



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 1st July 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.

Councillors present: Cllr Adrian Waygood, Chairman
Cllr Stuart Norman, Vice Chairman
Cllr Jim Egginton
Cllr Jackie York

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: 2 members of the public and 2 PCSOs

24.51 Apologies for absence: Cllr Simon Peace, Cllr Tim Noble and District Cllr Aubrey Holt.

24.52 Declarations of interest: Cllr York re. planning application 3/24/1049 FUL: Land between Green Oak and Old Bell Barn, Item 24.7.

24.53 To receive the minutes of the last meeting and the annual meeting held 13th May 2024. Annual Meeting: Proposed by Cllr Waygood as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Egginton and approved unanimously.

May Meeting: Proposed by Cllr Waygood as a correct record, seconded by Cllr York and approved unanimously.

24.54 Matters arising: Letters were circulated to all Clothall parish residents of Luffenhall to canvass their opinion of joining with Ardeley and 12 replies were received, one in favour of change with the remainder in favour of remaining in Clothall, as per the status quo. In the light of this response, no further action to be taken.

24.55 Correspondence:

Following the previous meeting a resident expressed concern about the council's decision on tree management and whether the approach taken was sufficient to minimise risk. The clerk had responded that the matter could be revisited after six months (November) in accordance with the council's Standing Orders.

The resident had also expressed concern about the decision not to request ten horse warning signs as resolved at the previous meeting. The clerk had suggested that the resident make a proposal to Highways and inform the council when he had done so.

Mr Vincent had asked when the pond railings will be repaired. The clerk is waiting for an update from Hope Merriman of Highways Department.

Two residents in Cromer had asked for speed cameras to be installed rather than speed indicators as they feel that these are ineffective and expressed their general frustration with the speeding traffic. Speed cameras are a matter for the police and not HCC.

24.56 Financial report and cheques for approval, as per schedule circulated prior to the meeting: Website domain annual renewal, payroll annual renewal, litter collection and clerk's salary. Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Norman and approved unanimously.

24.57 Planning: To consider current planning applications: Cllr York left the room at this point.
3/24/1049 FUL: Land between Green Oak and Old Bell Barn, application for 2 x 4-bedroom dwellings: It was noted that public comments were broadly in favour.
Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr Norman: This council supports the application as it is a reasonable development that fits in with planning guidance that has been issued. Resolved unanimously. Cllr York returned to the room.

3/24/1052/HH: Mill House, Mill Lane, Cromer, application for first floor side extension and single floor rear extension with balcony: Proposed by Cllr Waygood, seconded by Cllr York: This council supports the application as it falls within planning guidelines that the council has been asked to consider. Resolved unanimously.

24.58 Highways: To progress a second speed indicator in Cromer.

Letters had been delivered to Cromer and Luffenhall residents asking for pledges towards the new speed indicator for the north end of the village; only two offers of financial support had been received. The other respondents were of the view that the surplus should come from public funds rather than private donations.

Cllr Waygood pointed out that this is not a parish council matter; Ardeley Parish Council are merely supporting it hence the need to exhaust all possible means of public funding elsewhere before parish council funds are expended. HCC has repeatedly refused to fund it, especially as there have been no accidents. Points highlighted:

- A response is still awaited as to whether a grant is available for sustainability.
- Clarification is needed as to who is responsible for the maintenance of the current SID at £1000 for five years; it was installed in 2018 and APC has never budgeted for its maintenance (£200 per year).
- Apply to the new Police and Crime Commissioner as the existing SID was funded by the PCC.
- The replacement SIDs at Cottered were funded locally and not by Highways. Cllr Egginton to verify.

24.59 Ardeley:

1) Litter collection: Cllr Waygood has been in contact with District Cllr Tim Hoskins and met the waste management team representative who said that no problems had been reported, whereas Cllr Waygood was aware that there had been 35 complaints. The phone box bin will be replaced with a letterbox type bin and the bin inside the playground will be removed.

2) Playground: Cllr Waygood reported that the damage to the gate has been repaired at no cost to the council.

3) Telephone box repairs and library box: The door of the telephone box has been removed for repair and repainting.

24.60 Parish council land: Leaning tree at Wood End: Cllr Noble had spoken to Mr Oakley, who has submitted a reduced quotation of £300 plus VAT to remove the dead canopy without clearing the site and leaving the trunk of 3-4m for the benefit of wild life.

Proposed by Cllr Waygood for the work to proceed, seconded by Cllr Norman and approved unanimously.

Cllr Egginton reported that HCC have cut the triangle grass at the Ardeley Road crossroads where the new trees are located. Cllr Egginton has cleared around the trees- the lime trees are doing well, the sorbus not so well. Cllr Egginton has ordered five trees under the Herts free scheme and plans to plant two rowans in the area having grown them on in pots first.

24.61 Insurance renewal: The insurance annual renewal quotation from Clear Councils, formerly BHIB, was presented. The clerk highlighted the need to review the health and safety situation for the ponds in accordance with the insurer's risk assessment template, together with the requirement for weekly playground inspections by a competent person.

Proposed by Cllr Norman and seconded by Cllr York: As the school owns play equipment, Cllr York would approach the headteacher to see if the school would look at the playground equipment on a weekly basis. Resolved unanimously.

Ponds: The insurers provide a risk assessment template for these- for subsequent consideration.

24.62 Urgent matters not previously notified: The chairman wished to thank Mr Mick Dedman for the voluntary work he has been doing recently to clear the drains and ditches between Ardeley and Moor Green. Clerk to write a letter of thanks.

24.63 Date of next meeting: Monday 2nd September 2024.

Public participation: PCSO Glen Stanway and PCSO Leon de Bruyn attended the meeting to meet the councillors and receive feedback on local policing. They stated that this is a low crime area as evidenced that there were no reported crimes in Ardeley in June. Motor vehicle interference and theft of a car took place in Walkern. Also, number plates are being stolen in the area to facilitate crimes so owners are asked to use tamper proof screws and report any missing number plates to help the police in their investigations. The Herts Rural Team is low on resources; the number of crimes reported affects the police budget allocation, so reporting is encouraged.

Comment from a resident suggesting that the litter bins are all removed; this would result in less litter and save expense.