



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in the village hall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 7.00pm.**

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

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk  
Others present: 2 members of the public

**1 Apologies for absence:** Cllr Mike Stevens. Cty Cllr Crofton also sent apologies.

**2 To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2022:** These were received and approved as a correct record, proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace and adopted unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

**3 Matters arising:** None.

**4 Parish Council Review of 2021-2022, delivered by the Chairman:**

Good evening everyone and welcome to our 2022 Annual Parish Meeting, with an especially warm welcome to our parishioners. Thank you for your interest, there will be an opportunity to make comments at the end of the report.

Despite the difficulties arising from Covid19, the council did its utmost to continue with business as usual, despite the unprecedented problems which arose in attempting to fully comply with government restrictions and guidelines when conducting live meetings which led to last year's parish meeting being somewhat briefer than usual.

In spite of all, the council continued to meet and function during the last year. Our finances have remained healthy and the council was able to ensure that the annual precept or rates charge levied on the parish remained frozen again at £6000, the same as it has been for a number of years. Compared to that of many other parish councils in Hertfordshire, this is a modest figure and could not be maintained at this level without the help and hands on approach of individual councillors together with the voluntary assistance of residents from behind the scenes, all of which reflects positively on the community spirit within this wonderful parish.

I would like to especially thank Mr Calvin Hawes for his unpaid efforts with the grass cutting of the playground and it is also worthy of note that Mr Hawes also keeps the churchyard grass tidy as well as that on the calvary opposite Ardeley Bury. Also our thanks to Mr John Charlton for kindly acting as the voluntary independent auditor of the council's accounts. Thanks are also due to Mrs Jackie Heywood and the other volunteers who kindly look after the defibrillator, the supplies for which are funded by the parish council. Also to the many others, including the village hall committee, who quietly help in ways that are outside the remit of the council but contribute so much to the quality of life of Ardeley parish as a whole.

The condition of the roads and bridleways has been a frequent cause for action and the council has sought to keep the pressure up on the Highways Department of HCC to carry out the necessary

repairs. This has been the case particularly with regard to the condition of the road surface in Blind Lane which has been remedied and the ongoing leakage of water on the road surface in Cromer the cause of which has proved something of an enigma to pinpoint. We are grateful for the necessary assistance of our District and County Councillor, Ken Crofton for highlighting these issues with the Highways Department.

Two oak trees have now been planted on Moor Green, the cost of which has been paid for by the council, with the labour costs kindly donated by Cllr Mike Stevens. It is to be hoped that they will thrive and grace Moor Green for many years. The council continues to ensure that the parish remains attractive and litter free and is grateful for the services of Mrs Jennie Yates in this respect.

The council is responsible for the playground and has increased the equipment inspections by Broadmead Leisure to twice yearly. As already mentioned, Mr Hawes kindly makes sure that the grass is kept trimmed.

There have been a number of planning applications and the council is routinely challenged by the need to balance the aspirations of individuals to improve and enhance their properties, with the overall character and ambience of our beautiful parish and we hope that our decisions reflect our strivings to do this. The council is aware of the need to try to preserve some affordable housing in order to facilitate some diversity of population. However, it should be stressed that in reality the impact of the parish council's recommendations is only advisory as are the comments submitted by individuals, and in several instances the council's decisions have been disregarded.

I would like to thank Cllr Simon Peace and Mr Bob Vincent for keeping an eye on the development plans of Luton Airport which continue to be an ongoing issue; being situated within commuting distance of London, we face a constant pressure here for more development and its associated traffic.

It has been a privilege to serve Ardeley and its surrounding villages and hamlets as chairman for another year; I hope that I am well known and approachable at all times. Because we are a small parish, the council does not work regular hours; we are here for you around the clock, as and when needed when problems arise. Please do get in touch with me or any of the other councillors if you have a matter you would like to bring to our attention or idea of how our parish could be enhanced or improved and thank you all for your support over the past difficult year.

Adrian Waygood

Comments: Cllr Miller thanked the chairman and council for an excellent job over the past year. There being no other comments, the meeting concluded at 7.24 pm.