

ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



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

Monday 16th December 2019

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Edward Oliver
2. **Public Speaking** None
3. **Declaration of Interests** None
4. **Minutes of the meeting of 18th November 2019** Agreed
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of 18th November 2019**

5.1 New activities feedback

Rupert Bull reported that the response from the flyer re: new village activities had been encouraging with the most interest being shown in the coffee mornings and Pilates/Yoga. The Parish Council agreed to start up the coffee mornings on TUESDAY 21st JAN. 2020 possibly on a fortnightly basis, but that would be agreed with attendees. Notices would be posted on the notice boards and interested residents would be contacted.

It was also agreed to contact possible Pilates teacher to see if a group could be started in the new year with a priority given to Arkesden residents if demand is high. Parish Council also agreed to talk to the Village Hall committee to see if some kind of reduced fee incentive could be offered for the first few lessons in order to generate a future income stream.

Other activities that generated interest was a History Society and a rambling group, but these required enthusiastic leaders. Rupert Bull agreed to continue to try to set up a first event for a history society that would involve all ages of the community and which may lead to an interested leader coming forward. Similarly with a Rambling Group – an initial walk may well generate interest for another one!

5.2 Speeding at Quicksie Hill

Clerk reported that the police required some information on our equipment and that they had suggested training some more volunteers whilst looking at a possible new site at Quicksie Hill. Clerk would send an e-mail request for volunteers.

5.3 Dog Fouling at The Gap

Clerk had met with ECC who had agreed to collect from a new bin at the top of The Gap. It was agreed to order new dog waste bin.

6. Planning matters

6.1 New Applications None

6.2 Determinations

6.2.1 UTT/19/2450/HHF Waterbridge Side and rear extensions Approved with a condition on obscure glazing to the side window

7. Report from District Councillor – not present

8. Playing Field

Hedge still remains to be cut. Rupert Bull would chase up the contractors.

9. Village Hall report

Ted Buttlings reported that the VHC's priority was to catch up on village hall repairs, with the rainwater drains being the first priority. The entrance doors need some attention with possibly a new set of external doors. Quotes had been obtained and a grant applied for. The Village Bash in December had provided great food and drink, but the numbers of residents attending had been disappointing – although plenty of children.

10. Highways

Clerk would try to arrange a meeting with Essex Highways so that all of the outstanding works could be considered together rather than in a piecemeal inspection method.

11. Correspondence As circulated

12. Finance

12.1 Balance

| | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Current Account balance | £6403.84 |
|-------------------------|----------|

12.2 Invoices

The following invoices were agreed for payment:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|
| BH Grounds Maintenance | £ 138.00 | inc. VAT |
| CPRE membership | £ 36.00 | |
| 100 Parishes membership | £ 10.00 | |
| Clerk's wages (3 mths) | £1050.00 | |

12.3 Budget

The clerk presented version 2 of a proposed budget which included the additions discussed at the previous meeting. The council agreed that the increased website costs would not cover an "overhaul" of the site and therefore agreed to raise this sum to £1000. It was further agreed that the coffee mornings would be self-funding and that the VE celebration funding should be in addition to the existing "Parish Projects" to allow for the possibility of a project if suitable match funding could be found through grants. The net result of these decisions would be a possible total expenditure of £14,140 requiring a precept of £10,250 to remain solvent if all contingencies were used. This represents a 10.5% increase although in real terms that only equates to 10p per week increase for a Band D property.

The Parish Council agreed to consider this level of increase and then to finalize the budget at the January meeting.

13. Further Discussion Points

Mulberry House – unlawful use

The Parish Council had received further comments on the continued unlawful use of the barns at Mulberry House. It was agreed to write to enforcement again reporting this continuing activity.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the parish Council will take place on Monday 20th January 2019 at 7.30pm in the village hall.