



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM

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

Members of the Public: Ann Grimsdale

Apologies: CC J Jones, DC L Boylan
PC De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman welcomed councillors to the September meeting.

40.1 Apologies

Apologies were received from CC Jones and PC De Bruyn.

40.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : Councillor Bagnall declared an interest in the Restricted Byway / Footpath No. 20 on the Agenda, item 40.7.2.

40.3 Public Comments : None.

40.4 Police Report : Last report received was received on 28th August; low criminal activity across East Herts rural areas, however, there were increasing roadside checks in Much Hadham, Albury and Stocking Pelham as these areas have highlighted speeding concerns by residents via ECHO.

Reporting will change from September where a rural report will be sent to all parishes rather than individually.

40.5 County / District Councillor Comments :

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.

40.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2021 were reviewed and one correction made under 39.5 typing error of 'Meesden' – this was amended, and the minutes accepted as correct. The chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2021.

40.7 Planning

40.7.1 Little Orchard, Anstey Road SG9 0DX – 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 had no objection.

40.7.2 Footpath No. 20 Redirection – 3/21/2330/FDO for information, this did not warrant any discussion/ comment.

40.7.3 5 Two Acre Farm SG9 0BN Ref. 3/21/1120/HH – s/s oak framed orangery extension – no objections raised – awaiting decision.

40.7.4 Silkmead SG9 0DE 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. Neighbouring Parish Councils were not as supportive of the development.

40.7.5 Coltsfoot Farm SG9 0DE Ref. 3/20/2542 and 3/HH – Retention light windows – Parish Council gave a neutral response, awaiting decision.

40.7.6 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.

40.7.7 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 : 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 PC's.

40.7.8 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. Sara Saunders has communicated that it is ongoing.

40.7.9 No further applications or decisions.

40.8 Finance

40.8.1 The Financial Report was approved and accepted.

40.8.2 The Bank Reconciliation 27/09/21 was approved and accepted.

40.8.3 Instruction of a new Internal Auditor for Mar-22 : Cllr Parker will speak to a number of contacts.

40.8.4 September/October payments were approved including the poppy wreath for Anstey PCC @ £19.56.

40.9 Phone Box

Clerk requested a further inspection which BT have confirmed will be carried out and the missing Perspex replaced. The repair to the K6 phone box undertaken by BT last year was substandard but no further repairs were expected.

40.10 Highways / Vegetation

The lower field has been cut through by Cokenach following communication with landowners to request footpaths are cut throughout the village. Footpath No. 007 from the valley from the playing fields towards Meesden is undefined but passable.

A large pothole on the road to Brent Pelham, currently has a cone in it to warn motorists.

40.11 Silkmead isn't currently flooding although gully is filling when rains.

40.11.1 Cave Gate : flooding is atrocious at Stapleton Bridge on two corners, clerk continue to report and chasing Highways/CC Jones for action.

40.11.2 Playing Fields

40.11.3 No urgent works or repairs required following the Playground Inspection.

40.11.4 Goals. Cllr Bagnall confirmed he will approach a local contact who had obtained a JCB digger to assist with the removal of the existing goals. AstroTurf was considered to surround new goals as a solution to cutting the grass close to them but this was rejected as a solution.



- 40.11.5** Tree Works – to be inspected now the leaves are falling.
- 40.12 Church** War Memorial will be tidied for the next Remembrance Service.
It is 100 years since the memorial was completed, the first service was at 11am on 27th September 1921.
It was suggested that another photograph of residents around the memorial would be good to organise.
- 40.13 School / Parking** : There have only been occasional issues with parking since the last meeting.
- 40.14 Speeding** : Our village coordinator, Carolina updated the Council who has been in communication with PCSO De Bruyn. PC De Bruyn has confirmed there is no safe place to perform speeding checks. Clerk to complete the paperwork and return via the village coordinator. Chairman to be named as the coordinator.
- 40.15 Village Hall** : Yoga has restarted and is picking up new members, 9.15am on a Thursday morning. School isn't using the hall for lunches since Covid and are still having lunch bubbles at the school, but it is used for PE on Wednesday and Friday afternoons. Carpet Bowls is starting on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm and table tennis will soon resume on a Wednesday morning. The committee are meeting next on October 21st and will plan further activities. Harvest Tea is being organised at the Hall on Sunday 3rd October 3-5pm.
- 40.16 Newsletter** is currently provided as a digital document since the start of Covid. It was questionable how much it is read as a digital resource and feedback has been that a printed version would be read more. Cllr Oxley hoped that we could produce a shorter printed version with a larger version available digitally. Quotations have been received; £960 p.a. colour for three villages for 300 copies; Meesden x46, Brent Pelham x82 and Anstey x165. £160 per 300 colour 12 pages 6 times per year. Cllr Oxley to approach Meesden and Brent Pelham and also Horstead Newsletter to see how they get support for printing in their village. Speak to CC Jones and EHDC re: grants / funding.
- 40.17 Anstey Quarry** : latest is there's a 6-day hearing expected Ju-22. There has been no interest in purchase of the site.
- 40.18 Defibrillator** : checked and in working order, not been used. National Defibrillator Network has been in touch to check and to assure us that the defibrillator is on their system.
- 40.19 Correspondence** – a list of correspondence received and sent was received.
- 40.19.1** EHDC Lottery; projected earnings of £480/year – consider publicising/advertising amongst community.
- 40.20 Any other Business**
- 40.20.1** Refuse collections may not completed this week, advice is to leave bins on your boundary if missed.
- 40.21 Next Meeting** : 15th November 2021 – Meeting closed at 8.40pm.