



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
ANSTEY VILLAGE HALL  
13 MAY 2024 AT 7.00PM**

Present: Andrew Marchant  
David Oxley  
Amanda Parker  
Jan Pledger

Apologies: Simon Bagnall  
David House  
CC Jeff Jones  
PC De Bruyn  
Jenny and Gus Goymour  
Dave Kellett

Members of the Public: Mark Parrott  
Ann Grimsdale  
Kate Oxley  
Gemma Fry  
Robert Cadwallader  
Rod Hart  
Tony Pledger

District/ County Councillor: DC Geoffrey Williamson

Officer present: Caroline Jones (Clerk)

The chairman warmly welcomed councillors and the members of the public to the AGM Meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors Simon Bagnall and David House, County Councillor Jeff Jones and PC Leon De Bruyn.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** None Received.

**3. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEEING HELD ON 15 May 2023**

The minutes were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting held on 15 May 2023.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2023-24**

*Firstly, thank you for attending and I welcome you all to our 2024 annual Parish meeting.*

*As always, I would like to express my thanks to my fellow councillors for their regular attendance and input to council meetings.*

*Also, I especially thank Caroline Jones our Parish clerk for the dedication and time she puts into making sure the Parish council meetings and its financial and regulatory responsibilities run smoothly and efficiently in what has been a very turbulent year for her.*

*I also thank our local and district councillors, Geoff Williamson and Jeff Jones for their attendance at our Parish Council meetings and who help us whenever they can.*

*Our gratitude also to our local police team who, when time permits attend our PC meetings otherwise sending us updates with a monthly local crime report which thankfully Anstey doesn't feature in too often.*



*We have had a few planning applications to consider throughout the year, but these have been fairly straight forward with being mainly extensions and refurbishments, we had a large attendance at our Parish Council meeting last month with parishioners voicing their concerns over an application to develop the land above the village hall which the Parish Council lodged an objection against and which was fortunately upheld by planning.*

*We are still suffering from extraordinary bad service from the enforcement team who appear to be some years behind chasing up any reported breaches in planning consents, this year with the Quarry being used again for recycling, storage etc. in total breach of a lodged planning enforcement we have received no satisfactory response from enforcement about how they are going to proceed which is very frustrating, but I can assure you we are constantly chasing this up.*

*We, as always thank David Moule for his time and vigilance in keeping our village tidy and monitoring the playing field equipment, as I mentioned last year we are now funding litter picking, as the grant that we used to receive has been finished. We replaced one of the picnic benches in the playing fields last year and looking at the other one I think we may have to replace that as well this year.*

*Our thanks also go out to the fair committee who help so much with raising additional and substantial funds for different aspects of the village and after a break last year are back with what sounds like a fabulous new look fair which will take place in the grounds behind the church and we wish them good luck with the weather and for a successful day.*

*I would also like to thank again Dave Oxley for his fine editing and production of the village newsletter, the original funding via Jeff Jones's locality grant for the preferable printed copy has now finished and so with the three Local Parish Councils contributions and some much needed advertising revenue Dave has managed to continue its production and also thanks for his monitoring and checking of the local defibrillator.*

*Andrew Hodson has, for the last 3 years been our external auditor for the Parish Council, balancing our accounts and making sure that all is in order with our legal and financial responsibilities, fortunately with our fantastic Clerk Caroline, all our figures etc. tally, but nevertheless we thank Andrew whole heartedly for helping out and signing us off for another year.*

*As I mentioned, two major costs have now been added to our list of responsibilities, the litter picking and the newsletter costs which regrettably has forced us to increase the village precept, we have increase by as little as possible and the projected budget is still very tight, which means we must be careful with our outgoings.*

*Our gratitude goes out to the village hall committee for their continued reinvigoration of the village hall in the social calendar of the village, with as I mentioned last year, the film nights, quiz nights, fitness classes the list goes on, also more improvements are still taking place which I am sure Kate will detail later.*

*We on the Parish Council look forward to serving the villages' interests for the next year and are always open to any suggestions or ideas that anyone in the village may have to improve our living environment.*

*Thank you.*

**Andrew Marchant**  
**Chairman of Anstey Parish Council. May 2024**

**5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

The chairman confirmed a 20% increase of precept to cover litter picking and newsletter production.

**6. VILLAGE HALL AGM REPORT**

*Many thanks to Rod for preparing the financial reports and for all the work he does as treasurer for the hall committee.*

*The hall continues to be used for a range of activities on a regular basis.*

*The school use the hall for sports lessons, particularly in winter, and for special events and assemblies when they need extra space.*



*Three exercise classes are held here every week – table tennis, carpet bowls and yoga.*

*The monthly film club continues to be popular, with an average audience of about 30 villagers enjoying a variety of films, with a drink in hand.*

*The committee have organised several well attended community and fundraising events during the year, including an enjoyable wine tasting evening in November, masterminded by the Marstons, followed after Christmas by a very lively Beat the January Blues music night with Tony Pledger and Sky West, and the ever popular village quiz in March, kindly written and led by Edward Burton.*

*The hall has also been hired for a variety of church and community groups and private events, including sessions with a spiritual medium, children's parties and Bible discussion classes.*

*A number of improvements to the hall have been made during the year. Following the five yearly electrical inspection in May 2023, some remedial work was undertaken to lighting to meet current regulations.*

*A CO2 extinguisher was bought after an inspection by the Fire Service in August, as they are more effective for electrical fires.*

*After we experienced some difficulties with the film projection system, new speakers, transmitter, receiver and cabling were installed which seems to have solved the problem.*

*We have also replaced the microwave and put up new blinds in toilets.*

*We have transferred our savings account to a Saffron Walden Building Society Bond in order to earn more interest.*

*We are about to complete our long term project to replace all the windows and doors with double glazed and heat efficient ones, by installing new fire doors. EHDC have agreed a grant which will pay almost half the cost, and the contractors are due to visit in a few weeks' time.*

*The drive and car park have not been flooded as badly as usual, despite the very heavy rain this year, thanks to the improvements we made last year. However, there are some dips which need to be filled in and I am hoping that this can be organised over the next few months. I imagine that this may be something that has to be done annually.*

*Finally the committee were very relieved that planning permission was refused for the new housing, the garden fences of which would have seriously impacted on the hall's natural light and ambience.*

*Many thanks to everyone who has supported the village hall over the year.*

**Kate Oxley, Chair of Village Hall Committee. May 2024**

## **7. Open Forum**

Questions were raised with regard to the Quarry. The Chairman updated attendees that the Enforcement Officer had retired and progress with the use of the Quarry was slow. A request was made for photographic evidence of activity onsite and has been shared with an Enforcement Deputy. EHDC Planning confirmed enforcement responsibility was with the County Council. Activity was confirmed as truck movements on/offsite, containers, vehicles and business activity 3 times/week. Our County Councillor, Jeff Jones, has been progressing action to force the site to return to its previous use. It was noted that cleaning/ removal would be costly.

Flooding in front of the BT Kiosk was noted – unfortunately historic ditches that took water to Little Thatch in front of the cottages have been filled. Communications have been undertaken with the council with little progress. The ditch has been dugout and gulley cleared opposite with no avail.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20pm.



---

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ (Page 3 of 3)

*Draft*