussed, it would cost a nominal £1 to buy the kiosk with restoration costs of around £1,000. To be discussed at the next AGM.

42.10 Highways / Vegetation

The blocked drain and collection of water outside the phone box is on the list of works for Highways. What3words of both this and 3-6 Castle Cottages has been provided.

Clerk to chase the pothole at Mill Lane which still has a bollard sited within it. The status online is pending.

42.11 Flooding

- 42.11.1 **Silkmead** has been flooded and is being monitored.
- 42.11.2 **Cave Gate** scheduled for Highway works, date unknown. Report via 101 for future dangerous carriageway flooding.

42.12 Playing Fields

- 42.12.1 No urgent works or repairs required.
- 42.12.2 Goals to be sited at next opportunity.

42.13 Church

Siting of the tree planting for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee was discussed and the best place agreed was by the bench on the wide verge in the center of the village rather than at the church or playing field.

42.14 School / Parking

Somewhat improved, however ad-hoc flyers are being added to vehicles, problematic during school drop-off times.

42.15 Queen’s Platinum Jubilee : celebration dates 2nd to 5th June 2022.

Planned event is at the Blind Fiddler PH on Friday, 3rd June from the afternoon into the evening. Two bands have been booked. The PH wish to use the field as the carpark to free up their own carpark for a children’s party. No road closure is required. Suggestion of a children’s competition with 1st prize to plant and name a tree.

42.16 Village Hall

The school continue to use the hall on an ad-hoc basis for PE on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Lunches have not yet returned at the hall. Three exercise classes are running at the hall; table tennis on Wednesday morning, carpet bowls Wednesday evening and Yoga on a Thursday morning. There are some bookings.

Cinema club restarted after two years’ due to Covid with a well-attended event last weekend.

Next films organised for April 29th and May 20th. It was agreed that it was really nice to have the hall open for social events again.

Two electric car charging points are to be installed, this will benefit both the school and village hall users.



Extending the carpark was rediscussed. The Village Hall Committee have funding available to support the works and additional spaces (possibly 6 extra) were seen to be beneficial. Cllr House to follow up. It was agreed that if this was possible, the siting electric car charging points towards the bottom area would be best.

42.17 Newsletter

This month's edition is back up to 12 pages and has gone to print to be delivered at the end of the month. Cllr Oxley confirmed that a nominal fee would be requested for jpeg adverts, all others will be included in a one-line listing within future editions.

42.18 Speeding

Clerk has re-chased PC De Bruyn for the necessary paperwork. Chairman will be the coordinator.

42.19 Anstey Quarry : There may be local interest in purchasing the Quarry.

42.20 Defibrillator : checked and in working order, not been used. It was confirmed the battery renewal is due Jan-23.

42.21 Correspondence – a list of correspondence received and sent was accepted.

42.22 Any other Business – none received.

42.23 Next Meeting : The next meeting date will be a combination of meetings on 9th May commencing at 7.15pm : The Annual Parish (AGM) Meeting, the Annual Meeting of the Council (to elect Chairman and Vice Chair for the ensuing year) and the Parish Council Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.15pm.