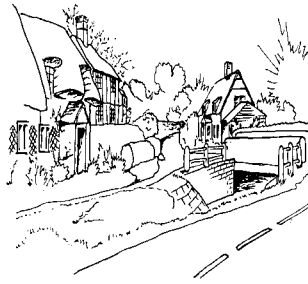


ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held in Arkesden Village Hall on

Wednesday 27th April 2016

Those present: 6 Parish Councillors, Clerk to the Parish Council, District Councillor Edward Oliver and approx. 17 residents.
Rod Higgins in the chair.

1. Apologies for Absence: Charles and Jill Rawlinson, Tony Phillips, Melanie Wells, Cathy Miles, Pat Truelove, Amanda Crabb, Sophie Blackburn, Peter and Sheila Finn, Robin Coady.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2015. These were agreed and signed

3. Matters Arising:

3.1 Gypsy Traveller Site

- Planners awaiting further information from the owners.
- At the July (2015) meeting of the PPWG, the officers' recommendation that the 5 Acres site should not be taken forward into the local plan was agreed.
- Due to a redefinition of "Traveller" for planning purposes, there would be a new needs survey – due to be completed in June 2016.
- At a recent Parish Forum it was disclosed that all sites (housing and G&T) would be reassessed in the revisions to the Local Plan.
- Chairman was optimistic about the future of the 5 Acres site as the reasons for not considering the site had remained the same.

4. Chairman's Report

- 14 planning applications – all approved eventually.
- No support for Superfast Broadband through County Broadband but BT have indicated that Arkesden will be connected SOON!
- Defibrillator purchased and training undertaken. Thanks to Jane Chetcuti and Craig Dyce for the fundraising event and special thanks to Tony Brady for his time in running the training sessions..
- The bench outside the Axe replaced.
- A member of the Parish Council (Pat Palmer) now sits on the Village Hall Committee.
- The Highway Rangers spent several weeks in the village painting and renovating signs, railings and the pump.
- Works at the layby ongoing with a maintenance schedule agreed.
- Speeding through the village is an increasing problem and the Parish Council would continue to request training from the police.

- The annual Litter Pick was poorly attended with only 15 bags of litter collected. We will be hoping for better weather next time.
- Web site is being updated and a reminder that this is the village's website and all local groups and clubs can contribute.
- Thanks to fellow councillors, the district councillor and the clerk for all their efforts and support during the past year.

5. Clerk's Report on Finance

- Neither the expected costs of fighting the Gypsy traveller site at 5 Acres nor the expected election costs materialised and consequently the budget was underspent.
- Greater than expected income arose from grants and the fundraising for the defibrillator.
- The precept for 2016-17 was lowered by almost 17% whilst still maintaining a healthy balance.
- New Codes of Transparency have resulted in some increased costs but so far this has all been funded through government grants.

6. District Councillor – Update on the Local Plan

- UDC forced to start again following the inspectors rejection of the plan in Nov. 2015.
- New Call for Sites resulted in large number of sites being put forward but only one in Arkesden and this was deemed unsuitable.
- The council are looking in the larger villages and as Arkesden is a type B settlement it is very unlikely that any housing will be scheduled for the village.
- As reported earlier the G&T numbers are being reassessed and likely to result in a fall in the number of actual Travellers needing sites.
- The new draft will have to be ready by Oct. 2016 in order for a limited consultation before March 2017 – the submission date.
- There is still the possibility of a "Garden Village" type of settlement, so much work is still to be completed in a very short timeframe.

7. Report of Village Activities.

The following organisations presented short reports to the meeting of their various activities during the past year, and some for the coming year. In the interests of brevity, these reports are not reported here but the clerk has hard copies and the reports will also be available on the village website.

7.1 Parochial Church Council

7.2 Friends of Arkesden Church

7.3 Bell Ringers

7.4 Village Hall

7.5 Millennium Field Committee.

7.6 Arkesden Village News

7.7 Arkesden Cricket Club

8. Any Other Business

- The hedge at Winterbourne House needed cutting back
- Parking outside Cruachan was becoming a problem even when the car park to the Axe was not full.
- The defibrillator needs children's pads