

ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



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

Monday 16th September 2019

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

1. Apologies: None

2. Public Speaking: None

3. Talk by Cllr Gerard on “Parish Councils – a closer working relationship”

- Cllr Gerard is the UDC cabinet member for communities. He is a member of Newport PC and sits on the UDC planning committee.
- New administration at UDC is a cross party inclusive structure and is looking to help PCs.
- Most common problems for PCs are planning issues. Hoping to improve PC involvement with the planning committee. More time to speak at planning meetings and Parish Councillors given more involvement at planning site meetings.
- Planning working group is looking at improving consistency in officers’ reports – common template. Possible interaction with PCs at pre-planning stage.

Chairman agreed that planning issues were the main area of concern for Arkesden PC and that it had been involved in several contentious planning issues over the last few years.

Clerk emphasised the need for consistency in planning decisions and that the PC always tried to be consistent with its decisions.

Cllr Oliver commented on the problems with agency staff in the planning dept.

Cllr Gerard was aware of the problems on the planning dept. – shortage of good staff and recent large planning applications on top of the Local Plan. UDC was endeavouring to find a solution to these problems but they would require more funding and results will not happen overnight.

Councillors agreed that a hard copy of planning applications would be very helpful and Cllr Gerard said these were still available on request to Nigel Brown.

The clerk had emailed the details of Cllr. Gerard’s recent presentation to the Local Councils’ Liaison Forum.

4. Declaration of Interests: None

5. Minutes of the meeting of 15th July: Agreed

6. Matters arising from the minutes of 15th July:

6.1 Feasibility of Parish Council surgeries

The idea of Parish Council surgeries had been raised by Rupert Bull and Ted Buttling following their training courses, when it had been suggested as a way in which PCs could become more involved in the community beyond just planning issues. Chris Coady had looked at other PCs that had surgeries and said that some were three times a year and others once a month. Chairman said that it should be at least two councillors, preferably

three, and that no advice should be given to residents. This would be a listening exercise and that any relevant issues would be discussed by the full Parish Council at its meetings. It was proposed to have a surgery four times a year (as a trial), in the village hall on a Saturday afternoon from 2pm – 4pm. All agreed and it would be publicised in the Village News, on the website and on the noticeboards when suitable dates had been agreed with the village hall.

6.2 Division of responsibilities between councillors

Rupert Bull outlined his proposals for councillors to divide up responsibilities for the various aspects of the community as per his email of 30/07. His suggestions included:

- a) Compilation and updating list of clubs and societies locally.
- b) The creation of new village-based activities e.g. History Society/Arts society/Pilates/Yoga
- c) Fundraising for events such as village fete/barn dance/garden show.
- d) Environment to include verges, hedgerows, footpaths, benches, noticeboards, traffic and transport concerns.
- e) Village asset use to include liaison with the Village Hall Committee, the PCC and the Millennium Field Committee.

Individual councillors would each take responsibility for a different area, research the issues and report back to the council on a quarterly basis. Small working groups and possibly committees may need to be formed.

The Parish Council debated these proposals and decided that quite a few of these responsibilities are already dealt with by individual councillors and that a more formal approach with other groups and committees being formed is not necessary. It was decided that as a first step to providing more incentives in creating more activities in the village it would be useful to have a list of what is already available in the village (and surrounding villages) and also to enquire of the residents if there any activities in which they would like to participate. It was agreed that Rupert Bull should undertake this task and in the meantime the Parish Council would add the list of existing responsibilities of councillors to the Village News and to the website.

It was also agreed that fundraising is not generally the remit of the Parish Council and that previous fundraising events in the village had been organised by the organisation wishing to raise money. That is not to say that the PC cannot encourage groups to put on activities to fund raise e.g. the recent Bike Ride.

Chairman asked for a volunteer councillor to be the Parish Council's representative on the Village Hall Committee – Ted Buttlings agreed to do this.

Responsibilities already in place:

- Rod Higgins Benches/Noticeboards, general village maintenance
- Chris Coady Millennium Field
- Satu Lawrence Village News
- Ted Buttlings PCC and VHC liaison.

6.3 Standing Orders

The Parish Council worked through the Model Standing Orders and inserted times and comments as appropriate. Committees would only be set up as and when required. The final version was proposed for adoption:

Proposer: Ted Buttlings Seconded: Rupert Bull Agreed unanimously.

Clerk agreed to modify the document accordingly and to send copies to all councillors.

6.4 Stream Maintenance

The clerk had received confirmation that properties bordering the stream were responsible for maintenance. However, the council decided that it would still undertake the twice yearly cutting of the banks and stream bed.

7. Planning matters

7.1 New Applications

7.1.1 UTT/19/2156/CLP Stocksmead Erection of Garden room
The Parish Council had no objections.

7.2 Determinations

7.2.1 UTT/19/1652/HHF 6 Quicksie Hill New dwelling Refused
7.2.2 UTT/19/1675/HHF Winchcombe Studio in loft Approved
7.2.3 UTT/19/1712/HHF Clodmore Hill Farm Retention of glazing Refused

7.3 Pending

7.3.1 UTT/19/1769/HHF Swallows Barn Single storey extensions

8. Report from the District Councillor

Cllr Edward Oliver reported that the Local Plan was still progressing and that further objections up to 11/09 had been passed to the inspector. A recent appeal at Newport had been dismissed with the inspector giving weight to the emerging Local Plan.

9. Playing Field

Chris Coady reported that John Forster still had to be included on the MFC. Tom McFadyen would action asap. Chris Coady agreed to go on to the MFC's dropbox list for inspection data updates.

10. Highways

10.1 Defects relating to reflector posts had been reported and would be dealt with during the highways rolling programme of repairs.

10.2 Speed check – Clerk was still awaiting confirmation as to whether a speed check in a 40mph limit is possible. In the meantime the chairman agreed to organise a speed watch in the original position in the village.

11. Correspondence

There had been a mixed reaction to the electronic version of the correspondence and the clerk agreed to continue with the electronic version and also produce a hard copy circulation folder of the most relevant information.

12. Finance

10.1 Balance Current Account £ 5252.19

10.2 Invoices

The following invoices were agreed for payment:

BH Grounds maintenance	£ 192.00	(inc. VAT)
BH Grounds maintenance	£ 288.00	(inc.VAT)
UDC election costs	£ 115.35	
S Lovegrove – strim graves	£ 60.00	
Clerk's wages – 3 mths	£ 1050.00	
Arkesden Village Hall donation	£ 200.00	
Arkesden Village News donation	£ 200.00	

13. Further Discussion Points

13.1 Parking at Quicksie Hill

The clerk agreed to produce a letter/flyer to be sent to residents at Quicksie Hill to see if the parking problems on the road at Quicksie Hill could be alleviated.

14. Date of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting was agreed as Monday 21st October 2019 to be held in the village hall at 7.30pm.

R. Higgins (Chairman)

S.R. Coltman (clerk)