

EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday
22nd May 2024 at East Anstey Primary School at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr's Ms Lucie Moore (Chair), Ms J Gannon, R Gibson, R Milton (also District Cllr) and Mrs H Warne.

In attendance: One member of the public.

01/05/24. Election of:

a) Chair. Cllr Ms L Moore was elected as Chair and signed an Acceptance of Office Form. Proposed by Cllr Mrs Warne and seconded by Cllr Ms J Gannon.

b) Vice-chair. Cllr R Gibson was elected as Vice-chair. Proposed by Cllr R Milton and seconded by Cllr J Gannon.

02/05/24. To receive apologies. There were no apologies.

03/05/24. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda. Cllr Milton declared an interest as a District Councillor. The planning application to be discussed is in his ward.

04/05/24. To agree the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th March 2024 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed by the Chair.

05/05/24. Matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda. No matters arising.

06/05/24. Public Questions. The member of the public did not wish to speak.

07/05/24. Planning

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

78321 - Retrospective extension to an agricultural storage shed (amended description) at Land at Oaklands Poultry Farm, West Anstey. It was decided to make no comment.

New planning legislation was noted. The size of an agricultural building allowed under permitted development rights has increased from 1,000 square metres to 1,500 square metres. The Government is extending permitted development rights to give farmers greater freedoms to diversify and convert agricultural buildings to commercial uses, as well as up to 10 homes, without needing to submit a planning application. The maximum size of any single dwelling is 150 square metres.

b) To note any decisions made on planning applications by NDC.

78189 Conversion of agricultural barn to single residential dwelling. New Park Farm, East Anstey, Conditional approval granted.

c) Any other planning matters. There is still no decision for **77168** Outline erection of 2 dwelling houses with some matters reserved (access, landscaping, layout and scale) at Land at East Anstey. Grid Ref: 286814;126096. The Enforcement Officer has asked for more details about the caravan sited at Maybank Farm without planning permission.

08/05/24. Highways: Any highways issues. The roads in the parish are still full of big holes.

09/05/24. Reports

a) District Cllr. Cllr Milton reported the NDC Policy Development Committee is meeting to discuss what is happening with the rural economy. The Rural England Prosperity Fund, managed by North Devon +, had £798,000 to put into definitive projects with up to about 80% grant rates in some cases. The fund should have been opened on 1st April 2024 but so far only £98,000 has been allocated. With new requirements for biodiversity net gain when planning applications are submitted, Cllr Milton expressed his concern that developers will probably buy neighbouring fields creating a green belt which will prevent further development. DCC is putting an additional £12million into highways.

b) County Cllr. No report.

10/05/24. Finance:

a) To approve invoices for payment. It was resolved to make the following payments:

Devon Association of Local Councils - £115.30 annual affiliation fees (Payment ref: 2425/04)

Mrs J Larcombe – £187.40 Clerk's salary for April and May plus expenses (Payment ref: 2425/05)

H M Revenue & Customs - £43.20 PAYE (Payment ref: 2324/06)

East Anstey PCC - £450.00 Churchyard Grant (Payment ref: 2425/07)

Since the last meeting: a payment of £420.00 has been made to Dan Passmore for invoices 1584 & 1613 for grass cutting (Payment ref: 2425/01)

A payment of £359.83 has been made to Zurich Town and Parish Insurer Trust Account to renew the Annual Insurance (Payment ref: 2425/02)

A direct debit payment of £35.00 has been made to the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for the renewal of the Parish Council's registration (Payment ref: 2425/03).

An internal transfer will be made from the Instant Access Account to the Current Account to return the balance to £500.00.

b) To note any receipts since the last meeting and the bank balances.

Since the last meeting £3,575.00 has been received from NDC for the first half of the precept and £63.12 bank interest has been credited to the Instant Access Account.

The Current Account balance is £965.00 and the Instant Access Account balance is £11,243.74.

c) To receive the Internal Audit Report. Deferred to next meeting.

d) To agree the Annual Governance Statement for 2023-24. Councillors agreed yes to all the statements on the Annual Governance Statement and it was signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

e) To agree the Accounting Statement for 2023-24. Councillors agreed the Accounting Statement for 2022-23 which had been signed by the RFO prior to being presented to the Council.

f) To agree that the Parish Council wishes to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. The Council agreed to certify itself as exempt from a limited assurance review.

11/05/24. Play Area

a) Any issues arising from playground inspections. No issues reported.

b) To agree who will carry out inspections until the next meeting. Cllr Mrs Warne will continue to carry out the inspections.

c) Progress with applying for funding for new play equipment. Updated quotes have been obtained. It was decided to apply for just under £30,000, the upper limit of the medium grant from the Batsworthy Wind Farm Community Grant Fund. It was felt applying for a grant from the large grant fund would take even longer. The Parish Council has some reserves it can use if the cost is over £30,000.

12/05/24. Parish Council vacancies. No one has expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. The school will be asked to put something in their newsletter and it was suggested that a notice could be put up in the hall at the school when it is used as a polling station on July 4th. Something can also be put on the Anstey Community Facebook page. Cllr Mrs Warne will find out what has happened to the East Anstey Parish Council Facebook page.

13/05/24. To discuss concerns raised previously regarding Devon Community Foundation's management of the Batsworthy Cross Wind Farm Community Fund and current management. Councillors discussed their continuing concerns about the management of the fund by Devon Community Foundation. The fund opened again earlier in the year after protracted periods when it was closed to applications but there was concern about the amount of funding that has actually been awarded.

14/05/24. NDC Parish Forum 18 June 2024. No one was available to attend.

15/05/24. Correspondence. It was agreed the Clerk would write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to the residents who look after the container of plants under the 'East Anstey' sign at Hawkwell Cross.

16/07/24. Date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 17th July 2024.

Signed:
Chair

Date: