

EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Ian Vigus
Musehill Farm
Oakford
Tiverton
EX16 9HA
Tel 01398 341256

Clerk: Mrs Jill Larcombe
6 The Old School
Chapel Street
Tiverton
EX16 6ND
Tel 01884 252647
email eastansteypc@yahoo.co.uk

The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 14th October 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Present: Cllr's I Vigus (Chair), R Gibson, J Griffin, R Milton, Ms L Moore, Mrs H Warne and Miss R Warne.

In attendance: County Cllr J Yabsley, District Cllr E Ley, Mr T Watkins (Airband), Mr Rex Milton (Chair of West Anstey Parish Meeting), three members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

205/10/20. Apologies. There were no apologies.

206/10/20. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

207/10/20. Presentation on Airband Fibre Roll out Plans for East Anstey. Tony Watkins introduced himself as a business representative for Airband, an independent internet service provider, who have been contracted by Connecting Devon and Somerset to bring affordable superfast fibre to the premise broadband, to an area including East Anstey, West Anstey and Molland. Within Devon there is a big drive to enable everyone access to superfast broadband. He has been asked to find out what the initial interest would be in East Anstey and to identify people that would want fibre to their premises delivered, with a possibility of the infrastructure being put in place during the first quarter of 2021. Vouchers towards the cost are available to personal users and SME businesses. If it is too costly to deliver fibre to the premise, fixed wireless technology is a second option. This relies on being in line of site with a mast, which is not guaranteed with every property, but the access on a mast can be increased to cover more properties. Airband has an agreement with Western Power Distribution and BT Openreach and where they have to look at how a line can be brought in to an area, they will work with the parish. An average download speed of between 40Mb – 250Mb and upload speed of between 10 - 75MB is promised dependant on the package you sign up for. Everyone in the area will be mailed directly and they will be directed to an online portal to make an order, for which there will be a 30 day cooling off period. Mr Watkins was asked how infrastructure would be funded if it needed to be brought in and he explained rural homes could each receive a voucher for £1,500 and rural businesses £3,500 through the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme in order to subsidise the cost. A telephone service is not provided but Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) can be used to send and receive calls through your broadband line, meaning that you do not have to pay line rental on your existing phone line.

208/10/20. Election of Vice-chair. Cllr Mrs Heather Warne was unanimously elected. Proposed by Cllr Vigus and seconded by Cllr Milton.

209/10/20. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2020 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

210/10/20. Matters arising from the minutes, not covered on the agenda. Penny Webber (Selworthy & Minehead Without Parish Council) will fill the casual vacancy for a 5th Parish Council Member on Exmoor National Park Authority.

211/10/20. Public Questions. A member of the public asked whether there had been any feedback from the Housing Needs Survey carried out recently and it was confirmed there had not.

212/10/20. Planning

a) To note the email from Michael Tichford, Head of Place NDC, regarding the serving of an Enforcement Notice at Oaklands Poultry Farm and submission of retrospective planning applications. In an email Mr Tichford has confirmed that the Enforcement Notice was served on 9 October. It becomes operative from 9 November and has a six month period for compliance. The applicant has one month from 9th October to appeal the notice, which is why it doesn't come into effect until 9th November. Further retrospective planning applications have been submitted. The Council's intention was to decline to determine the application, due to there being an outstanding enforcement notice. Mr Tichford has however been advised that in order to decline to determine the application it must first be registered, therefore, the applications again appear on the weekly list. It seems an odd way of approaching things but in order to decline to determine an application NDC must justify why and make this the decision on the application, as they would if approving or refusing, which they can only do if it is registered. It was noted that there is no legislation to stop anyone resubmitting an application which has been refused. It was reported that another area on the site is being dug out for a concrete pad and electric cables are being put in. It was questioned why the Enforcement Officer has not issued a stop notice. Cllr Ley said they were only issued in extreme circumstances. He added the biggest weakness in the enforcement system was the time it takes to go through the process. A councillor questioned how much pressure needed to be put on NDC for them to issue a stop notice to try to prevent further work being carried out. Cllr Ley said proof of ongoing work needed to be presented to Michael Tichford. It was felt that putting West Anstey in the address could be an attempt by the applicant to muddy the waters, the site has always been in East Anstey parish. Cllr Vigus asked whether there was any truth in the rumour that the NDC planning team had made such a mess and left so many loopholes that the applicant could overturn the application process. He added it was a total mockery and embarrassing. Cllr Yabsley said it was important to report any new works, particularly if they are outside of the previous applications, so a stop notice could be issued. Planning enforcement is not adequate or strong enough and it takes a substantial time to get things removed. Councillors were urged to be patient enough for the enforcement process.

b) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received by the council before the meeting.

