



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 5th September 2022 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

Councillors present: Cllr Stuart Norman, Acting Chairman
Cllr Jim Egginton
Cllr Mike Stevens
Cllr Tim Noble, newly co-opted.

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: 8 members of the public

22.72 Apologies for absence: Cllr Adrian Waygood and Cllr Simon Peace.

22.73 Declarations of interest: None.

22.74 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR to fill casual vacancy created by the resignation of Andrew Miller: Following due process, three applications were received by the deadline of 3rd September; all applicants attended the meeting and addressed the council on their reasons for wishing to be co-opted. **Following a paper vote, Mr Tim Noble was elected on a 2:1 majority. After signing the declaration, Cllr Noble joined the council.** The chairman thanked all the applicants for their time and interest.

22.75 To receive the minutes of the last meeting held 4th July 2022. Proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Egginton and approved unanimously.

22.76 Matters arising:

Cllr Stevens had received no response from Andrew Burden from the Rights of Way Department about BOAT 51 and will continue to chase. Cllr Stevens reported that he had spoken to Mr Paul Andrews regarding Munchers Green which he will follow up with a letter; all that is required is an access path for the public across the green. Cllr Stevens had ascertained that in Wood End and other patches of council land, residents were still willing to mow the grass.

22.77 Correspondence: The Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan was considered not to be relevant to the parish.

Details from Cllr Crofton had been circulated of the Race Night on 23rd September.

New dates for a zoom meeting to discuss planning issues with Sara Saunders had been received. The clerk was asked to forward these to Cllr Peace as he had initially expressed an interest.

22.78 Financial report and cheques for approval.

The financial schedules including expenditure had been circulated prior to the meeting, comprising litter collection, clerk's salary, PAYE and re-imburement for document storage boxes; September's playground inspection, and the annual website charge: cheques approved and signed.

Proposed by Cllr Egginton and seconded by Cllr Norman: Clerk to receive a rise of 15% to reflect cost of living, being the first increase since she took office in 2019. Resolved unanimously.

22.79 Planning: To consider current planning applications:

Birch Tree Paddock, Cromer: application for outline planning permission.

It was considered that a propensity to flooding will be relevant in due course when a building application is made but did not affect outline permission.

Proposed by Cllr Norman, seconded by Cllr Egginton: No objection. Carried 2:1 abstention,

Beards Oak, Ardeley: Proposed by Cllr Norman, seconded by Cllr Egginton: No objection. Carried unanimously.

2 The Crescent, Ardeley: It was noted that there was insufficient documentation and detail in the application. The location plan was very small with no artist's impression; the proposals were too large and out of keeping with the other houses.

Proposed by Cllr Norman, seconded by Cllr Egginton: Objection - the formation of the front extension would effect a change to the character of the Crescent as a whole, and the entire proposal constitutes an over development of the site to both front and back.

Carried unanimously.

22.80 Highways:

Cromer Drains: Owing to the resignation of Ben Randall, Ringways' overseer of the project, the clerk had been unable to obtain any information about a time scale for the improvements, other than the fact that his successor will not be in post until October.

22.81 Ardeley: maintenance of the village pond.

Mr Vincent had emailed to say that he was happy to continue to look after the pond on behalf of the council as in previous years, and that he would be clearing sycamores and elderberries from the church's side, within the curtilage of the pond as well as removing brambles and undergrowth from the inlet end. Mr Vincent also expressed concerns about the appearance of the planned new fencing which should be similar to the one being replaced.

The council expressed its gratitude for the efforts of Mr Vincent; even though the council does not own the pond, it was felt that it should be maintained as it was an integral part of the character of the village.

Clerk to write to thank Mr Vincent; Cllrs Peace/Waygood may be able to give an update on the new fencing. For the agenda of next meeting.

22.82 Playground: pigeon spikes for play equipment.

A quotation had been obtained from Broadmead Leisure for £220 to install anti bird roosting spikes on the top of the equipment beams to prevent the current guano problem.

Cllr Stevens proposed that the quotation is accepted, seconded by Cllr Egginton. Carried unanimously.

The biannual report on the playground had only just been received - to be considered at next meeting.

22.83 Parish council land:

1)Munchers Green: Public access across the green should be maintained. Cllr Stevens to liaise with Mr Andrews who assists voluntarily with maintenance of the green.

2)Storage of legal documentation at solicitors.

Cllrs Egginton and Stevens had visited the offices of Tollers solicitors and inspected the parish council documentation held there, the majority of which concerned easements granted to individual properties at Moor Green and Wood End. In addition, there is the transfer document relating to the purchase of land from the Church Commissioners in 1960.

It was agreed that the documents should remain stored at Tollers for which there does not seem to be any charge.

The clerk mentioned that there is a large amount of old correspondence, some of which relates to the easements and she did not feel that she was able to dispose of it; she had therefore purchased a number of plastic storage boxes of manageable size and will store them indefinitely at her home. Cllr Stevens agreed to look at them to see if anything could be discarded.

22.84 Jubilee tree planting at Cromer and Wood End: The clerk had ascertained from Mr Young that there was £143.99 available to fund tree planting in the parish.

Cllr Stevens has spoken to residents about the position of the new trees in Wood End, one oak tree was proposed, together with a couple of other trees and the residents kindly agreed to take responsibility to water them.

22.85 Urgent matters not previously notified: An email addressed to the clerk had been received from Stephen McEnelly, a fundraiser for Citizen's Advice. To consider next time.

22.86 Date of next meeting: Monday 7th November 2022 at 7.30pm.

The meeting concluded at 8.41pm.

Public participation:

Congratulations were extended to Cllr Noble on his appointment.

A resident asked for the public to be given one minute to comment on planning applications during the meeting, rather than at the end, at the chairman's discretion.