

# EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

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## **The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 at Anstey Village Hall at 7.30pm**

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

**In attendance:** District Cllr E Ley and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

### **189/20/01. Apologies**

**a) To note the resignation of Cllr D Barber.** Cllr Barber's resignation was noted and he was thanked for all his hard work as a councillor and in particular for leading on organising the fete and for organising a website for the parish and helping to update it.

**b) To receive apologies.** Apologies were accepted from Cllr Ms L Moore. Apologies were received from Rex Milton, Chair of West Anstey Parish Meeting.

**190/20/02. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda.** There were no disclosures of interest.

**191/20/03. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2020 as an accurate record of the meeting.** The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**192/20/04. Matters arising from the minutes, not covered on the agenda.** There were no matters arising.

**193/20/05. Public Questions.** A member of the public asked whether the playing field was being used. It is being used and there haven't been any issues so far. There is likely to be more use when the school reopens.

### **194/09/20. Planning**

**a) To make a recommendation on any planning applications received by the council before the meeting.** No applications received.

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

**c) Update on planning enforcement at Oaklands Poultry Farm.** Cllr Ley has

forwarded an email he has received from Michael Tichford, Head of Place NDC, in which he has apologised for the delay in our taking enforcement action subsequent to the dismissed appeal. He said there had been differing views expressed in the planning team about the most appropriate course of action

due to the applicant submitting a post appeal pre-app request, something he was not aware of until sometime after it was registered. The planning case officer and enforcement team had met to discuss progressing the action but felt that the pre-app needed to run its course as it had been duly submitted and a fee paid. Mr Tichford has discussed the application with the landscape officer who confirmed the inspectors view, and his own, that there was no way that the objection to the development could be overcome, not only because of its landscape impact but also because the land use is incompatible with its location. He has instructed that the enforcement notice be served without delay and is awaiting confirmation that this has been done. NDC are able to pursue enforcement action whilst carrying on negotiation, however, it has been custom and practice in the planning team to exhaust negotiation before pursuing enforcement. He is challenging that approach. To additionally complicate matters the applicant has submitted a further set of planning applications. They have not as yet been registered and he has requested legal and planning officers confirmation that NDC are legitimately able to decline to determine as enforcement action will be underway and there is a clear appeal decision supporting the committees decision to refuse the retrospective applications. The Parish Council awaits developments.

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

**195/09/20. Highways - any highways issues.** Pothole repairs and patching of the road surface have been carried out in the parish, but councillors were concerned about the very rough finish in some places. The surface of Broomball Lane remains in a poor condition. It was reported that there had been a road traffic accident at Woodburn Cross, and it was felt that the overgrown verges at this crossroads were a contributing factor. There are big holes in the road surface at Bickham Barton, caused by the spring by the bungalow. Lorries are going in to Whitemoor Equestrian Centre again and once more there were concerns about the speed at which the lorries were travelling, and the risk of an accident being caused. The Parish Council had been warned that this was due to start again.

#### **196/09/20. Reports**

**a) District Cllr.** Cllr Ley told councillors an alleged breach of planning conditions at Whitemoor had been reported to NDC and an Enforcement Officer had visited. The Parish Council felt it had done all it could do. Cllr Ley was thanked for trying to protect the S106 money from Blackerton from being totally lost and for trying to get at least some of it back. He said that co-opting a councillor could be an opportunity to further joint working between East Anstey and West Anstey. Cllr Milton said the Parish Council needed to remember to get the S106 funding back when there were opportunities. Cllr Ley reminded everyone to fill out the Housing Needs Survey Forms.

**b) County Cllr.** No report.

**c) To report on meeting with architect to look at proposed bar extension to Anstey Village Hall.** Valerie Jackson, Chair of Anstey Village Hall Committee, Cllr Mrs Warne, Rex Milton and Cllr Ley met with the architect to talk about plans for the new bar extension. The architect will now draw up the plans. The patio area will be moved to side of the hall, at the opposite end to the stage area.

