



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM**

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

Members of the Public: Ann Grimsdale
Rob Johnson

County / District Councillors: DC Boylan

Apologies: CC Jones, PC De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman welcomed councillors to the last meeting of the year.

41.1 Apologies received from CC Jones and PC De Bruyn.

41.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : None.

41.3 Public Comments : None.

41.4 County / District Councillor Comments :

District Councillor Comments from DC Boylan

A Boundary Review is being undertaken for EHDC, the first since the 1980's by the Boundary Commission for England. Following over 40 years of housing development and increases of population, the ward areas covering villages may be reorganised. Links are on EHDC (clerk forwarded to councillors). Consultation closes 6 December 2021 and any changes will come into effect from May-22.

Parish and Town Engagement Event is planned for 30th November via zoom, clerk circulated to councillors.

Update on Plot 64 Travellers Site at Hare Street (Ref. 3/20/2139/FUL) is that the developer has referred the application to the Secretary of State as an appeal. It was noted the Planning Inspectorate had a large backlog of appeals to process. In the meantime, Plot 64 will be monitored by EHDC. Anstey Parish Council voiced concerns that breaches for applications awaiting decisions may not be enforced.

Cllr Oxley enquired on food waste collections, it was confirmed these will recommence when legislations comes into effect in Apr-23.

County Councillor Report from CC Jones - HertsLynx

I hope you have had the opportunity to experience the DRT, (Demand Response Transport), HertsLynx Bus Service that started operation in September servicing North and East Herts centred on Buntingford. The service operates via an App downloaded from www.intalink.org.uk/hertslynx or via the website or phone.

There are currently three minibuses in operation with a further two additional vehicles added to the fleet in June 2022 which Councillors are pushing to be fully electric. The vehicles are equipped with free Wifi and USB charging points. In the first four weeks of service the demand has been over expectation with 1081 booking and 1050 people downloading the App. This service has been a great benefit to residents in the villages and I believe is the way forward for future public transport in rural areas.

Sustainable Hertfordshire Eco Fair

Following on from the UN Climate Conference, COP26, Herts County Council would like to invite you to the first ever Sustainable Hertfordshire Eco-Fair. This free to attend event, taking place at County Hall, Hertford on Saturday 27th November (doors open at 10am) will demonstrate to residents how the council is working towards making Hertfordshire a cleaner, greener and healthier county. Please visit the Eventbrite page to register: <https://email.hertfordshire.gov.uk/5ESZ-G4V1-4BECEFE479496BCE1M7DH7D117E7F987704F99/cr.aspx>



Councillor Surgery

I have started to hold face-to-face meetings with residents to discuss their concerns and address their issues, with monthly Councillor Surgeries. These Surgeries are by appointment and held at The Manor House, Buntingford on the 3rd Friday in the month and are available by calling 01763 272222 and details will be given.

Cave Gate

Nothing new to report. I have not received any information on these works or further fault reporting at this location.

41.5 Police Report : BURGLARY / CRIMINAL DAMAGE – Anstey Quarry

Between 12th – 28th October 2021, it is believed that unknown suspects have gained entry to the derelict site of the Anstey quarry by damaging the outer fence perimeter and main gate & lock. Whilst on site, suspects have removed cladding from the main workshop building and have then left the area by means unknown and in an unknown direction.

There has also been a recent increase in thefts from motor vehicle, which is not unusual as we approach the festive season, so we are urging residents to ensure cars are locked (even if they are parked on a driveway), to remove all valuable items from within and to ensure that the car key is out of range should their vehicle be 'keyless entry'.

There will also be an increased presence around Halloween so any reports of ASB should be called in on the police non-emergency number 101.

41.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th September 2021 were reviewed, amendments to 47.7; Anstey and Hormead PCs remove 'or' and 40.10 – the lower field / the bottom field – this is the valley from playing field towards Meesden. Following these amendments, the minute were accepted as correct. The chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2021.

It was agreed to add 'Matters Arising' to follow Minutes on future Agendas.

41.7 Planning

41.7.1 Well Cottage SG9 OBN – 3/21/2490/LB and 2489/HH : demolition of outbuildings, deadline 5/11/21 – Parish Council uploaded 'no objections' to the portal 2/11/21.

41.7.2 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 – closing date : 6/10/21. Council uploaded 'no objections' to the portal 27/9/21.

41.7.3 5 Two Acre Farm SG9 OBN Ref. 3/21/1120/HH – s/s oak framed orangery extension – Granted 30/09/21

41.7.4 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. REFUSED 21/10/21.

