



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARDELEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.**

Councillors present: Cllr Adrian Waygood, Chairman  
Cllr Stuart Norman, Vice Chairman  
Cllr Simon Peace  
Cllr Tim Noble

Officer attending: Lorna Ewen, Clerk

Others present: None

**24.64 Apologies for absence:** Cllr Jim Egginton, Cllr Jackie York and District Cllr Aubrey Holt.

**24.65 Declarations of interest:** None.

**24.66 To receive the minutes of the last meeting** held 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. Proposed by Cllr Waygood as a correct record, seconded by Cllr Norman and approved unanimously.

**24.67 Matters arising:** Cllr Noble reported that the tree in Wood End has been felled to a manageable height. Cllr York attended the Rural Neighbourhood Priority Review meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> August about local policing issues and circulated the minutes, having raised the issue of speeding in Cromer- residents are encouraged to report any incidents. Hare coursing was identified as a likely crime in the coming months.

**24.68 Correspondence:**

- Electric car parking points: An email had been received from George Watson, HCC sustainability officer, about any requirements of the parish for street electric parking points. In response, it was considered that the need for such points within the parish was not strong as most houses have their own driveways and no suitable sites were identified that fell outside the existing conservation areas.
- Scout and Guide Night Hike: To take place on 28<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr Peace has been liaising.
- Local Nature Recovery Service: Cllr Egginton had attended a meeting.
- Openreach telecoms easement for Ash Tree Lodge (Ladydene): In response to an enquiry from the owners, no information/documentation had been received from Openreach about this matter.
- Crime report for July and August: No crimes had been reported in the parish.

**24.69 Financial report** and cheques for approval:

Schedules were circulated prior to the meeting and cheques were issued for litter, clerk's salary and PAYE, Oakley Arboriculture, Community Heartbeat Trust.

The clerk reported that the cheque for £24 issued to Netwise for the domain renewal in July had not been received, and the council authorised the drawing of a replacement.

The clerk reported that £634.31 had been credited to APC for granting a wayleave to Openreach in Moor Green.

**24.70 Planning:** To consider current planning applications:  
3/24/1555/HH Deerfield, Wood End, Ardeley: Proposed by Cllr Waygood and seconded by Cllr Norman: No objections. Resolved unanimously.

**24.71 Highways:** To progress second speed indicator in Cromer: It was considered that the response from Hope Merriman regarding the maintenance of the existing sign was not conclusive. It was agreed that the carbon grant application should be made by Cllr Egginton with the assistance of Cllr Peace.

The damaged traffic sign at Wood End needed replacing and Cllr Noble had reported it. It had been requested that Cromer Farm be asked to cut back their hedge, also the owners of the hedge approaching the junction with Cromer. Cllr Norman and Clerk to follow up.

**24.72 Ardeley:**

- 1) Litter Collection: Cllr Waygood reported that the new bin is in place.
- 2) Playground update: Cllr York had kindly agreed to inspect the playground equipment weekly for insurance purposes to ensure that any defects or risks to health and safety are noted for actioning. The September inspection by Broadmead Leisure is due to take place shortly.
- 3) Telephone box and library box repairs: The clerk had been in contact with Peartrees Furniture-the work to the telephone box is still in progress. The library box is being made watertight where there has been some movement with the wood.
- 4) Pond railings: The clerk has been in contact with Hope Merriman (Highways Dept) - a date for repairs has not been fixed yet as 'due to the water element of the pond, extra health and safety is required which is being looked into'. It was noted that the railings had now 90% rotted through and a child could fall in.

**24.73 Parish council land:** Ponds risk assessment.

There was some discussion as to what is determined as a pond? There are 2 dewponds, as well as the pond in Wood End which is open. Cllr Waygood to discuss with insurers.

**24.74 Grass cutting review:**

- i) Personnel: Mr Calvin Hawes had given up the voluntary grass cutting of the churchyard and playground. The council expressed its gratitude to Mr Hawes for his very kind voluntary efforts. Mr Mick Jones had kindly agreed to take this on and the council expressed its thanks to Mr Jones Church and playground. The grass cutting takes place every week in the summer.
- ii) Equipment: The equipment currently in use is kept in the locked shed in the churchyard and consists of a strimmer and a petrol Hayter mower.
- iii) Servicing: The equipment is serviced annually by Deamers in Old Stevenage and the cost of the fuel is claimed back by the operator.
- iv) Health and safety: Operators should confirm familiarity with the safety manual.  
Cromer: Cllr Norman has cut the the grass at the triangle where the new trees have been planted, albeit this is not parish land. The council expressed its thanks to Cllr Norman.

**24.75 Urgent matters not previously notified:** None.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

**24.76 Date of next meeting:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024.