



## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON MONDAY, 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.30PM

Present: Andrew Marchant  
David House  
David Oxley  
Amanda Parker

Members of the Public: None

County / District Councillors: CC Jeff Jones  
DC Geoffrey Williamson

BEN RANDAN – new ringway officer.

Police: None

Apologies: Simon Bagnall  
Jan Pledger  
PC Leon De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

**51.1 Apologies** received from Simon Bagnall, Jan Pledger and PC Leon De Bruyn.

**51.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations** : None received.

**51.3 County / District Councillor Comments :**

**DC Geoffrey Williamson**

**Hartham Leisure's** major capital refurbishment scheme in Hertford was completed on 9<sup>th</sup> September. Facilities include a 2-storey extended gym, vibrant café area and children's play area.

**Solar Together** was discussed, the details of which are contained in the East Herts weekly newsletter. This is a group buying scheme for solar panels and associated equipment. Registration enables the purchase of solar items at negotiated set of prices, deadline for registering is 27 Oct-23.

The **District Plan** is being revised since its publication 5 years ago. The revision will reexamine the housing supply requirements and national ceilings for new planning guidance which has been rapidly changing.

DC Williamson updated on the planning item **Plot 64** : the appeal was dismissed in Jul-23 and will return to a green field site. It was noted that **Westmill** is imminently coming to planning with a recommendation to approve a **Travellers Site** 100 yards from Cherry Green Lane junction due to a lack of gypsy and traveler sites in the region.

**CC Jeff Jones**

**Winter self-help** is available ahead of the winter season with salt available.

Clerk to re-request the additional **salt bin** required at the top of the hill at Snow End.

**Anstey Quarry** new ownership was discussed. The Parish Council confirmed the land needs reinstating to the agreed levels. Burning wood/metal continues onsite and trucks visiting. Close monitoring will continue.

**Cave Gate** and **Silkmead** flooding has not necessitated recent reporting. CC Jones confirmed Silkmead remained on the works schedule. The Parish Council confirmed a trench needs to be dug into the verge at a right-angle.

**51.4 Public Comments** : None.

**51.5 Police Report :**

Reports of a parasol and house lawnmower stolen in the village.

Intelligence on a planned rave occurring in the county was discussed, chairman will inform the local police.



## 51.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023

The chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

Matters arising from the last meeting included water collecting in the playing field ditch, discussed at item 51.15.1.

## 51.7 Planning

**51.7.1 Two Twitts SG9 OFD** : 3/23/1626/FUL – change of use from part of outbuilding at G/F to Clinic, creation of entrance ramp and car parking facilities – no objections were raised on this application, clerk to upload to planning portal. The permitted development onsite was discussed; a temporary pole barn and mobile home has been situated onsite for 3.5years. DC Williamson confirmed this would be investigated.

**51.7.2 Land at Cherry Tree House SG9 ODX** : 3/23/1274/PIOP – erection of 2-storey detached dwelling – no objection raised, **Permission in Principle REFUSED** 09/09/23.

**51.7.3 Anstey Hall SG9 OBY** : 3/23/0821/FUL (3/23/0659/FUL withdrawn) : **WITHDRAWN**.

**51.7.4 Dove Cottage SG9 ODH** : 3/23/0558/HH and 3/23/0559/LBC : **AWAITING DECISION**.

**51.7.5 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 : Appeal Lodged 14/1/22 and **DISMISSED Jul-23**.

## 51.8 Finance

**51.8.1 To receive an update on the 2022-23 External Audit** : no communication received.

**51.8.2 VAT Reclaim update** : VAT claim was not accepted and has been resubmitted 02/09/23.

**51.8.3 Update on Finances** : the Financial Report was approved and accepted.

It was noted that the additional cost for newsletter printing (£600 Apr-Aug) and litter picking should be reflected in November's budget. These items are likely to cause a small raise in the precept.

It was noted that due to no receipt of the VAT refund, the current account cashflow was low.

**51.8.4 Bank Reconciliation** dated 18 Sep-23 was approved and accepted.

**51.8.5 Bank Payments** for Sep/Oct-23 payments due were approved.

**51.9 Phone Box** – no update, re-chased Aug-23.

Purchase of the phone kiosk is a cost of £1. Supplying electricity is approximately £20 annually.

Renovation costings (glass pane replacement, rivets and paint) to be provided to the next meeting with a view of a circulating a village questionnaire to obtain parishioner opinions on the future of the phone box.

**51.10 Highways / Vegetation** – nothing to note.

**51.11 Drainage Works – Highways, Herts CC**

A response on the works carried out in the village was received. Comments to be provided to the parishioner that highlighted concerns over the works.

**51.12 Flooding** – see discussion in item 51.3 above.

**51.13 Playing Field**

Playing equipment inspection report due, not yet received.

Septic waste running into the ditch to be monitored – see item 51.15.1.

Holes made in the pathway have been filled and goals remain in place.

A request has been made to cut the hedge.

**51.14 Church** – Annual fundraiser is arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> Oct-23 in the Village Hall, £10 per head.

**51.15 School / Parking** – Parking continues to be problematic on the corner.

**51.15.1 School / St George's End**

Waste flowing from the septic tank into the ditch to the playing field was discussed. It appears that the company has not been emptying the tank as frequently as in previous years. Cllr Pledger to investigate and establish if there are any formal arrangements to monitor this.

**51.16 Village Hall**

Film club has restarted after the summer shutdown –film nights to the end of the year planned are 15 September, 13 October and 24 November. Classes continue with carpet bowls, table tennis and yoga.

A blind wine tasting event is being held on 11 November, details will be published in the next newsletter.

**51.17 Newsletter**

The next 12-page edition is due to go to print 22 Sep-23.

Currently there are 10 advertisers and the newsletter is distributed to 300 households.

A pro-rata contribution to the printing costs are being made by Brent Pelham and Meesden Parish Council.



51.18 **Anstey Quarry** – see item 51.3.

51.19 **Defibrillator** – was checked last week, it remains in good working order and ready for use if needed.

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

51.21 **Any other Business**

51.21.1 It was noted that a vehicle parked outside Well Cottage was causing access/passing difficulties, Cllr Oxley to investigate.

51.22 **Matters Carried Forward** : Salt Bin at Snow End to be re-requested in Sep-23, second request submitted.

51.23 **Next Meeting** : Last meeting of the year to be held at the village hall on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Meeting closed at 20.45.

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