

**MINUTES OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 at 7.30 PM in the village hall.**

Councillors present: Cllr Adrian Waygood, Chairman  
Cllr Stuart Norman, Vice Chairman  
Cllr Jim Egginton  
Cllr Michael Stevens

Officer attending: Sylvia Ewen, standing in for Clerk indisposed with Covid.

Others present: 4 members of the public

21.39 **Apologies for absence:** Cllr Andy Miller and Cllr Simon Peace.

21.40 **Declarations of interest:** None appertaining to matters discussed.

21.41 **To receive and approve the minutes** of the meeting held 6<sup>th</sup> September: Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Stevens and adopted unanimously.

21.42 **Matters arising:** None that were noted.

21.43 **Financial report** and cheques for approval as per schedules to be circulated: Peartees Furniture for the memorial bench, clerk's salary, litter collection and website annual subscription. Cheques to be physically drawn and countersigned once the clerk has recovered.

21.44 **Correspondence:** The American Transmission Company can provide £350 towards the planting of trees; it was felt that this could be applied for to cover the cost of the Moor Green trees, or indeed, elsewhere. Cllr Egginton to consider if there are other sites within the parish where trees could be planted.

21.45 **Planning:** To consider current planning applications:

The Goose annexe: This was felt to be in keeping with the area and not visible from the road. No objection proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Egginton, resolved unanimously.

The Millhouse, Cromer, single storey extension: Application more modest than previous proposals. No objection proposed by Cllr Egginton, seconded by Cllr Waygood and resolved unanimously.

21.46 **Highways:**

Cllr Egginton had been approached by villagers with concerns for school children who walk from Cromer to Luffenhall on the road after getting off the school bus; this matter had been discussed in the past and it was considered that there was nowhere for a footpath to be installed. Cllr Egginton suggested moving the flashing speed sign to another socket to see if this had any effect in speed reduction. Cllr Egginton wrote to Buntingford police who advised him to write to the Police Commissioner, David Lloyd. Cllr Egginton has also written to DriveSafe to see if a further speed restriction could be supported. The council is waiting to hear from Cllr Crofton regarding the progression of the proposals for a 20mph speed limit in School Lane and Luffenhall.

**Cromer drainage problems:** Water is still running down the main road. The clerk wrote to Affinity asking them to confirm whether the water was due to a main leak and was informed that the cause of outflow was still being investigated. Cllr Norman noted that the surface of the road becomes gritty, which suggests that the drains cannot cope with the run-off water and will take photographs to send to Cty Cllr Crofton.

**21.47 Playground:** No comments were made regarding the fencing in Cllr Miller's absence. Cllr Waygood spoke to Mr Hawes who said that a strimmer would be useful and therefore proposed the purchase of a small petrol strimmer and will circulate details of possible models.

**21.48 Moor Green:** Cllr Stevens has sourced two common oaks from Rochfords which come with a root ball, at £105 each. Cllr Stevens will arrange for his gardeners to plant them at the top end of Moor Green and will pay for their labour himself.

**21.49 Wood End:**

Spring Grange pond: Cllr Egginton has approached the owner of Spring Grange regarding his proposal to clear/improve the pond; Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust say that it is not a designated wildlife area so action is permissible.

Proposed by Cllr Egginton, seconded by Cllr Stevens: The council is in favour of the owner clearing the pond, subject to his forwarding his plans to the council in advance of so doing. Resolved unanimously.

**21.50 Parish Council Land:** Clerk to organise maps for councillors for next meeting.

Cllr Stevens queried the ownership of the common land at Muncher's Green which is parish council land; currently this patch of land is unmanaged. Cllr Stevens to research the history so the council can decide what if any action to take.

Cllr Stevens made a plea for all landowners in the parish to ensure that roadside hedges are cut back.

**21.51 Urgent matters not previously notified:** Cllr Stevens reported a tree at the entrance to Moor Green with a bough that could and damage cables. Openreach have made a site visit and stated that responsibility lies with Highways who are aware. Cllr Stevens to pursue with Cty Cllr Crofton.

**21.52 Date of next meeting:** Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm in the village hall.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm. The owners of the Goose thanked the council for its comments. It was mentioned that Munchers Green was clear 30 years ago; the logs and gates were installed to discourage 4x4 off-roaders but not anyone else. It is common land so the public can walk and ride on it and some of the cottages have the right to graze a cow or two on it.