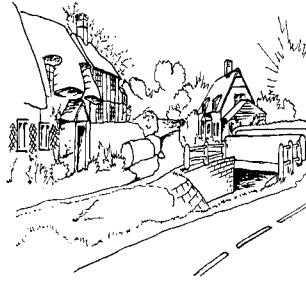


ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



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

Wednesday 26th April 2017

Those present: 6 Parish Councillors, Clerk to the Parish Council, District Councillor Edward Oliver and approx. 24 residents.
Rod Higgins in the chair.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Tony Phillips, Cathy Miles, Alan and Alison Poultney, Anthea and David Boon.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2016.** These were agreed and signed.

3. Matters Arising:

3.1 The Local Plan – Edward Oliver

Cllr Oliver outlined the present position as:

- The Draft Plan will go to Council on 11/7/2017
- Public Consultation will run from 12/7/2018 until 29/8/2017
- The council will then consider the comments made and finalise the plan for further consultation in Jan 2018.
- Plan submitted to the inspector in March 2018

The plan is now a “hybrid” version with most of the new housing in 2 or possibly 3 new settlements. The nearest one of these to Arkesden is at Great Chesterford.

The council were working on a figure of 12,500 new homes but this has been revised to 14,100, of which 8000 have already been allocated or built.

Cllr Oliver pledged to keep fighting to protect the four villages he represents and reassured the meeting that since Arkesden was rated as a type B settlement, it was not designated for any development.

Charles Rawlinson - What about the infrastructure needed for this new housing. We need a new road to link east of Saffron Walden to the M11

Edward Oliver – District Council is responsible for planning and Essex County Council are responsible for roads, schools etc. There is no land available for a new road and it is therefore better to site the majority of the new housing away from the town.

David Curry – In the absence of a plan, are we at risk from speculative development?

Edward Oliver – Because we now have a higher new house figure the land supply cannot keep up. There is a robust land supply at present but this could change. It is vital that this plan succeeds before any further increase in the housing requirement causes a shortfall in land supply

The chairman thanked the District Councillor for this report.

4. Chairman's Report

Chairman reported on:

- Planning Applications – 14 during the year with most approved. The most contentious being proposals for industrial units at Mulberry House. Over 60 objections from the village and the Parish Council have resulted in more information requested from the applicant. The Parish Council has asked for the application to go to committee.
- Parish Council gave all children a mug to celebrate the Queen's birthday.
- Superfast Broadband now installed.
- London – Cambridge bike ride "pit " in Arkesden was a great success, raising funds for the three village organisations supporting the event with tea, cakes and helpers!
- The Parish Council had supported the proposals for new settlements in the Local Plan, rather than continued expansion of the existing towns and villages.
- Community Speed Watch now operating in the village.
- Annual Litter pick was well supported.
- The Parish Council will be working on a new information board during the coming year.

More details of the Chairman's report can be found on the village website.

5. Clerk's Report on Finance

Clerk reported that:

- A healthy brought forward balance of £5719
- Total income of £9991 – higher than budget, mainly due to Transparency Code funding.
- Total expenditure of £10516 – under budget due to no election costs, legal fees and an underspend on Parish Plan projects.
- Net result was a slightly lower carried forward balance of £5194.
- For 2017/18 the precept has been increased slightly to £8172, resulting in an increase to the council tax of a band D house of 99p per year!

6. 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.

6.1 Parochial Church Council

6.2 Friends of Arkesden Church

6.3 Bell Ringers

6.4 Village Hall

6.5 Millennium Field Committee.

6.6 Arkesden Village News

7.7 Arkesden Cricket Club

7. Future of 5 Acres

The clerk had been informed by the owners that they would be putting the land at 5 Acres up for sale by auction in the late summer of 2017. A brief history of the site:

- The Parish Council offered £50,000 to buy the site in 2011. Offer refused.
- The site was not now included in the Local Plan as a prospective Traveller site.
- New changes to the definition of Traveller in planning terms means that UDC has no requirement to provide sites for Travellers.
- Dumping of waste in serious quantities has taken place on the site.
- The PC had looked into the possibility of acquiring the land for allotments but the costs involved now in purchase, clearing the site , preparation of allotment

- Plots and the ongoing maintenance and insurance costs have made the site prohibitively costly.

The meeting concluded that the Parish Council should take no further action at this time regarding the 5 Acres site.

8. Any Other Business.

8.1 Speed limit

Was there any possibility of the speed limit being reduced to 30mph coming down Quicksie Hill?

Parish Council said that this was very unlikely since it had been talked about before but due to lack of accidents it was not considered to be a dangerous stretch of road.

8.2 Footpaths

The footpaths from Newland end to Quicksie Hill and to Beacon House and become very indistinct.

Parish Council agreed to talk to the relevant landowners.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 9.30pm

Steve Coltman (Clerk)

Rod Higgins (Chairman)