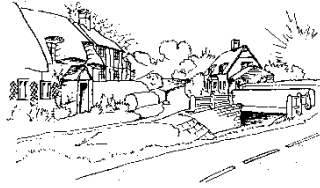


# ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



## ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL – Minutes

**Monday 15 January 2024, 7.30pm in the Arkesden Village Hall**

### 1. Apologies for Absence / Election of Meeting Chair

**Present:** Alistair McLean, Holly Greenhow, Mark Newey, Jonathan Boon, Sophie Garrod, Susan Erb (Clerk), Beth Sivyer (Clerk), and Cllr Edward Oliver.

**Apologies:** Cllr Paul Gadd

**Chair:** The Council voted Holly Greenhow in as Chair (Jonathan Boon proposed; Mark Newey seconded).

**Minutes:** Beth Sivyer and Susan Erb

### 2. Public Speaking

NTR

### 3. Declaration of interests

Holly Greenhow declared interests in two agenda items:

- Application UTT/24/0038/DOC (Item 7.1); and
- Funding for Clavering Primary School (Item 14.1).

### 4. Minutes of 19 December 2023 meeting

The minutes for the 19 December 2023 were accepted and signed off with no revisions.

### 5. Matters arising from 19 December 2023 meeting

NTR

### 6. Ongoing Matters – Cllr Areas of Focus Updates

Following the completion of the footbridge repairs, it was agreed that Holly Greenhow would explore opportunities to welcome new residents to the village through the formation of a welcome pack, ensuring that they have key contacts and village information.

#### 6.1 Footpath Repair (AMcL)

Alistair McLean updated that repairs to the footpath would commence on the 23<sup>rd</sup> January. It was noted that villagers living nearby have already been informed and it was agreed that the APC would update the village via email and the village WhatsApp group.

## 6.2 Website and Broadband (JB)

**Website:** Jonathan Boon updated that more photos have been requested for the website.

**Broadband:** Jonathan Boon shared that he has started to explore options for villagers who live in the more remote areas of the village. He has determined that since 2018 a government voucher scheme ([Project Gigabit](#)) has been in place to help address high speed needs in rural areas. Residents interested in the scheme will need to follow up individually.

## 6.3 Potholes (MN)

Mark Newey updated that the large pothole outside Hobs Aerie has been reported to Highways. Mark will continue to try and report the data he has collected on other potholes in the village via the Highways Portal and is connecting with Cllr Paul Gadd on ways to expedite this.

## 6.4 Speed Limits (SG)

Sophie Garrod confirmed that photographs of the damaged grass verges, as a result of traffic from road diversions, have been sent to Cllr Gadd. She shared that the village traffic survey has been completed and is ready to be circulated to the village residents for completion. It was agreed that the Clerk would convert the survey into an online format.

## 6.5 Neighbourhood Watch

NTR

# 7. Planning Matters

## 7.1 New Applications

- **UTT/24/0038/DOC** - Application to discharge condition 2 (biodiversity method statement), 3 (biodiversity enhancement layout) attached to UTT/21/1476/HHF. Down House, Main Street. Councillors agreed to comment by the due date of 5 February.

## 7.2 Determinations

- **UTT/23/3060/DOC** - Application to discharge condition 4 (contamination) attached to UTT/23/2128/PAQ3. Buildings to the Rear of Mulberry House Wenden Road. Discharge conditions in part – 22 December 2023
- **UTT/23/2835/FUL** - Application to vary condition 3 (ancillary use) of UTT/21/0466/HHF (proposed annexe). 6 Quicksie Hill. Refused – 29 December 2023.
- **UTT/23/3044/DOC** - Application to discharge condition 5 (noise protection scheme), 6 (biodiversity enhancement strategy) and 7 (landscaping) attached to UTT/23/2128/PAQ3. Buildings to the rear of Mulberry House Wenden Road Arkesden. Discharge conditions in full – 5 January 2024
- **UTT/23/3098/AG** - Erect a multi bay agricultural building. Wood Hall Arkesden. Prior Approval Refused – 10 January 2024
- **UTT/23/3100/AG** - Erect a mono pitched round hay bale store. Wood Hall Arkesden. Deemed Approved – 10 January 2024

