



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 9th May 2022 at 7.00 PM in the village hall, immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of Ardeley Parish Council.

Councillors present: Cllr Adrian Waygood, Chairman
Cllr Stuart Norman
Cllr Jim Egginton
Cllr Andy Miller
Cllr Simon Peace

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: 2 members of the public

22.43 Apologies for absence: Cllr Mike Stevens and courtesy apologies from Cty Cllr Ken Crofton.

22.44 Declarations of interest: None.

22.45 To receive the minutes of the last meeting held 7th March 2022 as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Egginton and carried unanimously.

22.46 Matters arising:

Ardeley Pond: Cllr Waygood attended a site meeting with staff from Highways Dept. with the support of Cty Cllr Crofton, and reported that Highways has accepted that the railings are rotting and the metal has moved, both of which pose a risk, and will fund 3 tiers of new railings in the interests of safety, the cost to come out of their 2023/4 budget.

Ownership of the pond: The pond is currently unregistered and unowned. Discussion as to whether Ardeley Parish Council should register ownership, despite the associated risk liability and maintenance responsibility resulting from so doing.

Proposed by Cllr Norman, seconded by Cllr Miller: Ardeley Parish Council should not take steps to register ownership of the pond as the status quo is effective. Carried: 2 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

Litter bins: Cllr Waygood produced prices and designs for a range of bins for next to the BOAT, the playground and the phone box, for consideration.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace: Ardeley Parish Council to purchase of 2 x 36 litre bins for £264.95, including delivery. Carried unanimously.

Securing an information visit from a planning officer: Clerk to write to Ms Saunders, Head of Planning, with some sample questions for her to consider in her response to the council's invitation.

Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Peace reported that he had been in contact with HAPTC for guidance as to its suitability to Ardeley parish and was awaiting a response.

Platinum Jubilee tree planting: Cllr Egginton confirmed that the edge of the tee junction with Cromer was a suitable site, as was also near the pond opposite Spring Grange on land owned by Ardeley Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Waygood and Cllr Miller: that Cllr Egginton spend up to £300 on purchasing new trees. Carried unanimously.

22.47 Correspondence: Cllr Egginton had been contacted by a parishioner about the appearance of the work on the pond opposite Spring Grange. He noted that the work had conformed to the requirements of the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, and had been carried out at considerable expense to the owner of Spring Grange. Cllr Egginton will continue to monitor the area but noted that the ecology report had recorded that no species had been lost as a result of the restoration.

22.48 Financial report and cheques for approval as per circulated schedule. Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace and carried unanimously.

22.49 Planning: To consider current planning applications.

Spring Grange, Wood End: The proposal would match Spring Grange with Cherry Farm which would restore Spring Grange to its original outline. No objection proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace and carried unanimously.

Ladydene, Moor Green: The proposal would enhance the appearance of Moor Green; the property was already out of the price range of affordability. No objection proposed by Cllr Egginton, seconded by Cllr Peace and carried by 4 in favour and one abstention.

The Chapel House, Cromer: There is insufficient information on the site plan as to the location of the proposed building; the building appears larger than that outlined in the previous application and would seem to be a green field development as opposed to a brown field one. Furthermore, the foot path access and the fate of the trees remains unclear.

Proposed by Cllr Norman, seconded by Cllr Waygood: Ardeley Parish Council objects to the application for the reasons discussed. Carried unanimously.

22.50 Highways:

The clerk reported that the landowner had arranged for contractors to fell the overhanging branch at Moor Green on 11th May.

Cromer Drains: Cllr Crofton Ken has not yet produced the report, following the site meeting on 5th May, but it would appear that the road drain has collapsed.

22.51 Playground:

Fence repairs: Cllr Miller had been unable to obtain a quotation from a contractor to carry out the fencing repairs as the job is too small. Cllr Miller therefore kindly undertook to carry out the repairs himself with the assistance of Cllr Peace.

The strimmer purchase is being pursued by Cllr Egginton from Buckles. Associated Health and Safety issues discussed. Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Miller: Visor, helmet and gloves to be purchased also, Cllr Egginton to ask Buckles to provide safety training for Mr Hawes and clerk to issue form to confirm that he has read the owner's manual, received training and wears the protective equipment during the course of his duties. Carried unanimously.

22.52 Health and Safety for Operatives:

Grass maintenance: See above.

Litter collection: There is a hi-viz jacket available which the collector should be asked to wear or an appropriate garment purchased. Clerk to write to Mrs Yates.

22.53 Moor Green: Issues relating to BOAT. Following a site visit with Highways officers, Cllr Waygood reported that the resurfacing should have had two layers and will be made good by Highways when funds permit; they will also repair the retaining walls.

22.54 Parish council land: Management is an ongoing project; Cllr Stevens has prepared a table setting out the existing arrangements, to be discussed at the next meeting.

22.55 Luton Airport Expansion Update: Cllr Peace said that as result of the first consultation, the stack has been moved from Royston to Biggleswade and that there should now be fewer planes flying over the parish. The recent consultation which closed in April proposed expansion from 16 million to 30 million flights over 5 years. Mr Vincent attended the presentation in Stevenage and confirmed that it mirrored the booklet that had been issued to residents. The result of the consultation is awaited.

22.56 Urgent matters not previously notified: The clerk requested funding for relevant online training from HAPTC at £14 each session which the council agreed to unanimously.

22.57 Date of next meeting: Monday 4th July 2022 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.09pm. A resident expressed thanks to the parish council for all the work carried during the course of the year and expressed regret that there were so few parishioners present to witness it.