

EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 7th April 2021 at 7.30pm via Zoom

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

In attendance: 4 members of the public and the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe.

291/04/21. To receive apologies. Apologies were accepted from Cllr Milton. Apologies were received from District Cllr E Ley and Rex Milton.

292/04/21. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

293/04/21. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2021 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

294/04/21. Matters arising from the minutes, not covered on the agenda. There were no matters arising.

295/04/21. Public Questions. There were no questions from the members of the public.

296/04/21. Planning

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

72962 Extensions & Alteration to dwelling & widening of access at Knapp Cottage, East Anstey.

Comment: East Anstey Parish Council has no objections.

73012 Outline application for erection of three dwellings and associated works with some matters reserved (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) at Land opposite the Froude Arms, East Anstey.

Comment: East Anstey Parish Council recommend this outline application is refused for the following reasons:

1. An outline application particularly where scale and massing are reserved matters does not contain sufficient information to enable the local Planning authority to make a decision which would be in accordance with the local plan ie small enough units to be affordable
2. The drainage and ecology reports are inadequate in an area which is within the UNESCO biosphere reserve. There is no mention of nutrients produced by the development being mitigated or sustainable development or biodiversity net gain.
3. Plans for foul water disposal have not taken into account a well on a neighbouring property and there could be a risk of contamination.

Neighbours have also raised concerns about storm water drainage. Should the local planning authority be minded to approve the application EAPC recommend that the size of the units should be controlled by (preferably) a planning obligation which restricts the size of the units to say 93 sq m each to ensure that they are small units to reflect local needs (Policy EAN01: Land at East Anstey).

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

c) NDC Report proposing to accept operator's predicted noise reductions and community responses. The Parish Council did not want to get involved.

d) Any other planning matters. A query was raised about tree planting at Oaklands Poultry Farm and whether it was local hedging as indicated in the plans. The Clerk was asked to remind NDC Planning Enforcement about the mobile home at Oaklands Poultry Farm that does not have planning approval.

297/04/21. Highways - any highways issues. Councillors complained about the shoddy workmanship they have seen from contactors carrying out work for the Highways Department. It was reported that it took 3 trips to repair a sign at Roach Hill and it was pointed out that the public was paying for this shoddy work.

The Clerk reported that following a few accidents on the B3227 near Newhouse Farm, Oakford, Highways arranged for the Material Laboratory to carry out Grip Tests on the carriageway. The Grip Test report has been received and it indicates a skid resistance deficiency in many places across this site. Temporary 'Slippery Road' warning boards have been installed. Highways will need to try and come up with a permanent solution which will probably be total resurfacing, however there are a number of sites across the County (including A roads) which are on the waiting list for this costly solution.

298/04/21. Reports

a) District Cllr. No report.

b) County Cllr. No report.

299/04/21. Finance:

a) To approve invoices for payment. It was resolved to make the following payment: Mrs J Larcombe - £90.40 Clerk's salary.

b) To report on the outcome of the application for Climate and Environment Funding. The Clerk has been informed that the application was unsuccessful. The total value of the applications received far exceeded the amount available and it would have been impossible to fully fund the projects. All of the applicants indicated that they would either be unable to proceed with their projects if the full funding was not awarded, were unable to make up the shortfall themselves, or would have to seek additional funding from elsewhere, which would delay the projects. The criteria for applications for this funding will be changed and the fund relaunched in the next financial year. Following the Parish Council's response to the questions they were asked, which pointed out the difficult situation that they had been put in, the Clerk has been told verbally that NDC will find the funding for the heating system for Anstey Village Hall from another fund. This is to repay more of the S106 funding from Blackerton that was used towards the development of the new leisure centre at Barnstaple. The Parish Council was encouraged by NDC to apply for a grant for solar panels for

Anstey Village Hall from the first round of the 2020-21 Climate and Environment Funding and to then apply for funding towards a new heating system from the second round. It was suggested that this was the best chance of getting S106 funding repaid. The solar panels have been installed but most of the electricity produced cannot be used until a new heating system is installed. It will be at least May before NDC will make arrangements to pay the money.

300/04/21. Play Area

a) Any issues arising from playground inspections. No issues were reported. The field is starting to get used now and a hockey goal frame has appeared on the field. It is not known where it has come from.

b) To agree who will carry out inspections for the next month. Cllr Griffin said he was happy to continue to keep his eye on the field.

c) Change to arrangements for the grass cutting contract for 2021. The contractor who it was agreed would cut the grass this year has said he is now unable to do the work due to family illness. Power was delegated to the Clerk to find another contractor to cut the grass in the field. The grass has started to grow now and will soon need cutting.

d) Working party arrangements, in line with Covid arrangements. A working party was arranged for 24th April at 11.00am. Cllr Mrs Warne will meet with Cllr Griffin before then to decide what needs to be done. Cllr Vigus will replace the gates when he is able to get replacements for both of the gates.

d) Applications for grant funding for new play equipment. Funding is now available from Sports England for grassroots play. Consideration will be given to what the Parish Council should apply for. Wooden equipment has been purchased in the past but the Clerk questioned whether councillors should consider what would have the longest life.

301/04/21. Correspondence. There was no further correspondence.

302/04/21. Update on holding Parish Council meetings after 7th May 2021. The legislation that allows meetings to be held virtually comes to an end on the 7th May and the Government has said they will not be extending it. Meetings will need to be held in person after that date and will need to follow Covid guidance. A challenge in the courts has been launched and a decision is expected by the end of the April.

303/04/21. To agree the date of the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on 5th May 2021 via Zoom. This will be the Annual Meeting.