### 7.3 Enforcements

- **INV/23/0216/C** - Investigating the allegation of an unauthorised Waste Transfer Station at the Land South of Stocks Mead, Wicken Road. The Clerk updated on UDC's decision to close the investigation with no further action. The Council have requested that the Clerk respond to UDC, linking in Cllr Oliver to follow up with regard to health and safety and flooding issues specifically and the request to continue to investigate the site.

### 8. District councillor's report

Cllr Oliver shared his report with the APC by email in advance of the meeting. Cllr Oliver updated the APC that things have remained relatively quiet over the last few weeks. Activities on the Local Plan continue apace. The implications for Arkesden, as noted in December, are limited to windfall sites. Cllr Oliver also shared that UDC's 2024/25 budget is currently being prepared.

### 9. County councillor's report

Cllr Gadd shared his report with the APC by email in advance of the meeting. Cllr Gadd reminded the council for an additional update on documents for the Locality Fund. With regard to flooding and drainage in the village, especially flooding issues on the hill down to and the junction at Clanver End, Cllr Gadd noted that he continues to follow up. Cllr Gadd is continuing to follow up with Essex Highways with regard to road and verge damage in Arkesden following the December diversions. On ECC Council Matters, Cllr Gadd shared that the consultation on the Recycling Centre Booking system have been positive across the county with the exception of Uttlesford who have consistently objected. ECC are analysing the results and will publish their conclusions in due course. ECC continues to be under measurable financial pressure and are looking toward increasing council tax by 4.99%. *"Expenditure pressures on the budget for 2024/25 total £100 million. A 4.99% council tax increase would generate £40.3 million of additional income. Material pressures include:*

*£42 million (+9.8%) social care inflation, including the impact of increases to the National Living Wage*

*£31 million of demographic pressure, most significantly impacting demand across Children's Services at £18 million (+14.5%) and Home to School Transport at £11 million (+30.4%)*

*£17 million (+5%) pay inflation*

*£11 million (+2.5%) impact of adult social care packages becoming more costly due to changes in need"*

### 10. Playing Field report

NTR

### 11. Village Hall report

Mark Newey shared that the restoration work to the floor has been completed.

### 12. Highways and road closures

The Council shared concerns over the impact of the flooding on individual residents' homes. The Council further raised concerns over the inability of storm drains being able

to manage the outflow of water and agreed to follow up with Cllr Gadd to explore potential mitigating measures against further flooding.

### **13. Finance**

#### **13.1 Balances**

At close of business on the 15 January, the balance was £7,122.

#### **13.2 Invoices**

Invoices paid include the monthly salaries of the old and new Clerks and monthly HP printing.

#### **13.3 Precept**

The Clerk confirmed that the Precept had been sent and had receipt confirmed.

### **14. Residents' Concerns / AOB**

#### **14.1 Funding for Clavering Primary School**

The APC are keen to provide some funding support for Clavering Primary School. 19 children from the village currently attend, making up 11% of the school roll. The Parish Clerk will discuss some specific funding options further with the school.

#### **14.2 Charitable Donations**

It was discussed that the Parish Council ordinarily make charitable donations of £500 per year. Suggestions for charitable activities to support will be requested from village residents.

#### **14.3 Emergency plan**

As a result of recent flooding in the village, the Parish Council discussed the village Emergency Plan. Some useful contact numbers are currently published on the village website, but it was agreed that this should be renamed and an emergency plan developed.

#### **14.4 Litter pick**

The village litter pick was confirmed for Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Details for this will be discussed at the February Parish Council meeting.

### **15. Date of the Next Meeting – 19 February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**