41.7.5 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.

41.7.6 Coltsfoot Farm SG9 ODE Ref. 3/20/2542 and 3/HH – Retention light windows – Parish Council gave a neutral response, awaiting decision.

41.7.7 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.

41.7.8.1 Little Thatch SG9 OBL Ref. 3/21/2790/HH – Installation of external air source heat pump with concrete lintel / shingle base. This application was discussed and councillors had no objections. Clerk to upload to planning portal.

41.8 Finance

41.8.1 The Financial Report was approved and accepted. Additional payment was added; £315; playing field grass cutting.

41.8.2 The Bank Reconciliation 15/11/21 was approved and accepted.

41.8.3 The 2022-23 Budget was reviewed and ratified (proposed by chairman, seconded by Cllr Bagnall).

41.8.4 It was agreed that the Precept would remain the same for 2022-23, £4,750 and the form completed.

41.8.5 It was agreed to appoint the new internal auditor for March 2022, Andrew Hodson.

Tony Pledger was thanked for his offer to step in and cover this role if needed.

41.8.6 November/December payments were approved including £315.00 grass cutting and cheques signed after meeting.

41.9 Phone Box



No update had been received for a further inspection and replacement of missing Perspex.

41.10 Highways / Vegetation

It was noted that the repair on the Brent Pelham road was substandard and still had a cone situated on it. There were ridges on the tarmac which could be dangerous for cyclists. Clerk to consider photographing.

Tarmac was tipped in the ditch – Cllr House to provide information to the Clerk. Clerk to write to Highways.

41.11 **Silkmead** isn't currently flooding although gully is filling when rains, this will be monitored.

41.11.1 **Cave Gate** : the Parish Council still have concerns on the dangerous bends – clerk will continue to monitor.

41.11.2 Playing Fields

41.11.3 No urgent works or repairs required.

41.11.4 The old goal posts have been removed and holes filled. Cllr House will make hooks to anchor the new goals down.

41.11.5 **Tree Works** – to be investigated.

A tractor hedge cutter is required, chairman to liaise with Cllr House to approach a new contractor.

41.12 Church

Ann Grimshaw reported that in 2 weeks' time, a service to commemorate 100-yrs of the war memorial will be held at the Church. The Mercury have been arranged to photograph and report on the service and the Royston Band will play. A reminder on 'no parking' on the corner will be arranged and information via the village link will ask local residents to walk if possible.

The Poppy Wreath was laid at the war memorial on Sunday.

41.13 **School / Parking** It was noted that the car park repairs were holding up well since repairs were undertaken.

41.14 Speeding

41.15 The Clerk has contacted PC De Bruyn to request a paperwork to complete. Chairman will be the coordinator.

41.16 Village Hall

The school continue to use the hall on Wednesday and Friday afternoons for PE. 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.

The committee are keen to get film club up again and have a provisional date of 21 January, subject to Covid numbers. Existing memberships will be rolled over from this to next year.

The committee are very keen to improve the upper car park area and increase the number of spaces.

It was agreed to obtain quotations. Cllr House will speak to his contact and share the information with Cllr Oxley.

41.17 Newsletter

£1,000 was secured from the HCC Locality Budget and approved by CC Jones. This funds one year of a return to a 12pg full colour printed newsletter, any additional pages will only be produced digitally. The first print edition will be distributed at the end of November (this will be edition 89). Some funding ideas for 2023 will be brought to the January meeting.

Ann Grimsdale asked if it included the church news, Cllr Oxley confirmed not but it would be possible to include this with the distribution if the church were able to arrange printing.

DC Boylan suggested income could be made via advertising, this is how Braughing fund their newsletter.

41.18 **Anstey Quarry** : see 4.15; police news that a break-in occurred. The court case is expected to be in June 22.

41.19 **Defibrillator** : checked and in working order, not been used. Cllr Oxley will check when new batteries are required (expected to be Jan/Feb 2023).

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

41.21 Any other Business

41.21.1 Ann Grimsdale gave information regarding Stansted Airport; she attended a really interesting consultation on stage 2 regarding continuous approach descent and the restricted flight paths. One path is over Anstey for descending. (Clerk recirculated the information to councillors 15.11.21)

41.22 **Next Meeting** : 17 January 2022.

41.23 **Agree 2022 Meeting Dates** : 17 Jan, 14 Mar, 25 April (AGM), 9 May, 11 July, 19 September and 14 November.

Meeting closed at 20.40.