
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 7th March 2022 at 7.30 PM in the village hall.

Councillors present: Cllr Adrian Waygood, Chairman
Cllr Jim Egginton
Cllr Michael Stevens
Cllr Simon Peace

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: 1 member of the public

22.16 Apologies for absence: Cllr Stuart Norman and Cllr Andy Miller.

22.17 Declarations of interest: None.

22.18 To receive the minutes of the last meeting held 10th January 2022. The time that the meeting closed was added. Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Egginton as a correct record and carried unanimously.

22.19 Matters arising:

- Neighbourhood plan: Cllr Peace is continuing with his research and consultation with Walkern Parish Council.
- The litter bin by the telephone box is embedded in concrete which is impeding its relocation to the playground. Cllr Waygood suggested replacing it with a new bin with restricted access like those in Walkern to prevent bulk rubbish dumping from cars and would research costs for a standard green slotted bin and a wooden custom-made version.

22.20 Correspondence:

- Training courses: Remote training courses, including one on Planning Issues, are available for councillors provided by HAPTC; it was considered preferable to repeat the invitation to the Planning Department for an officer to attend a meeting, either live or remotely, to answer questions and queries. Clerk to write requesting this again.
- 20s Plenty Speed Restriction Campaign: Following discussion there was no agreement for requesting an overall parish limit of 20mph limit; rather a selective approach, such as the current request for a 20mph limit in School Lane which is being pursued and the traffic calming measures for Cromer which are still ongoing.

22.21 Financial report and cheques for approval as per schedules previously circulated. Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace and approved unanimously.

22.22 Planning: 3/22/0442/HH and 3/22/0454 LBC – single storey extension at Moor Hall Farm. Proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Waygood: This council has no objection. Carried unanimously.

22.23 Highways:

Issues relating to overhanging branch at Moor Green: The owner of the land adjacent to the road has been discovered from a Land Registry extract.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Stevens: Clerk to write to the owner informing him of the need to cut down the branch. Carried unanimously.

Cromer drains and roadworks: Highways Department has not been in touch with information as to what work will be carried out.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Peace: Clerk to request Cty Cllr Crofton to arrange a meeting on site to discuss what work is planned and arrange a one-way diversion through Luffenhall. Carried unanimously.

Large hole at the edge of the road between Cromer and Walkern: This is within the parameters of Walkern Parish Council, but is putting road users from this parish at risk.

Proposed by Cllr Egginton, seconded by Cllr Peace: Clerk to contact Walkern PC to ask what action they are taking.

22.24 Playground:

Fencing repairs: Cllr Miller is leaning towards a new chain link fence and is obtaining estimates, to be considered next time.

To consider purchase of a strimmer: Cllr Waygood submitted prices for both petrol and battery models.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace: A petrol strimmer to be purchased from Tuckwells for £299. Carried unanimously.

Grass cutting: The council wished it to be noted that Mr Calvin Hawes is voluntarily cutting the grass in the playground, as well as the churchyard and the calvary and expressed its gratitude for his kind efforts on behalf of the parish and local community.

The report had been received from Broadmead Leisure on the condition of the playground, with nothing requiring immediate attention. Cllr Peace to look into the cost of a roundabout.

22.25 Village Hall:

Cllr Peace volunteered to join the Village Hall Committee.

Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr Waygood that the council make a donation of £800 to the village hall again this year. Resolved unanimously.

22.26 Ardeley:

The replacement seat beside the pond is in hand.

Pond railings: Following the information given by a parishioner, inquiries had been made as to the ownership of the railings and investigations initiated by Cty Cllr Crofton showed that Highways were responsible for their maintenance.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Stevens: Clerk to ask Cty Cllr Crofton to set up a site meeting with Highways to ensure that the railings are replaced on a like for like basis to preserve the character of the village. Resolved unanimously.

Ownership of the pond which is currently unregistered: Cllr Waygood to make enquiries of the church wardens.

22.27 Moor Green: Issues relating to BOATs. Cllr Stevens is to meet Andrew Burton, the local officer for the area, to discuss the issues relating to the recent resurfacing near Moor Green, and the deep mud in the areas between School Lane and Moor Green. Also to discuss the collapse of the retaining wall in Back Lane.

22.28 **Tree planting** suggestions for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Egginton had been asked for lime trees to be planted along the edge of the old cricket field in Cromer, to be planted in the autumn. A grant towards the cost of this is to be looked into.

22.29 **Parish council land:** Management.

Cllr Stevens will compile a report on what maintenance specifically needs to be done in Munchers Green. Other areas of council land, especially Moor Green, are to be looked at.

22.30 **Fixed assets:** The list was considered to be up to date, save for any further devaluation. However, the original values were felt to be informative for insurance purposes.

22.31 **To appoint independent auditor** for 2021-2022 audit. The clerk confirmed that Mr John Charlton had kindly volunteered to audit the accounts again this year and the council expressed its thanks to Mr Charlton.

22.32 **Luton Airport:** Cllr Peace reported that the landing stacks had been repositioned to the Biggleswade area which has resulted in a significant decrease in aircraft noise over the parish. However, there is a new consultation in Stevenage on 15th March about the proposal to double the number of flights from Luton.

22.33 **Urgent matters not previously notified:** None.

22.34 **Date of next meeting and annual meetings:** Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.00pm. Please note the earlier start time.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm.

Public participation: A parishioner requested that 2 trees be planted on council land opposite Spring Grange. The condition of the BOAT between School Lane and Moor Green was felt to be in a poor condition. Moor Green is a designated wild life area and hay cutting should only take place once a year.