**d) To report on meeting between Officers of Anstey Village Hall**

**Committee and Cllr Mrs Warne and the Clerk.** The Chair and Booking Secretary met with Cllr Mrs Warne and the Clerk. The Village Hall Committee has been finding it difficult to meet since late March because a number of their members were shielding due to Covid-19, and others were in at risk categories. During this time decisions have had to be made by Committee Officers. Cllr Mrs Warne and the Clerk felt that the present committee was too large to work effectively and that changes needed to be made to their Constitution to reduce the size. The AGM is due to take place in the Autumn and this would be an opportunity to make changes to the constitution where there are 4 officers, 5 members, an opportunity to co-opt another member and representatives from all groups using the hall. It was felt both East Anstey Parish Council and West Anstey Parish Meeting should have a representative on the committee, and it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Warne should be the East Anstey Parish Council representative. Cllr Ley offered to get involved if he was needed. The Clerk has made an application in the Parish Council's name for a grant from NDC's Climate and Environment Fund for funding towards solar panels for the roof of Anstey Village Hall. It was agreed that, in the future, if the Parish Council has to apply for funding on behalf of the Anstey Village Hall Committee the Parish Council would pay the Clerk for the additional hours she had worked. The Clerk will speak to the Clerk of Witheridge Parish Council about possibilities for the Parish Council reclaiming VAT on work to the village hall. Cllr Ley asked if the committee was receiving the monthly Funding News from Lorna Jones and said some organisations had paid Lorna to get them funding for their project.

**197/09/20. Finance: to approve invoices for payment.** It was agreed to make the following payments:

Mrs J Larcombe - £101.50 Clerk's salary and expenses  
Anstey Village Hall - £11.00 meeting room hire

The £371.55 remaining in the NatWest will be paid into the Council's Unity Trust Bank Current account and the NatWest bank account will be closed. Following Cllr Barber's resignation there are only two bank signatories. It was agreed that Cllr Griffin would be added as a signatory.

**198/09/20. Play Area**

**a) Any issues arising from playground inspections.** Cllr Vigus had obtained

the price of replacement gates for the playing field from Mole Valley Farmers. A 4' gate will be £46.00, a 6' gate £52.00 and hinge brackets £13.00. The strainers do not need replacing. Cllr Vigus offered to hang the gates before the next meeting. It was agreed to purchase the gates and hinge brackets from MVF. Cllr Vigus will purchase the gates and brackets and the Council will reimburse him. It was also agreed to purchase permanent 'No Parking' and 'No Dogs' signs to go on the new gates.

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

**199/09/20. Casual Vacancy procedure following the resignation of a councillor.** The Clerk will inform NDC about the resignation and if there is no request from ten or more parishioners the Council will be able to co-opt a councillor.

- 200/09/20. To agree who will take over the parish email circulation role.** Everyone on the circulation list will need to agree to opt in to the Parish Council circulation list.
- 201/09/20. Update on preparing to meet website accessibility requirements.** The Clerk is updating documents to make them accessible.
- 202/09/20. Correspondence (including emails from a parishioner).** It was noted that Cllr Vigus had received an email from Mr Bew questioning some of the decisions made by the Parish Council (the sale of the phone box, not minuting meetings attended by the Chair and Clerk of West Anstey as joint meetings) and asking for an update with regards to the Parish Council following up enforcement action at Oaklands Poultry farm.
- 203/09/20. Opportunity to raise any questions on items discussed during the meeting.** There was concern that it might have been implied that there was a feeling that the Anstey Village Hall Committee was not competent, which is not the case. At the next AGM there is a need to protect the Chair and Committee by electing people who have the necessary skills.
- 204/09/20. To decide on the date of the next meeting.** Due to the unavailability of the Clerk, Chair and Cllr Miss Warne on 7<sup>th</sup> October it was agreed to move the meeting to 14<sup>th</sup> October.