



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

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

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: 2 members of the public

23.90 Apologies for absence: Cllr Stuart Norman, District Cllr Aubrey Holt.

23.91 Declarations of interest: None.

23.92 To receive the minutes of the last meeting held 4th September 2023 and the extraordinary meeting held on 16th October 2023:

4th September: Proposed by Cllr Waygood as an accurate record, seconded by Cllr Noble, approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.

16th October: Proposed by Cllr Peace as an accurate record, seconded by Cllr Noble, approved unanimously and signed by Cllr Egginton and countersigned by Cllr Noble, both of whom were present at the meeting.

23.93 Matters arising:

Cllr Peace reported that the defibrillator is already registered with the better of the existing two schemes; no further action required.

Cllr Waygood had spoken to Mr Andrews who has agreed to cut the hedges in Munchers Green for payment.

At the previous meeting, Cllr Noble raised the possibility of celebrating the 80th Anniversary of the D Day Landings next June. After discussion there were no proposals for the council to take the matter forward.

23.94 Correspondence:

Mrs Hayward had written on behalf of St Lawrence Church enclosing a picture of the plaque to be installed at the restored war memorial railings and thanking Ardeley Parish Council for its support with the project.

Mrs Lauezzari had asked if there was space on parish council land in which the school could plant trees; the council took the view that all tree spaces had been filled.

Cty Cllr Crofton had given notification that the work due to take place on Blind Lane had been postponed.

Clerk to write to ask if the 'Walkern Trench' repairs listed for 20th-27th November had also been postponed, and expressing disappointment regarding the postponement of the scheduled works and enquiring if there is a contingency plan so that councillors can answer questions from parishioners.

Clerk to request a time schedule of the work to be carried out and confirmation regarding the 'Walkern Trench' repairs and whether this is to include kerb removal work.

23.95 Financial report and cheques for approval as per pre-circulated schedules: Litter collection, clerk's salary and September playground inspection. Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded Cllr Waygood and approved unanimously.

23.96 Planning: To consider applications 1948 FUL Ardeley Bury and 1949 Ardeley Bury: Proposals would not overlooked except on the site; attractive design. Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr York: No objection. Resolved unanimously.

23.97 Highways:

Moving the Cromer speeding sign: Cllr Egginton had been told that moving the sign to the other socket was not part of the original bid and therefore the Highways Department would not be willing to pay for it now. Cllr Egginton had written to Highways asking the price of a new device and about the procedure for getting it installed and had received no response yet. Cllr Egginton had noted that trees were obscuring the sign and that Rushden PC have 2 signs and one was moved recently because of the tree. Clerk to write to Rushden clerk for information.

Twenty's Plenty Campaign materials: Cllr Egginton had received a range of responses and not all were in favour. There had been positive responses from Luffenhall where the national speed limit (60 mph) applies. Cllr Egginton to speak to the Buntingford Twenty's Plenty representative and formulate a proposal for the next meeting to take the campaign forward.

Horse rider warning signs: Cllr Noble to ask Mr Natt for suggestions for siting and then lobby Cty Cllr Crofton.

23.98 Ardeley: Repairs to library box and telephone box and repainting: Cllr Peace reported that the repairs to the library box had been completed. The telephone box repairs are ongoing.

Playground: Proposed by Cllr York, seconded by Cllr Peace: That the repairs indicated in the September inspection report, total cost £310, be authorised. Resolved unanimously.

23.99 Litter Collection in Ardeley: Cllr Waygood has continued to lobby District Cllr Holt and there seem to be no issues at present. Cllr Waygood will continue to monitor and ask for the new litter collection scheme to be reviewed as it seems unlikely to save any money

23.100 Parish council land: The council thanked Mr T Waygood for obtaining the tree surgery quotation from Oakley Arboriculture showing three trees that are dangerous on the byway owned by the council between School Lane viz: T23, T24 and T25. The surgery was estimated at £600 which is the lesser of two estimates.

Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr Egginton: The council agrees for the tree surgery to be carried out. Carried with one abstention.

23.101 Consultation on doctors' surgery and new homes in Buntingford: The clerk contacted the clerk to Cottered PC which does not have a view as yet. Following discussion there were no proposals.

23.102 Urgent matters not previously notified:

Maintenance of village signs: It was noted that this is the responsibility of county council, and not a matter for the parish council which cannot authorise anyone to touch a road sign.

Installation of flower boxes in front of the entrance signs: Following discussion there were no proposals due to insufficient information.

Beane Solar Farm proposals: An information sheet had been received by residents in Cromer and Luffenhall only days ago; the council considered that it needed further information.

Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr York that the clerk request a one to one meeting with the RES Ltd. Carried unanimously.

Cllr Noble had been asked to lobby Cty Cllr Crofton about the condition of the Bourne Bridge. Clerk to write to Ken Crofton also about the condition of the roads in the parish.

Cllr Waygood proposed a new computer for the clerk costing between £500-£800 as the current one is slow and sometimes seizes up. Carried unanimously.

23.103 Date of next meeting: Monday 8th January 2024.

[Future meeting dates: 4th March, 13th May, 1st July, 2nd September, 4th November 2024 and 6th January 2025].

The meeting closed at 9.09pm.

Public Participation: A resident asked if the council has a tree inspection survey every 3 to 5 years; it was suggested that a professional company be asked to survey the trees on parish council land and trees should be cut in February.