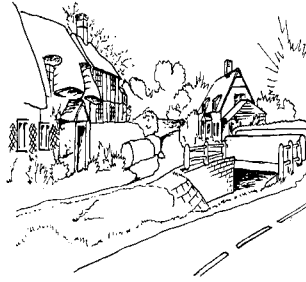


# ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



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

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**Those present:** 6 Parish Councillors, Edward Oliver, Clerk  
21 Residents  
Rod Higgins in the chair.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Charles Rawlinson, Kate Barwood, Margaret Davis
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2017.** These were agreed and signed.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

#### **3.1 Local Plan**

Cllr. Edward Oliver reported that the timetable for the Local Plan, set last year, was proceeding well. The Plan should go to full council in July and then to the Inspector by Christmas 2018. The housing numbers are 14,100 of which 3000 have already been built and 3900 have existing permission plus a windfall leaves only 5730 to be allocated.

The plan proposes two new Garden Community settlements, one at Great Chesterford and the other between Stansted Airport and Great Dunmow. Saffron Walden will see another 250 homes and Great Dunmow another 750. This leaves the remainder to be spread amongst the larger villages but NOTHING proposed for Arkesden.

UDC does still not have a five-year land supply but it is imperative that this Plan is approved, otherwise the government could step in and the housing target would increase again (to 16,300) with the local people having no say on where these houses would go.

#### **3.2 Information Board**

The chairman of the Parish Council reported that the new information board that the Parish Council had commissioned was awaiting delivery, but in the meantime a print was available to see now in the village hall.

#### **3.3 5 Acres**

The clerk reported that UDC's draft Local Plan had no requirement to provide any new Gypsy/Traveller pitches in the district.

#### 4. Chairman's Report

- **Mulberry House Industrial Units**

This application to convert the barns at Mulberry House was opposed by the Parish Council and many residents. It was agreed to commission our own Transport Review in order to counter the claims of the applicant and this was funded by donations from residents. The resulting survey condemned the application and the Parish Council is convinced that this went some way towards UDC's refusal of this application.

- **Pebblings Field**

A notice of sale for development had been erected Pebblings' field (land between Pebblings and Quicksie Hill). The Parish Council would monitor the situation.

- **Stream Clearing**

Quite a small turnout but this was offset by the residents that keep their own stream frontage clear. The Parish Council had also paid for the clearing of bigger shrubs and trees from the stream and under the bridge.

- **Speed Watch**

Speed watch will be starting up again soon and so far only one vehicle has been reported to the police.

- **London-Cambridge cycle ride**

A very enjoyable and successful day with plenty of residents providing refreshments. The event raised £1200 which was split between the Village Hall, The Millennium Field and the Friends of Arkesden Church.

- **New code of conduct**

The Parish Council adopted the new code of conduct proposed by UDC.

- **Litter Pick**

Not very well attended but still collected plenty of rubbish.

- **Tree In memory of Rene Hudgell**

The Parish Council agreed to fund a tree in memory of Rene Hudgell who had lived in and around the village for 100 years!

- **Highways**

Plenty of patching work in the autumn with more to come. This is all in preparation for a major resurfacing scheme in 2018.

- **General**

The Parish Council continues to manage the village assets such as the playing field, the greens, the layby, the benches and the noticeboards.

The Chairman thanked his fellow councillors and the clerk for all their hard work during the past year.

#### 5. Clerk's report on finance

- Spent £1450 more than income but still a healthy carried forward balance
- Transport review for the Mulberry House planning application was funded by donations
- In order to keep the Parish Council running with its normal activities of maintaining village amenities requires around £9000 per year. This is without allowing for any projects or difficult planning applications, which may need specialist advice.
- Contingency fund for legal fees increased and a precept of £9000 was agreed – an increase of 10%.

## **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. Stansted Airport**

A short discussion on the recent planning application to increase passenger numbers at Stansted Airport concluded that this application should be dealt with at national level and not by UDC with its limited resources. The application was also thought to be premature as the government had not yet published its future plans for airport expansion in the south of England. The Parish Council would be objecting to the lack of infrastructure that would be required to handle the extra passengers and to the disruption this would cause to local people.

## **8. Any Other Business.**

- Parking along the Wenden Road outside Quicksie Hill was a continuing problem that could result sooner or later in a serious accident. Parish Council agreed to investigate again the possibility of reducing the speed limit on this stretch of road.
- Chairman reminded everyone of the upcoming stream clearance and hoped more people would turn out this year.

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

**Steve Coltman (Clerk)**

**Rod Higgins (Chairman)**