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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.**

Councillors present: Cllr Adrian Waygood, Chairman  
Cllr Stuart Norman  
Cllr Jim Egginton  
Cllr Simon Peace  
Cllr Tim Noble  
Cllr Jackie York

Also present: Cty Cllr Ken Crofton

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: 6 members of the public

**23.59 Apologies for absence:** District Cllr Aubrey Holt.

**23.60 Declarations of interest:** Cllr Stuart Norman and Cllr Jackie York regarding their respective planning matters in 23.66.

**23.61 To receive the minutes of the meetings** held 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023:

The annual meeting of Ardeley Parish Council: Proposed by Cllr Waygood as an accurate record, seconded by Cllr Noble, approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.

The May bi-monthly meeting: Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace, approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.

**23.62 Matters arising:** The sign in the playground has been installed and remains in place.

**23.63 Correspondence:**

The clerk reported:

a) That a complaint had been received (the complainant wishing to be anonymous) as to the quality of the restoration work to the war memorial railings for which Ardeley Parish Council had made a donation. It was observed that the defects have since been repaired; no action to be taken.

b) A request had been received from the Minister for Health and Secondary Care, Will Quince MP, for the defibrillator to be registered. Cllr Peace to liaise with Jackie Hayward.

**23.64 Insurance:** The renewal premium of £487.51 to BHIB Insurers, due by 26<sup>th</sup> July. Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Peace and resolved unanimously.

**23.65 Financial report** and cheques for approval, schedules having been circulated prior to the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Peace and approved unanimously.

**23.66 Planning:** To consider current planning applications.

3/23/1080/FUL Barn adjoining Forge Cottage, White Hill, Cromer: Change of use and conversion of agricultural barn to 4-bedroom dwelling; erection of double garage and sewerage treatment plant. Cllr Norman left the room at this point. It was noted that permitted development rights had already been granted.

Proposed by Cllr Egginton, seconded by Cllr Noble: The council is in favour of the proposal in so far as the planning policy is met. Resolved unanimously.

EH279HCC Markhams Wood: Definitive map modification application to add a bridleway. Cllr York left the room at this point and Cllr Norman rejoined the meeting.

In 2003 a bulk application was made for a number of possible footpaths across the county dating back to the 1700s and 1500s to be re-established and the council is being asked if it is aware of any evidence to support the fact that a public footpath in this location has ever existed. Cty Cllr Crofton commented that the Rights of Way Team will make a decision based on any previous information about the path having been used historically.

Proposed by Cllr Peace and seconded by Cllr Noble: This council has no evidence of this being a public right of way or of its being used other than by the farmer/owner or persons with permission. Resolved unanimously.

**23.67 Highways:** Cllr York rejoined the meeting.

Speeding issues in Cromer: Cllr Egginton reported that speeding continues to be of concern to local residents and that he has informed the 'Twenty's Plenty' campaign of Cromer's interest and asked what can be done to progress it.

Proposed by Cllr Egginton, seconded by Cllr Waygood: That this council investigates the possibility of introducing a 20 mph speed limit in Cromer and Luffenhall. Carried 5:1.

Cty Cllr Crofton said that the County Council is in favour of implementing 20 mph and there are 400 areas in the county currently being considered for inclusion; having no pavements such as in Cromer and Luffenhall could be a factor in favour.

Speeding sign in Cromer High Street: Ideally an additional sign for the north end of the village would be desirable. Cty Cllr Crofton said it could be moved from the south end to the north end for a fee of £2-300. The officer to contact is [hope.merriman@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hope.merriman@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Norman: The sign to be moved to the north end of Cromer village and the sum of up to £350 be allocated for so doing. Approved unanimously.

Parish-wide road edge erosion: Notification had already been received from Cty Cllr Ken Crofton that the 'trench' on the Walkern road will be repaired between 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Cllr Waygood drew attention to the road coming into Ardeley which becomes particularly bad after heavy rain, especially the stretch from Bury Grange Farm coming into Cromer which causes cars to slide; there is a bank at the side of the road which makes the road narrower.

Cty Cllr Crofton commented collapsed road edges is a county wide problem and that the number of complaints influences priority given; he therefore suggested that complainants make telephone calls to explain the problem more clearly, rather than using the website and inform him of the reference number.

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[hope.merriman@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:hope.merriman@hertfordshire.gov.uk) Highways Officer

**23.68 Ardeley:**

Repairs to library box and telephone box and repainting: Cllr Peace reported that the works have started in the Peartrees workshop. £250.00 has already been agreed.

Playground: the obsolete litter bin. Cllr Waygood observed that it is concreted into the ground and its removal would leave a large hole; East Herts Council is currently emptying both bins. Cllr Egginton suggested leaving the bin where it is. All in agreement.

**23.69 Litter Collection:** Ardeley bin emptying issues.

Cllr Waygood had been in touch with District Cllr Holt who will lobby for an additional bin to alleviate the problem of overflowing bins. Cllr Waygood expressed the view that emptying only once a week is insufficient; District Cllr Holt is applying pressure to increase this.

**23.70 Parish council land:** Maintenance update: Cllr Waygood had received apologies from Mike Stevens who was unable to attend the meeting. Cllr Peace indicated that he would consider taking on the role.

**23.71 Urgent matters not previously notified:** The wooden retaining wall supporting Back Lane where it crosses the upper reaches of Ardeley Brook is in a state of collapse. Cllr Peace to raise with Highways; for next agenda.

**23.72 Date of next meeting:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 8.38pm.

A resident asked, 'Can we not apply for another speed warning sign instead of wasting money moving the current one which came from a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner?' Cty Cllr Crofton said that the Police and Crime Commissioner does have a grant budget and that speed signs cost in the region of £5000 each. Given that the socket already exists, it may be worth pursuing.

It was observed that the gateway signs at the edge of Cromer were obscured by nettles but Ardeley Parish Council cannot give express permission to residents to remove them.

A resident said that a 20 mph speed limit, although it may not be strictly adhered to, would be bound have the psychological effect of causing drivers to drive more slowly.

The hall was vacated at 8.45 pm.