

ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



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

Monday 16th March 2020

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

1. Apologies: Chris Coady and Ted Buttlng

2. Public Speaking None

3. Declaration of Interests None

4. Minutes of the meeting of 17th February 2020 Agreed

5. Matters arising from the minutes of 17th February 2020

5.1 Community Speed Watch

A new date of 15th April had been agreed for training and evaluation of new sites. Unlikely that this would take place due to recent coronavirus restrictions.

5.2 Litter Pick

This had been successful with approx. 25 adults and 8 children collecting 30 bags of rubbish.

5.3 VE Day

Plans for the day were well advanced but again this was unlikely to go ahead due to the coronavirus restrictions.

6. Planning matters

6.1 New Applications None

6.2 Determinations

6.2.1 UTT/19/3131/LB Great Becketts Replacement window Approved

6.2.2 UTT/19/2333/FUL Mulberry House Change of use of outbuildings
UDC had refused this application although it is still being determined under the appeal process.

7. Report from District Councillor

Cllr Oliver reported that UDC had sought advice from the Local Government Association and their experts had recommended a new plan was the only viable way forwards. This would mean starting again with a new increased housing target and in the meantime it would prove very difficult to fight unwanted developments due to the lack of a plan and a five year land supply.

8. Playing Field Report

The Parish Council had been assured that the hedges would be cut.

The shed had been inspected and the MFC had agreed to repair it rather than replace it.

The landlords – David Forster and Adrian Pyatt – had agreed to extend the lease for a further five years to April 1st 2025.

9. Village Hall report

New entrance doors had been fitted and an ongoing programme of maintenance for the exterior of the hall had been agreed.

Rupert Bull agreed to stand as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee.

10. Village Activities

Rupert Bull had been researching the possibility of digging a “Trial Inspection pit” and to try and involve all age groups into participating in this first investigation into local history. It was hoped that this may lead to the formation of a history society within the village. Unfortunately, this may also have to be postponed until coronavirus restrictions are lifted.

11. Highways

The soft verges are still a major problem in and around the village. The clerk agreed to investigate the possibility of marked passing places.

12. Correspondence As circulated

13. Finance

13.1 Balance

Current account balance	£4400.45
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13.2 Invoices

The following invoice was agreed for payment

Clerk’s wages (3mths)	£1050.00
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14. Further Discussion Points

14.1 Emergency planning

The Parish Council agreed to coordinate various groups in the village that were already offering help to residents most vulnerable to the coronavirus. The whole village would be leafleted with contact phone numbers for help with shopping/prescriptions/dog walking etc. The Parish Council would put together a list of the older residents to ensure that they were contacted by the volunteers. Support would not only involve help with the shopping etc. but could also be just a friendly voice on the end of a phone!

The Parish Council agreed that it would need to be flexible as the situation unfolds.

14.2 Project Control Document

This would be a matter for consideration when the current coronavirus situation started to resolve.

15. Date of next meeting.

Provisional dates were set for the next meeting of 20th April and for the AGM as 29th April. It is very unlikely that these will take place on these dates and the clerk agreed to keep the PC informed of any changes to the legal requirements for meetings and the AGM during the current emergency