



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 9th January 2023 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

Councillors present:

Cllr Stuart Norman, Acting Chairman
Cllr Jim Egginton
Cllr Simon Peace
Cllr Tim Noble

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: 3 members of the public

23.01 Apologies for absence: Cllr Adrian Waygood and Cllr Mike Stevens

23.02 Declarations of interest: None

23.03 To receive the minutes of the last meetings held 7th November 2022 and extraordinary meeting held 28th December 2022.

Proposed by Cllr Noble as an accurate record, following minor amendments to wording, hand corrected contemporaneously, seconded by Cllr Egginton and approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.

23.04 Matters arising: The archaeology condition for Spring Grange: It was confirmed by Planning that this was partially discharged in 28th June 2021 and will be fully discharged when all information has been submitted; the development may proceed in the meantime.

23.05 Correspondence: Cllr Norman had sent an email which took issue with the council's observations made at the extraordinary meeting to his planning application. He did not wish to receive a reply. In Cllr Norman's absence the council reconsidered its comments and there were no proposals made as a result of the discussion.

The clerk had received a phone call from the owner of Gardner's End informing the council that an application was in hand to re-route the footpath to its original position during the previous ownership.

Thanks had been expressed by a resident for the bird deterrent spikes installed in the playground. A parishioner had asked for the hedges to be cut outside Bradcots and which is not within the remit of Ardeley Parish Council. Individuals should report the any issues to Highways East Herts similarly with those relating potholes and road surface issues.

23.06 Financial report and cheques for approval were presented as per the schedules. Proposed as approved by Cllr Peace and seconded by Cllr Egginton and approved unanimously.

23.07 Precept: to consider the budget and set the precept demand for financial year 2023-2024. A budget sheet of anticipated expenditure based on previous years' figures had been circulated by the clerk prior to the meeting. Given the considerable contingency fund, it was proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr Egginton to keep the precept demand at £6000 as in previous years. Approved unanimously.

23.08 Planning: To consider current planning applications.

Chapel House: The proposal would not be overlooked except by the Old Barn, will not be seen from the road and replaces a shed. No objection, proposed by Cllr Egginton and seconded by Cllr Noble, carried unanimously.

Ardeley Bury: This was deemed a sensitively designed development which would not be overlooked. No objection, proposed by Cllr Noble, seconded by Cllr Peace and agreed unanimously.

23.09 Highways: Cromer drains: The problem is being looked at by Ringways.

Cromer traffic calming: Entry demarcation 'gates' are due to be installed according to Cty Cllr Ken Crofton.

Traffic speed indicator for Cromer: Cllr Egginton agreed to look at what options are available and whether a second indicator could be obtained as there are 2 installation sockets.

23.10 Ardeley: Pond fencing: to authorise emergency maintenance. Cllr Peace volunteered to tidy up any protruding metal.

Repairs to library box and telephone box: Proposed by Cllr Norman and seconded by Cllr Peace: Cllr Peace to liaise with Peartree Furniture to progress the repairs which Ardeley Parish Council would pay for as per quotation.

Seat beside pond: Cllr Peace reported that the old seat fell apart and a generous parishioner has provided some wood for its restoration. Cllr Peace to progress.

23.11 Parish noticeboards: to authorise regular maintenance, including library box.

Cllr Peace volunteered to liaise with Peartree Furniture.

23.12 Playground: To progress playground fence repairs.

Repairs to the fence were not considered to be necessary at the present time.

23.13 Parish council land: Cllr Stevens had reported that the undergrowth on Munchers Green had been cut back so that it was now passable for walkers.

23.14 Jubilee tree planting at Cromer and Wood End: Update. The planting had now taken place and thanks were extended to all who joined the working party. The oak trees on Moor Green had also been replaced.

23.15 Urgent matters not previously notified:

Cllr Egginton reported that some parishioners in Cromer had requested that APC run a Facebook page for publicising planning applications. The clerk had taken advice and was informed that this is not a mandatory requirement for a parish council. A link had now been provided on the APC website to the East Herts Planning Portal with a note that individuals can set up an alert for planning applications in their area. Councillors continue to be at liberty to post on the local Facebook pages drawing attention to local issues as they see fit.

23.16 Date of next meeting: Monday 6th March 2023 at 7.30pm.

Public participation: The council confirmed in response to comments received that the track outside Acre Farm is parish land and everyone has a right to use it and that the signs which have been permitted for Acre Farm can only bear the house name.