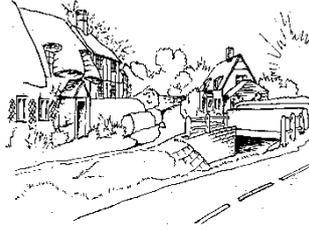


ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



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

Monday 20th January 2020

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

1. **Apologies: None**
2. **Public Speaking: None**
3. **Declaration of Interests: None**
4. **Minutes of the meeting of 16th December 2019**
5. **Matters arising from the minutes of 16th December 2019**

5.1 Village Coffee Mornings/Pilates

It was agreed that the coffee mornings should be primarily a social function, but that if anyone wished to raise Parish Council business then they should be invited to the next PC meeting or PC surgery. The frequency of the coffee mornings would be decided by those present, although this may not necessarily remain fixed.

The Pilates classes could be Tuesdays or Thursdays but the existing use of the village hall would favour Thursdays. Rupert Bull agreed to confirm this with the Pilates teacher and classes would start in February with two sessions before half term.

5.2 Parish Council Surgeries

The initial surgery took place on Sat. 18th January and was attended by only one resident. He raised the problem of speeding in Poore Street and the erosion of the verges. The Parish Council agreed to ask the police if Poore Street could become one of the village locations for a Community Speed Watch.

The problem of verge erosion by traffic is a problem throughout the village and as the verges are the responsibility of Essex Highways, it is not possible for individual residents to deter vehicle infringement by solid obstacles e.g. rocks or posts. Reporting the problem on Essex Highways website proves ineffective – see item 10.

6. Planning matters

6.1 New Applications

6.1.1 UTT/19/3131/LB	Great Becketts	Replacement window
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The Parish Council had no objections as this was a "like for like" replacement

6.2 Determinations

6.2.1 UTT/19/2746/HHF	Deans Meadow	Approved
6.2.2 UTT/19/2302/FUL	Plym Cottage and Hinchmans – change of use of land	Approved

7. District Councillor's report

Cllr Oliver reported that the inspectors had found the Local Plan unsound with particular regard to the new settlements under Garden Village principles. As there was no plan B fall-back position, UDC will now have to find an alternative land supply. This could mean several years before a new plan is agreed and planning permissions more likely in the surrounding villages during this period.

8. Playing Field Report

Chris Coady reported that the old goal posts were still lying on the playing field. She agreed to ask the MFC to remove them.

Rupert Bull reported that the hedges had not been cut yet, but he was promised that they would be done soon.

9. Village Hall report

Ted Buttling reported that the new entrance doors had been approved and that plans were in place to tidy up the village hall surrounds and to sort out the rainwater drainage problem.

10. Highways

Clerk reported on conversations with Essex Highways regarding the list of problems that had been reported. These are gradually being inspected, but a suggestion of a site meeting to discuss all of the problems together was refused. It was agreed to ask Cllr. John Moran to the next PC meeting to see if a meeting could be arranged between Essex Highways and the PC.

11. Correspondence As circulated

12. Finance

12.1 Balance

Current Account Balance	£5169.84
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12.2 Invoices

The following invoices were agreed for payment:

Medisave UK – defib. Battery and pads	£ 350.24	inc. VAT
Glasdon UK – Dog waste bin for The Gap	£ 140.96	inc. VAT
Citizens Advice Bureau – donation	£ 50.00	
Essex Air Ambulance – donation	£ 50.00	

12.3 Budget for 2020/2021

After discussing the recent contingency payment the clerk advised that either the proposed budget should be increased further or some spending should be reduced to prevent the PC falling into a negative balance situation should all the proposed spending and the contingency spending occur in the year. The Parish Council agreed that it would like to take the proposed spending plans forward and still have a workable balance and to that end agreed to increase the precept to £11,000 – an increase of 18.7%, although the contribution to the council tax for a band D house is still only just over £1 per week.

13. Further Discussion Points None

14. Date of next meeting.

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 17th February 2020 at 7.30 in the village hall.