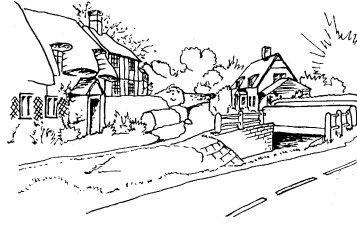


ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL



ARKESDEN PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

15 May 2023, 8pm in the Arkesden Village Hall

1. Attendance: Alistair McLean (Chair), Jonathan Boon, Sophie Garrod, Holly Greenhow, Mark Newey, Susan Erb (Clerk) and roughly 25 village residents. Apologies for absence: John May, Guy Coates, Cllr Gadd, and Cllr Oliver.

The council wished to offer their sincere and heartfelt thanks for the many years of service of outgoing councillors: Robert Patmore who served as councillor for the last 24 years; Chris Coady for 12 years; and belated thanks to Satu Lawrence her for 12 years of service. Thanks, too, go to John May for his two years as Chair.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of the meeting held on 25th April 2022 – accepted unanimously.
3. Matters arising from the meeting of 25th April 2022 – nothing to report.
4. Review / reconfirmation of Standing Orders – confirmed in the autumn, reaffirmed by the Council.
5. Elections
 - 5.1 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chair – the Chair shared that with many long-term councillors stepping down and a few new joining, a way to ensure that all new councillors have a chance to learn the ropes would be to share out the responsibilities of the chair. As such, Alistair McLean, Holly Greenhow, and Sophie Garrod will share a revolving chairmanship over the next six to twelve months, and a vice-chair will not be elected.
 - 5.2 Councillors Acceptance of Office / Declaration of Acceptance – all five new councillors have accepted their new councillor positions. We wish them all the best.
6. Chairman's Report 2022/2023 – attached.
7. Clerk's Report on Finance and Planning 2022/2023 – attached.
 - 7.1 Asset Review – attached.
 - 7.2 Confirmation of insurance cover – the Clerk confirmed that the council insurance has been renewed through BHIB for 2023/24.
 - 7.3 Review of the Council's policies, procedures and practices in respect of its obligations under freedom of information and data protection legislation (*see also standing orders 11, 20 and 21*), covered in pt 4 above.
 - 7.4 Financial Report – attached.
8. Reports of Village Activities – report attached.
 - Bell-ringing
 - Cricket Club
 - Friends of Arkesden Church

- Historical Society
- Millennium Field Committee
- Parochial Church Council
- Village Hall
- Village News

9. Casual Vacancy – Alistair McLean shared that a casual vacancy still exists and encouraged residents to consider joining the Council. Please speak with any Councillor or the Clerk for more information.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 David Curry suggested that the Council review new planning proposals in consideration of their inclusion of solar panels, noting their environmental value.

10.2 David Curry also raised frustration over the endless and often inaccurate road closures.

10.3 Rod Higgins raised the increasing use of the Millennium field, but also mentioned that he had on some occasions seen dogs and vehicles on the MF. This is recommended to be looking into by the Millennium Field Committee. NB – the sign at the entrance of the MF clearly states *no dogs or cars beyond this point*. However, while concealed by overgrown car parsley in advance of the AGM, the offending growth has since been cut back.

10.4 The question of whether the 18th century barn at Mulberry House is listed was raised and what might be done to protect a heritage site. Investigating this through contacting Place Services was offered as an idea for action.

11. Date and place of ordinary Council meetings, and AGM, in 2023/24 – the Clerk confirmed that meetings will continue to be the third Monday of each month, with no meeting to be held in August. The planned date for the next AGM is 20th May 2024, at 8pm in the Village Hall.

Susan Erb (Clerk to the Parish Council)