

EAST ANSTEY PARISH COUNCIL

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The Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th March 2023 at East Anstey Primary School at 7.30pm

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

In attendance: the Clerk, Mrs J Larcombe

94/03/23. To receive apologies. Apologies were received from District Cllr E Ley. Cllr Miss Warne had advised that she would be arriving after the start of the meeting.

95/03/23. Disclosure of interests in items on the agenda. There were no disclosures.

96/03/23. To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2023 as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and duly signed by the Chair.

97/03/23. Matters arising from the minutes, not included on the agenda. None.

98/03/23. Public Questions. No members of the public present.

Cllr Miss Warne joined the meeting.

99/03/23. Planning

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

76723 Installation of ground mounted solar array at Knapp House, East Anstey. Grid Ref: 287102; 126338. Comment: East Anstey Parish Council has no objections.

b) Airband Community Internet Ltd prior notification information.

Notification for installation under telecommunications code system operators of one 10.5 mtr wooden pole. The pole will be installed with 9 mtrs above ground. This was noted.

Cllr Gannon reported that she had joined a webinar on Teams set up by Airband which was supposed to answer questions about when people were going to be connected. About 21 people took part in the webinar, including representatives from Airband and Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS). She felt the presentation was awful, it did not include a programme which they had promised and they didn't appear to know that East Anstey was within their contract. At one point they even they knew nothing about cables installed 2 years ago. Questions were not allowed to be asked in person and answers to the questions put into the Chat function often contradicted what had been said earlier in the presentation. There was a representative from CDS on the call, who seemed to know more about the situation in East Anstey than Airband did. He said that it

was likely that East Anstey was being or had been removed from the contract that Airband had to deliver to the Stoodleigh and Washfield areas because it had been realised that the distance between Stoodleigh and East Anstey was quite large and that it might be more sensible to serve East Anstey from Oldways End and West Anstey, which had already been connected to superfast broadband. He also said he thought it was likely that this would happen this year (2023) but was not able to provide more details than that. Cllr Gannon could not determine whether Airband were going to be the providers or whether an alternative provider would be constructing the link.

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

d) Any other planning matters. The owner of Maybank Farm had emailed the Clerk to give an update to Councillors because she was unable to attend the meeting. The touring caravan that she was living in is being collected on 9th March 2023. A planning application has been submitted for change of use from equestrian back to agricultural and confirmation that the temporary siting of a static caravan at Maybank Farm is covered under the permitted development within the Caravan Sites Act 1968. If there are any questions arising from the above the owner is more than happy to answer them.

It was reported that there is a mobile home at the end of a track which has an access on the right-hand side of the B3227 (heading towards South Molton) just before the Jubilee Inn. This will be reported.

100/03/23. Highways:

a) Any highways issues. There was concern about the amount of litter on the sides of the A361 North Devon Link Road, especially as the tourist season would soon be starting again. Cllr Yabsley will be asked when highways will be clearing the litter.

b) To note proposed road closures. It is proposed to close the road from Barton Cross to Hawkwell Cross, East Anstey (WDNW726W Anstey Mills) on June 6th to replace a telegraph pole.

101/03/23. Reports:

a) District Cllr. No report.

b) County Cllr. No report.

102/03/23. Finance:

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

Mrs J Larcombe - £132.00 Clerk's salary for February and expenses (Payment ref: 2223/27)

HM Revenue & Customs - £20.00 PAYE

An invoice had been received from The Community Heartbeat Trust for the Village Emergency Telephone System for £120.00. Councillors discussed the pros and cons of continuing with the contract. Several of the people who gave their phones numbers and agreed to be part of the scheme when it started are no longer available. Some new people have agreed to be part of the scheme, which has never, fortunately, been used. It was decided not to renew the contract and to put 3 mobile numbers on a sheet by the defibrillator that people can ring if they want the code.

The Clerk has given the school details of how often the school has been used for meetings and asked for an invoice. It was agreed the invoice could be paid if

it was received before the next meeting to keep it in the correct financial year.

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

No receipts since the last meeting.

Current account cleared balance: £3,087.23. Instant Access account balance: £3,072.14.

c) To agree additional bank signatories. It was agreed to add Robin Milton and Judith Gannon as bank signatories as both intended to stand for election in May.

d) To review Business Risk Assessment. The draft Business Risk Assessment circulated prior to the meeting was agreed.

e) Review the effectiveness of internal controls and internal audit. It was agreed the internal controls were effective. Internal audit has been effective but a new internal auditor will need to be appointed for the 2022-23 internal audit.

f) To appoint the Internal Auditor to carry out the internal audit for 2022-23. It was agreed to appoint Karen Ward to carry out the internal audit.

103/03/23. Play Area

a) Any issues arising from playground inspections. There were no issues.

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

c) To consider the quotes for cutting the playing field grass. The Council had tried to obtain 3 quotes but were only able to obtain 2 quotes. The contract was awarded to Dan Passmore.

d) Progress with applying for funding for new play equipment. No further progress.

104/03/23. Parish Council election 4th May. The term of all councillors will come to an end on 9th May 2023. Anyone that would like to continue on the Parish Council, or become a Councillor, will need to submit a nomination form to NDC by 4pm on 4th April 2023. If more than 8 nominations are received an election will be held on 4th May, at the same time as the District Council elections. The Clerk was waiting for NDC to send her some nomination forms. Cllr Vigus and Cllr Miss Warne said they would not be standing for re-election. There was concern that it might be difficult to fill all the places on the Council and there was a discussion about how to make it easier for people to commit to becoming a councillor. Councillors decided to meet every 2 months rather than every month. Standing Orders will be revised to give the Clerk more power to act, in conjunction with the Chair, between meetings

105/03/23. Correspondence. There was no further correspondence.

106/03/23. To agree the date and venue of the April meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th April 2023. The Clerk, who is also an employee of Exmoor Link Federation, has been given a key for the school and she will ask if the meeting can be held at the school even though it will during the school Easter holidays. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will be on Wednesday May 10th