



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 6th March 2023 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

Councillors present: Cllr Adrian Waygood, Chairman
Cllr Mike Stevens
Cllr Simon Peace
Cllr Tim Noble

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: 5 members of the public

23.17 Apologies for absence: Cllr Stuart Norman and Cllr Jim Egginton.

23.18 Declarations of interest: None relating the agenda.

23.19 To receive the minutes of the last meeting held 9th January 2023.

Proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Noble as accepted as a correct record and adopted unanimously.

23.20 Matters arising: None.

23.21 Correspondence: Formal notification had been received from EHDC that the litter grant would no longer exist in the next financial year, leaving the council to fund the litter collection from its own resources.

23.22 Financial report and cheques for approval. Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr Stevens and approved unanimously.

23.23 Planning: There were no current planning applications for the council to consider.

23.24 Highways: Cromer drains update: Nothing to report.

Cromer traffic calming measures: White gates had been installed at the Cromer boundaries, at no cost to Ardeley Parish Council as Cllr Crofton had met this from his budget.

The relocation or addition of an additional speed indicator would be pursued by Cllr Egginton.

An email had been received from a Cromer resident complaining about the perennial speeding issues in Cromer; the chairman pointed out that the responsibility for traffic calming measures lies with the Highways, the police and Herts County Council and as there have been no accidents in Cromer to date it is apparently not a priority.

Wood End: A complaint had been received that there was mud on the road which Cllr Noble had reported.

Cllr Noble had also reported the overgrown hedges which the land owners had subsequently attended to.

23.25 Ardeley: Pond restoration: Cllr Peace had refastened the straps on the railings and reported that there are no rotten beams that are an apparent safety problem. Highways will renovate the

railings in 2024. Cllr Waygood added that the pond does not belong to Ardeley Parish Council and the railings are the responsibility of Highways. The pond will not be restored until it is cleared and this should be pursued in May when it is known who the new District Councillor will be.

Repairs to library box and telephone box: Cllr Peace to liaise with Peartree Furniture.

Seat beside pond: Cllr Peace reported that the posts for the new seat are being dried out and can be left until the pond restoration.

Maintenance plan for parish noticeboards and library box: Adjourned until after the restoration of the library box. Stuart Hurst of the church building committee to be approached regarding the maintenance of the Chris Dawson seat.

23.26 Grants:

1) Village hall. Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Stevens, £800 as last year, carried unanimously.

2) War memorial restoration for the Coronation: Proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Waygood Mike, a one off grant of £2300. Carried with one abstention.

23.27 Moor Green: Acre Farm - application for easement.

Concerns were raised about the new fence on the boundary to Acre Farm. The owner of Acre Farm was permitted to address the council and stated that he is in the process of replacing the fence [next to Ladydene] and is considering turning the fence into a gate, the reasons for which are to provide access to the house garden and occasional use for wide machinery to access the agricultural land behind.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Stevens: There is insufficient time to consider fully this evening; decision to be adjourned until the next meeting. Carried unanimously.

23.28 Cromer:

1) Use of land at corner site of the lane at Luffenhall, Birch Tree Paddock: Concerns were raised as to the current use not being in keeping with that of a greenfield paddock, i.e., a gravel driveway, paving, water supply, kennels, a long-term caravan, fenced off areas, cars parked on hard areas and a postal address and notice of business.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace: A letter to be sent to East Herts Planning informing them of the development of the green field site. Carried unanimously.

2) Metal shipping container installed in field between Cromer and Ardeley:

Proposed by Cllr Noble, seconded by Cllr Stevens: Letter to be sent to East Herts Planning querying whether permission is needed. Carried unanimously.

23.29 Parish council land: Maintenance update. Nothing new was reported.

Repairs to Back Lane. Dean Carroll of HCC is dealing with this and the environment agency are aware.

23.30 Walkern Consultation: The council felt that there was nothing to add.

23.31 Auditor's remuneration: Proposed by Cllr Peace and seconded by Cllr Waygood that the auditor be paid £150 for the annual audit. Approved unanimously.

23.32 Urgent matters not previously notified: Celebration to mark the Coronation. Cllr Noble agreed to be the point of contact should anyone wish to organise an event in the parish. An event in Cromer to include Luffenhall was already in hand.

Website: The clerk reported that the website had gone down because of insufficient data space and had been restored by Netwise pending an upgrade to the hosting package.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Stevens: The website to be upgraded to the premium rate, carried unanimously.

23.33 Date of next meeting and annual meetings: Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.00pm.

Public participation: Due to boundary changes, Cllr Crofton would remain as County Councillor if elected. The meeting was attended by Aubrey Holt, who is running for the East Herts District Council new ward of The Mundens.

This was the last meeting of Ardley Parish Council prior to the elections on 4th May.