

EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

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The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

Present: Cllr's Mrs H Warne (Chair for item 304/04/21), R Gibson (Chair for all other items), Miss J Gannon, R Milton, Ms L Moore, and Miss R Warne.

In attendance: District Cllr E Ley, 1 member of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

304/05/21. Election of Officers

a) Chair. Cllr Mrs Heather Warne was unanimously elected as Chair. Proposed by Cllr R Milton and seconded By Cllr I Vigus.

Cllr Mrs Warne accepted the office. As this was a virtual meeting, arrangements will be made for her to sign the Acceptance of Office Form.

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

As Cllr Mrs Warne had lost her voice due to illness it was agreed that Cllr Gibson would take the chair for the rest of the meeting.

305/05/21. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Griffin.

306/05/21. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda. Cllr Ms Moore declared a personal and pecuniary interest in item 311/05/21 b) as the proposed diversion of Bridleway No 6 as she has sought the diversion.

307/05/21. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2021 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

308/05/21. Matters arising from the minutes, not covered on the agenda. There were no matters arising.

309/05/21. Public Questions. There were no questions from the member of the public.

310/05/21. Planning

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

b) Airband Community Internet Ltd. Proposal: Prior notification for proposed installation under telecommunications code system operators of six 10.5 metre wooden poles. The poles will be installed with 9 metres above ground. There were no objections.

c) To note any decisions made on planning applications by NDC. There were no decisions.

d) To note the decision for appeal 3262727 Oaklands Poultry Farm.

Summary of decision: Appeal dismissed and notice upheld subject to correction and variation. The Inspector extended the period for compliance with the regulations from six months to twelve months. The Clerk will check whether the twelve months is from November 2020, when the enforcement notice started, or from the date of the appeal decision. The Parish Council needs to keep pressure on NDC to ensure the enforcement notice is complied with.

c) Any other planning matters. A parishioner has contacted some councillors and the Clerk to question the Council's decision to reject the outline application for the Market field, which they found very sad as it has always been allocated as an infill site for development. They were all in favour of houses for local needs and remembered that a plan for affordable housing on this site was put forward several years ago and came to nothing. They said the Country is in desperate need of new houses and felt that site would be good for the village, They agreed that septic tanks and drainage would have to be carefully planned and thought through but was not insurmountable. He said he knew the people involved in this application and wanted to suggest to them that they come and talk the development through with the Council at the next meeting if that would be acceptable. He added that he passed the field regularly and longed to see the end of the leylandii trees which are so out of keeping with the village. It was agreed to invite the applicants to the next meeting and the parishioner will contact them in the first instance.

311/05/21. Highways

a) Any highways issues. Highways are reported to have made a good job of the repairs to the road from the A361, via Bickham, to Woodburn.

b) Proposed diversion of Bridleway No. 6, East Anstey. Cllr Ms Moore declared a personal and pecuniary interest. Discussion about a diversion has been going on for four years. Cllr Mrs Warne said the route of the proposed diversion is boggy and unsuitable. She had walked it after one of the driest Aprils on record and had taken photos to show how wet it was. She suggested another diversion route, which the landowner is believed to be happy with. It was agreed to object to the proposed diversion route, using the photos as evidence of how wet the ground is. and put forward Cllr Mrs Warne's suggested diversion route.

312/05/21. Reports

a) District Cllr. Cllr Ley reported that not much had happened locally but NDC had received 1,000 objections to a planning application at Yelland. The decision to give the Parish Council back £10,000 of the S106 funding from Blackerton, taken to fund the new leisure centre at Barnstaple, has been deferred to a meeting on 17th May as this couldn't be publicised on an agenda during purdah. The money will be used to replace the heating system at Anstey Village Hall. Cllr Ley said the £10,000 needed to be spent so that an application could be made to the Climate and Environment Fund when it is open.

b) County Cllr. No report. The County Council elections are being held on 6th May.

313/05/21. Finance:

a) To approve invoices for payment. It was resolved to make the following payments: Mrs J Larcombe - £90.40 Clerk's salary (Payment ref: 2122/02)
Ridd and Son - £160.00 cutting the Village Green grass (Payment ref 2122/03)

Cllr Mrs Warne – £146.93 repayment for 5 litres Selwood wood stain and protector from Climbing Frames UK (Payment ref: 2122/04)
Information Commissioner's Office - £35 renewal of annual data protection fee (Payment ref: 2122/05). It was agreed to set up a direct debit as this would reduce the charge from £40 to £35.

b) To agree the insurance renewal. The Clerk reported that she had reviewed the insurance schedule to make sure the Council had adequate cover and had asked BHIB Ltd to provide another quote. That quote had been more expensive. She recommended to the Council that the quote for £335 from Zurich Municipal be accepted. This was agreed (Payment ref: 2122/06).

c) To agree the Churchyard Grant for 2021-22. It was resolved to award a grant of £450 to East Anstey PCC towards the upkeep of the Churchyard (Payment ref: 2122/07).

d) To note the receipt of the first half of the precept. The Clerk reported that a payment of £2,375 had been received from NDC, the first half instalment of the precept. A VAT refund of £3,654.94 has been received from HMRC. The funds held in the Nationwide account are being transferred to Unity Trust Bank. There have been difficulties in arranging this as Nationwide has lost the details of signatories.

d) Annual accounts for 2020-21. The Clerk presented the accounts. The Annual Governance and Accountability Return will be agreed at the next meeting.

314/05/21. Play Area

a) Any issues arising from playground inspections. There were no issues arising from the inspections carried out by Cllr Griffin.

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

c) To report on the grass cutting contract for 2021. At the April meeting power was delegated to the Clerk to find another contractor to cut the grass in the field. She reported that she had received a quote from Ridd and Son, which she had accepted. The grass has been cut twice.

d) Update on the working party arrangements. Cllr Mrs Warne has got the wood preservative now and a working party could be arranged at short notice. Cllr Vigus has got the new gates and Cllr Gibson will help him hang them.

e) Applications for grant funding for new play equipment. It was agreed that the goal posts would be replaced and this could be taken from reserves. The cradle seat swing needs to be replaced and the clerk will look into applying for funding. In the longer term the multiplay piece of equipment will need replacing.

315/05/21. Correspondence. An email was received a few hours before the meeting asking if the Parish Council could start a conversation at a future meeting around researching and building some sort of bus shelter for the lay-by opposite Blackerton Garage as this is a collection point for children being bused to school. The children have to wait here in all weathers, sometimes arriving at school cold and wet. This will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

316/05/21. To agree the date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 2nd June 2021 at Anstey Village Hall.