

ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the MEETING of ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL held in Arkesden Village Hall on

Monday 15th July 2019

Present: Rod Higgins (chairman), Satu Lawrence, Rupert Bull, Ted Buttling,
Cllr. Edward Oliver and Steve Coltman (clerk).

1. **Apologies:** Robert Patmore and Chris Coady
2. **Declaration of interests:** None
3. **Public Speaking**

Mr and Mrs Wombwell – No.6 Quicksie Hill

The Parish Council were asked why it had objected to the previous application at No. 6 Quicksie and why other similar buildings at Quicksie Hill had been approved. The Parish Council responded that it had objected to the other buildings on the same grounds, namely that the site is outside development limits and is in an unsustainable location. Mr and Mrs Wombwell explained that their new application had some distinct changes, in particular with regard to access, and hoped that the Parish Council would raise no objections.

4. **Minutes of the meeting of 17th June 2019**

These were approved and signed.

5. **Matters arising from the minutes of 17th June 2019**

5.1 The Stream

Chairman had met with a representative from the Essex Highways Flood Management Team to assess the level of the stream bed. The net result of the inspection was that no remedial work on the stream bed is required, but that annual clearance of growth in the stream and on the banks should continue as normal. With regard to responsibility for clearing the stream, there are two distinct possibilities:

- a) Where the stream adjoins a property, it is the responsibility of the landowner to maintain the stream and BOTH banks i.e. up to the highway boundary.
- b) Where the stream is bounded by the road on one side and a public footpath on the other the responsibility lies almost certainly with the Highway authority – a final check on this would be carried out.

The Parish Council agreed that it would still continue to organise the annual spring stream clear and to pay for the second cut in late summer. If flooding were ever to occur again, there is government help for insurance cover and for compensation for damage.

5.2 The Millennium Field – see item 7

5.3 The Village Plan

5.3.1 Community

a) The Parish Council agreed to consider the suggestion of a “Parish Council Surgery” whereby two councillors would be available for a chat about anything that a resident wished to raise with the council. These meetings could be bi-monthly and take place in the village hall on a Saturday, if possible, to be convenient for the working residents.

b) It was agreed to encourage feedback from the village via the Village News and to seek extra help for work on the magazine. The next edition would cover this.

c) Any new society eg History Group, would need a keen and dedicated supporter to start up such a group. The Parish Council may be able to help with funding, if required.

d) Ted Buttlings agreed to monitor the progress of the church re-ordering group.

e) It was agreed to put proposals for a village sign to the village via the magazine with a possible design agreed by a competition amongst residents.

5.3.2 Transport

a) The existing car sharing scheme would be advertised again in the Village News.

b) Clerk agreed to investigate the possibility of a speed-check within a 40mph zone so that such a check could be carried out at Quicksie Hill.

c) The on road parking problem is not caused solely by the state of the access road and the idea of a layby in front of the grassed area was suggested. Clerk stated that this would need to be raised as part of a Local Highways Panel (LHP) scheme. Such a scheme would require approval from UDC as they own the land, and approval from the residents as the hedge would need to be removed – thus affecting the properties fronting the grassed area.

5.3.3 Recreation

a) The idea of reforming a Mother and Toddler group would be put to Cathy Miles, who helps to run the Arkys Ark group at the church.

6. Planning matters

6.1 New Applications

6.1.1 UTT/19/1675/HHF Winchcombe Reapplication for art studio in the loft.

This was a reapplication following the refusal due to insufficient Bat Survey information. The new application had addressed this and the Parish Council had no objections.

6.1.2 UTT/19/1652/HHF 6 Quicksie Hill New dwelling in rear garden

The Parish Council discussed this new application in the light of the officer's report on the previous application for a similar proposal on this site. There were no objections to the design, scale or appearance of the building. There were concerns over the access for the fire service and adequate water supply to the new building and also to ensure that the right of access over the neighbouring property is granted in perpetuity.

This application still raised the issue of sustainability re the lack of services and unsustainable transport – contrary to UDC policies. The Parish Council still fears that one approval on this site could lead to several more applications and a ribbon development at the rear of Quicksie Hill.

6.2 Determinations

6.2.1 UTT/19/1030/HHF Winchcombe Art studio in loft
Refused – see item 6.1.1 above.

7. Playing Field

Tom McFadyen explained the role of the Millennium Field Committee – namely fund raising, checking the play equipment, manage bookings for car parking and children's events (with consent from the owners). The equipment is monitored weekly using a whatsapp group for reporting. It was agreed to include the clerk into this group so that the Parish Council would be aware of any problems. The cutting of the hedges around the field would be investigated. The Parish Council agreed to help financially with the hedge cutting if necessary and Cllr Oliver offered to help with some grant funding.

Chairman reported that he had spoken with David Forster and confirmed that the field was only to be used for children's activities and other village events (by consent). There would be no problem with a VE Day celebration next year on the field and that there should be no problem with renewing the lease next year.

Vehicles had been seen on the field at night and Mr Forster agreed to erect a gate to prevent this happening. He also confirmed that a family member may well be interested in joining the Millennium Field Committee. *(Since then John Forster has agreed to this).*

8. Highways

8.1 Rangers Update

The Highway Rangers had now completed most of their jobs very efficiently and had included cleaning and retreating some of the benches. Chairman agreed to speak to our maintenance man about the remaining benches and the noticeboards.

8.2 Reflector posts

Ted Buttling had compiled a list of damaged/missing reflector posts throughout the village and the clerk would report these as soon as the Essex Highways website was up and running again.

9. Correspondence

As more information comes via email the clerk agreed with councillors to trial a period of forwarding information via email – broadband speeds permitting!

10. Finance

10.1 Balance

Current Account	£5540.19
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10.2 Invoices

The following invoice was agreed for payment

BH Grounds Maintenance	£ 288.00	inc. VAT
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It was agreed to ask the contractor to cut and clear the layby after the end of July and also to request an estimate for strimming the stream in September.

11. Further Discussion Points

11.1 Future Management of projects

Rupert Bull agreed to put forward proposals on the management of future projects and initiatives for discussion at the next meeting. Clerk reported that Cllr Gerrard had agreed to attend the September meeting and this might tie in well with Rupert's proposals.

11.2 Vehicles at Clodmore Hill

The Clerk and cllr. Oliver reported that several non-local vehicles had been seen at various times in the evening "loitering" at the top of Clodmore Hill (no through road). This had been reported to the police and residents have been asked to report any further incidents. The police seem loathe to act as no criminal activity can be proved, although there must be some element of unlawful activity, otherwise why meet in an isolated location for short periods of time? Residents should remain vigilant.

11.3 Cllr. Oliver requested a spot on the agenda to raise UDC matters. Agreed.

11.4 Ted Buttling asked to see the standing orders and the clerk's contract.

12. Date of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 16th September at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Rod Higgins (Chairman)

Steve Coltman (Clerk)