



MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY, 17TH JANUARY 2022 AT 7.30PM

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

Members of the Public: Ann Grimsdale

County / District Councillors: CC Jeff Jones

Apologies: Cllr David House, DC Boylan, PC De Bruyn

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman welcomed councillors and members of the public to the first meeting of the year.

42.1 Apologies received from Cllr House, DC Boyland, PC De Bruyn.

42.2 Personal / Prejudicial Declarations : None.

42.3 Public Comments : None.

42.4 County / District Councillor Comments :

County Councillor Report from CC Jones

There is no update on the traveller site at Hare Street, an appeal is ongoing with the Planning Inspectorate.

The **HertsLynx** travel service numbers were slightly down for December.

Travelling west to Stevenage is popular.

There is demand in Anstey with 3 additional stops; Mill Lane (near High Hill Farm, Lincoln Hill and War Memorial).

For users, the App shows each stop area.

This service is successful and above expectations.

A further 2 buses will be added to the service, taking this up to 5. It is hoped that the new buses will be electric.

There is a **Queen's Platinum Jubilee** Press Release giving road closure information. Funding will be available from East Herts DC upto £300 and there is also available funds to apply for from the CC Locality Budget. Buntingford Town Event will be held at the Community Centre during the weekend of 4th/5th June. Jubilee dates: 2nd-5th June.

There was no update on the **Quarry**.

42.5 Police Report : No crimes were reported as of 31 December 2021.

42.6 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15 November 2021 following amendments : 41.1 add CC Jones to apologies and in 41.5 'suspects' should be in lower case in para 1 of the police report; Whilst onsite, suspects have removed cladding, and 'thefts; should be in lower case in para2; There has also been a recent increase in thefts. With these amendments accepted, the chairman was authorized to sign the minutes held on 15 November 2021.

It was suggested at the last meeting to include 'Matters Arising' but it was agreed the agenda already had capacity to include new items under existing headings or be brought to the chairman's attention via AOB.

The chairman was authorised to sign the minutes of the meeting held on 15 November 2021.

42.7 Planning

42.7.1 Church Gate Cottage SG9 0BY : 3/22/0018/HH – 2 storey front ext and alterations to front roof slope, new front door and screen – deadline 27 January 2022. Plans were reviewed, it was agreed there were no objections, the proposed works were not detrimental to the cottage or village – clerk uploaded 'no objections' to the portal 20/1/22.

42.7.2 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 – awaiting decision.



- 42.7.3 Well Cottage SG9 OBN** – 3/21/2490/LB and 2489/HH : demolition of outbuildings - awaiting English Heritage feedback and a decision.
- 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.

42.8 Finance

- 42.8.1** The Financial Report was approved and accepted including an additional item to replace the printer @ £75-£80. It was noted the playground inspection VAT was incorrect, clerk reviewed and amended to £9.22.
- 42.8.2** The Bank Reconciliation 17/01/22 was approved and accepted.
- 42.8.3** January and February payments were approved and cheques signed after meeting.

42.9 Phone Box

The listed phone box was inspected, new electric supplied and repairs carried out over the festive period. It was confirmed by the inspector that no further improvements were possible, replacement glass is no longer available and the perspex doesn't fit well. Clerk to write to BT and complain about repairs made, that the listed box is still operational within a conservation area.

42.10 Highways / Vegetation

Large collection of water outside phone box where the drain blocked was raised with village drainage complaints. Mill Lane pothole still has a bollard situated on it and online, the status is 'pending' – clerk to chase. Clerk to check with Cllr House regarding substandard repairs and fly tipping and follow up with Highways if needed.

42.11 Flooding

- 42.11.1 Silkmead** isn't currently flooding although gully is filling when rains, this will be monitored.
- 42.11.2 Cave Gate** : the location has (at last) been inspected and Highways reported this was the responsibility of the field landowner to clear the ditch. This was discussed; it was agreed that the top of the field ditch was above the height of the road, and as such, made no difference to the road draining. It was the gully that required cleaning to the top of the ditch. The field may flood due to the ditch not being maintained, but this would not affect the highway. Clerk to follow-up Cllr's House conversations with Cokenach and progress with Highways.

42.12 Playing Fields

- 42.12.1** No urgent works or repairs required.
- 42.12.2** Chairman will liaise with Cllr House re: hooks to anchor the new goals down and get the nets up.

42.13 Church

Ann Grimsdale thanked councillors for representing the War Memorial 100 year service – this was well attended and a beautiful service covered by the Mercury Newspaper.

42.14 School / Parking

Parking was improved but there was still inappropriate parking at school time. The village hall lower car park is being used and repairs have been holding up well.

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

It was agreed to speak to the landlord at the Blind Fiddler to ascertain if he had any plans or wished to arrange a village event. It was noted that temporary road closures could be imposed to allow street celebrations. A marquee was previously arranged on the playing field during a village event which was successful. Funding of up-to £300 is available from EHDC and this can be topped up using the CC Community Grant. Ann Grimsdale will discuss with the PCC to see if they wish to be involved / have any ideas. It was noted that there was a Platinum Pudding Competition to commemorate the Jubilee.

42.16 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.

Sadly, the film club evening was cancelled on 21 January due to Covid-19 concerns.

The committee remain committed to improving the upper car park area. Cllr Oxley will chase this with Cllr House.



It was agreed to check that the school sweep the hall after use on Wednesday and Fridays.
It was noted that the hall was cleaned once a month.

42.17 Newsletter

The Parish Council were grateful for the HCC Locality Grant of £1,000 that enabled the newsletter to return to a printed colour edition. Digital newsletter copy to be e-mailed to CC Jeff Jones for his information.
Queen's Platinum Jubilee news to be added to the next newsletter.
Suggestions for raising funds to enable the continuation of future printed editions were discussed.
It was agreed a directory of services would benefit readers.
Charge for advertising was discussed; it will be the editor's decision whether to charge for future listings.
The precept may need to be raised slightly to help fund future newsletter editions from 2023 (£564/year).
The Chairman proposed funding the newsletter if Brent Pelham and Meesden would replicate this.

42.18 Speeding

Clerk has chased PC De Bruyn to request the necessary paperwork to complete. Chairman will be the coordinator.
An incident was reported from Saturday, a lorry drove through Anstey village recklessly at high speed.

42.19 Anstey Quarry : nothing to report.

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

42.22.1 We are expecting information from Barkway Parish Council regarding the River Quin (sewer pumps into the quin).

42.23 Next Meeting : 14 March 2022. It was noted that the July meeting will move from 11th to 4th July.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.