71990, 71991, 77992, 71993 and 71994 Re-submission of retrospective applications for the construction of concrete pads to site mobile poultry houses at Oaklands Poultry Farm, West Anstey.

Comment: the applications should not be determined under any circumstances. The previous comments will be repeated in the strongest terms.

c) To note any decisions made on planning applications by NDC. No decisions received.

d) Any other planning matters. No other planning matters.

213/10/20. Highways - any highways issues. It was reported that the road is in a shocking condition at Bickham Barton. Councillors commented on the poor quality of the pothole repairs on Yanhay Hill. Cllr Yabsley said this method of holding things together gets more done for the money. A decision has been made to carry out proper repairs to road surfaces rather than tarring and chipping.

214/10/20. Reports

a) County Cllr. Cllr Yabsley said he would be out with the Highway Neighbourhood Officer the following week. He reminded everyone to keep reporting potholes. Anyone phoning Cllr Yabsley needs to use his mobile number 07885 282001.

Cllr Yabsley left the meeting.

b) District Cllr. Cllr Ley said he had spoken to Mike Kelly, Planning Consultant, who had confirmed NDC were following the correct procedures for enforcement at Oaklands Poultry Farm. He encouraged the Council to apply for a second grant from NDC's Climate and Emergency Fund for work at Anstey Village Hall and said they needed to support the committee.

215/10/20. Anstey Village Hall

a) To report on the awarding of a Climate & Environment Grant to East Anstey Parish Council for solar panels at Anstey Village Hall. A grant of £10,000 has been awarded towards the installation of solar panels and replacement heating. The funding has to be spent by 31st March 2021.

b) Report from committee meeting held on 8th October. Cllr Mrs Warne reported on the meeting, which had also been attended by Cllr Ley. The plans to install solar panels and a replacement heating system were discussed as well as the plans for the bar extension. The architect has drawn up plans for the extension and they will be displayed for people to comment on. A councillor raised concerns about the anticipated £200,000 cost of works to the hall and questioned whether this money could be better spent elsewhere. The money will have to be raised through grant applications. There was further discussion, and the Council were urged to support the Village Hall Committee plans. The Village Hall Committee secretary will be resigning at the AGM, due to be held this Autumn, and the committee are looking for a new secretary. The community will be made aware.

c) Request from Committee for East Anstey Parish Council to submit planning application for the bar extension to reduce the planning application fee. It was agreed that the Parish Council would offer to pay the planning application fee if the application was submitted in the Council's name. This would reduce the cost by half. The Clerk will contact David Mair, West Anstey Parish Meeting Clerk, to ask if they would contribute half.

216/10/20. Finance:

a) To approve invoices for payment. NALC and SLCC have agreed salary increases for Town and Parish Council employees for 2020-21 and they can be backdated to April 2020. It was unanimously agreed the Clerk's pay would be increased accordingly and backdated to 1st April.

It was resolved to make the following payment:

Mrs J Larcombe - £108.20 Clerk's salary and expenses.

b) To note spending against budget for first half of 2020-21. The report was noted.

217/10/20. Play Area

a) Any issues arising from playground inspections. The springie and goal posts need to be removed. Cllr Griffin reported that a plank had come loose on the multiplay piece of equipment and he had knocked it back in.

b) To agree who will carry out inspections for the next month. Cllr Griffin will carry out the inspections for the next month.

218/10/20. Co-option of a councillor to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council. There has not been a request for an election and the Council can now co-opt. The co-option will be advertised and anyone interested will be asked to write to the Clerk saying why they are interested in becoming a councillor.

219/10/20. Correspondence. There was no further correspondence.

220/10/20. Opportunity to raise any questions on items discussed during the meeting. There were no further questions.

221/10/20. To decide on the date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th November 2020 at 7.30pm via Zoom.

The meeting closed at 21.36 pm

Signed:
Chair

Date: