



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 4th March 2024 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

Cty Cllr Ken Crofton and District Cllr Aubrey Holt

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: 3 members of the public

24.17 Apologies for absence: Cllr Stuart Norman.

24.18 Declarations of interest: None.

24.19 To receive the minutes of the last meeting held 8th January 2024.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood as an accurate record, seconded by Cllr Peace, approved unanimously and signed by the chairman.

24.20 Matters arising: District Cllr Holt reported that he attended a meeting with the Planning Department and RES Ltd and the opposition group and there will be a further meeting at the end of the month. RES have indicated that they are limiting the application to East Herts, and are not proceeding with the area that falls in North Herts and are also moving the site away from the windmill. The planning application is now expected to be submitted in April or May. District Cllr Holt stressed the importance of maintaining the pressure on RES Ltd.

24.21 Correspondence:

- The pond flooding at Moor Green, dealt with at 24.27.
- The state of the roads in the parish, (potholes and eroded road surfaces) dealt with 24.24.
- Tree monitoring advice from the County Tree Officer, dealt with at 24.27.3
- Police Report: There were no recorded crimes in January or February in Ardeley.
- Neighbourhood police priority meeting invitation: Cllr York has kindly volunteered to attend the meeting in April and the council thanked her for volunteering.

24.22 Financial report and cheques for approval. Schedules were circulated prior to the meeting. Cheques were issued for litter collection, clerk's salary and PAYE, Oakley Trees tree surgery and Community Heartbeat Trust defibrillator annual fee.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Peace.

24.23 Planning: To consider current planning applications:
3/24/0283/LBC and 3/24/0277/HH White Hall, Luffenhall:

Proposed by Cllr Peace, seconded by Cllr Waygood: This council does not support the application as there is insufficient information concerning the new outbuildings upon which to make a proper judgement. 2 in favour, 3 against, proposal defeated.

Proposed by Cllr Noble, seconded by Cllr Egginton: This council does not object to the application. Carried with 3 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention.

3/24/0111/HH Ardeley Lodge:

Proposed by Cllr Egginton, seconded by Cllr Waygood: This council supports the application as it will have no impact on the surrounding scenery. Passed unanimously.

24.24 Highways:

1) Horse rider warning signs: No information has been obtained as yet.

2) Road drainage issues in Cromer: The clerk reported that she had received an email from Ringway stating that 'the gradient system is not optimal and there are locations where statutory undertakers have installed plant that adversely affects capacity. Ideally the system should be replaced but this requires significant capital investment beyond Ringway's remit and Ringway will raise a level survey to ascertain the condition which will take place in the new financial year.' Cty Cllr Crofton urged parishioners to ring up and lodge complaints as the more reports that are received the higher the profile allocated to the individual issue; there is an overall shortage of money and a huge number of competing sites within the county, so the more reports submitted the better.

3) Potholes and eroded road surface hotspots in the parish: A complaint had been received by email from a parishioner that the road between Moor Green and Ardeley (The Close) particularly near Gardners End is disintegrating and contains hazardous potholes and is subsiding at one point due to excessive water and lack of effective repair, similarly the road between Ardeley and the Cromer junction where parts of the road at the edges is falling away causing a deep trench on one side and potholes in the middle of the road. Cty Cllr Crofton noted that the water table is currently so high that it is impossible to carry out repairs.

Cty Cllr Crofton announced that the Old Bourne road surface will be repaired as he will pay for it from his locality budget; the money has already been allocated. He will also endeavour to progress the renewal of the pond railings and will approach Hope Merriman about it and urged Ardeley PC to follow up.

Cllr Egginton has received a reply from Hope Merriman regarding the cost of £4000 for an additional speed indicator device for Cromer and suggested that Ardeley PC could pay for it from reserves. Alternatively it would cost £600 to move the existing device to the north end of the village. To consider further at the next meeting.

24.25 Ardeley: 1) Litter collection issues: update.

The non-emptying of the bin continues. Cty Cllr Tim Hoskin has become involved and it has been proposed that the bin outside the village hall is removed and the bin by the telephone box replaced by a larger one. Cllr Waygood has been emailing, insisting that all 3 current bins should be emptied every week.

The roadside litter is not the issue here; it was noted how consistently clean and tidy the parish is and the council thanked Mrs Yates and Gerry Yates for his tireless work and effective work.

2) Playground. Repair work to the equipment is to be carried out Feb/March.

3) Cllr Peace reported that the defibrillator is in place and working; nothing to add.

24.26 Village Hall annual donation under S137.

Cllr Peace reported that 3 weeks ago there was a fire in the chimney, boiler and the flue liner, between the liner and the brick and it ignited after the service causing smoke damage. The hall has

been cleaned and electrics tested. The insurance company will pay for repainting and the floor rewaxed and the boiler will be re-sited outside and the hall redecorated.

Proposed: Cllr Peace and seconded by Cllr Egginton: Ardeley PC to make a donation of £800 for the village hall, as in previous years. Carried unanimously.

24.27 Parish council land:

1) The pond at Moor Green: A parishioner wrote regarding the pond adjacent to Ladydene at Moor Green (adjacent to Ladydene) which has overflowed, waterlogging the immediately surrounding area. Cllr Noble reported that he had inspected the area which constitutes a naturally flooded area of the Green at times of excessive rain and that putting in a ditch would ruin the habitat, therefore no action necessary.

2) Leaning tree at Wood End: Cllr Noble reported that this tree is very large and dead and is situated on parish council land between him and his neighbour. Cllr Noble will consult Oakley's and another tree surgeon.

3) Parish trees risk assessment process: An email from Cllr Norman had been received prior to the meeting suggesting a procedure for carrying out a tree risk assessment. Cty Cllr Crofton advised that APC should consider a commissioning a tree risk assessment. Cllr Noble to ask Oakley tree surgeons as to how much a survey would cost.

24.28 Urgent matters not previously notified: None.

24.29 Date of next meeting: Monday 13th May at 7.00 pm, to include the annual meeting of the parish council and the annual parish meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:42.

Comments from the public: There is a lack of investment in the local roads which are becoming dangerous and there is a general discontent within the parish about this situation.

District Cllr Holt stated has continued with discussions about the bin emptying issues with the responsible Executive Member.