**ANSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTE 9 of 2024/2025**

**Monday 16th December 2024**

**PRESENT: Cllr P. ARROWSMITH**

**Cllr D. KEARNS**

**Cllr C. BARRS**

**Cllr M. JACKSON**

**Cllr P. REES**

**Cllr A. NORGROVE**

**KEVIN HAYES (Clerk)**

**ALSO PRESENT: Five members of the public**

#### RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE MEETING

The Chairman explained the procedures and reminded everyone that the meeting was being recorded.

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

#### DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA – Cllrs Arrowsmith & Norgrove non pecuniary interest for item 8.3 Cllr Rees non pecuniary interest on Item 9 (a)

#### REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jackson & Cllr Bell reported the following items:

* **Cllr Jackson reported** that there had been a meeting with Severn Trent Authority who informed them that they had finally fixed the leak in Ansley Common. The burst pipes were caused by tree roots.
* **Fly Tipping** The Borough council were using different tactics to tackle fly tipping, They are using drones, mobile cameras
* **Cllr Bell reported** the 30mph signs on Tunnel Road were now being prioritised by the new senior officer in WCC.
* **Pipers Lane.** Following the meeting with the road safety officers from WCC on site it has been agreed that they will create a project to deal with the traffic speeding issues in Pipers Lane. They are going to install road narrowing signs on either side of the bridge and ‘slow ‘signs on the road. Cllr Bell is concerned with parents and children walking to school along Ridge Lane and Pipers Lane as there is no footpath. There used to be Safer Routes to school but they don’t do it anymore. There is the possibility of reducing the speed to 50mph but nothing less. Cllr Barrs asked if the bridge could be removed as this would widen the road and create a footpath. As it was a coal board bridge if they are the owners they might fund the removal. Cllr Bell to find out who owns the bridge.
* **Housing Development at back of Bretts Hall estate.** The planning application that is on the agenda relates to 62 dwellings but is only a small part of the potential site of around 500 dwellings. Cllr Bell is concerned that these applications are being put forward in piece meal chunks and Highways then say its not going to have much effect on the traffic in the area. The impact of the junction of Coleshill Road and Plough Hill Road of traffic coming from 500 new dwellings is unacceptable. There is scheme to deal with the junction but they do not have the money at the moment.
* **Cllr Kearns read out an email from a resident in Ansley Common.** This was acknowledging the installation of the pedestrian crossing by the local shop. The resident said they should look to install two speed bumps and another pedestrian crossing. Cllr Jackson said she agreed but it has taken four years to get the one crossing installed. Cllr Rees said it’s the right time to start a campaign to reduce the traffic speed to 20mph through Ansley Common. The Chairman asked if we could find out from other parish council who have achieved 20mph how they have done this. The question was raised about how much an a average speed camera would cost. Cllr Bell to investigate the cost. Cllrs all agreed that this item needs to stay on the agenda.
* **Flooding in St Johns Road, Ansley Common.** A resident living in St Johns Road has been flooded out as a result of two new dwellings built behind them. Cllr Bell to investigate the flooding problem.

1. **PUBLIC SESSION**

* The member of the public from Pipers Lane who had raised the issue of the speeding traffic was very grateful to Cllr Bell for arranging the road safety officers had visited the site and looked forward to seeing the signage installed.
* Another member of the public asked if there an active scheme for a solar panel buying group. Cllr Barrs said there is a company called Big Solar Co-op that help people set up such schemes. They could be approached to see if they could help. As far as we know there is no scheme locally doing this. We could put this into the leaflet that we are currently creating. Cllr Bell said it might be worth approaching Peter Fowler at North Warwickshire Borough Council who chairs the Climate Change group.
* Another member of the public raised a concern about concerns with the build outs on Birmingham Road especially the one near to the Lord Nelson Pub. They were requesting that the build out be turned into a pedestrian crossing to allow people to cross safely back & forward to the park. It was explained why the Highways will not allow any speed bumps along Birmingham Road. However it was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF November 18th 2024.** These were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting. Matters arising from the minutes.
2. **CLERKS REPORT** The clerk reported on the following points:

* I have been contacted by a resident in St John’s Road, Ansley Common requesting a grit bin be installed at the top of St Johns Road. There is a water flooding problem that freezes at the top of St John’s Road and can cause problems for pedestrians and vehicles. I need authorisation to order and install a grit bin. The same resident gave me a Christmas card with two receipts for the bulbs that they had planted in the stone planter by the bus stop. I paid them the £9.46 out of petty cash. They plant up the container each year.
* I asked Highways about installing bollards on the pavement outside 110,112 & 114 Birmingham Road. The answer was they only have funding available for maintenance. Improvement works can be funded by Councillors delegated budget if they agreed to it. They would then have to check out the viability of installing the bollards. We need to ask Cllr Bell if she has any funding available from her councillors grant left.
* I asked if the two church halls were available to hire on Tuesday evenings. The St Johns Hall is available on Tuesday evenings but not the Ansley Village Hall.
* Myself and Cllr Arrowsmith attended a site meeting with Cllr Margaret Bell and three officers from WCC Highways department in Pipers Lane. A resident from Pipers Lane also attended. Cllr Bell will probably give a full report back at the December meeting. They are looking to put new signage in place and look into reducing the speed to 50mph where the houses are located along Pipers Lane.
* A resident in Ansley Common called me to ask for signs to clear up dog poo. I contacted NWBC and they are having new signs printed. I will collect some & distribute them when they are available.
* We have been granted £3000 from the Warwickshire County Council Youth Club Fund to start up the Ansley Youth Club. We are planning to set up the Youth Club in the new year when we will recruit a part time youth worker.
* I asked NWBC not to remove the litter bin at the Ansley Village post office but to replace it when they have the funds.
* I attended the first meeting of the Party in the Park 2025 working party. The chairman will give a report at the parish council meeting.
* I organised the interviews for the candidates applying for the caretaker vacancy. Cllr Kearns who hosted the interviews will give a report at the parish council meeting.
* We were invited to attend the North Warwickshire Area Committee of Town & Parish Council’s (NWAC) Annual General Meeting. We have not been a member of NWAC but we ought to consider joining as they speak on behalf of Town & Parish council’s in North Warwickshire with the North Warwickshire Borough Council and other interested bodies. We would need a designated councillor to attend their monthly meetings.
* I have been asked if we had permission to erect the heritage stone on the Ansley Village common. I wrote to the previous clerk to ask if they had permission and am waiting for an answer.
* I have received the latest update of registered electors in the parish and can confirm that we have a total of 2042 electors registered to vote within the parish.
* The breakdown is as follows;
* Ansley Common = 890,
* Ansley Village = 981,
* Birchley Heath = 171
* I have just received the ‘Wellbeing for Warwickshire’ newsletter with an emergency number **0800 616171** for adults who are feeling lonely, low, anxious or depressed especially over the Christmas period. They operate a 24 hour free telephone service if its needed by any of our residents. There is a lot more information withing the newsletter. If anyone wants a copy let me know and I will email you one. We should publish this service on our Facebook page and on our website.

1. **PLANNING MATTERS**
2. **PAP/2024/0528 Nicola Lea, A R Cartwright Ltd, Land to the rear of 44 to 66 Bretts Hall Estate, Ansley Common. Erection of 62 dwellings, formation of access from Maize Way, associated landscaping and open space, and attenuation pond.** Cllr Jackson proposed that we object on the grounds that until the junction of Colehill Road & Plough Hill Road**.** We were on the understanding that no developments would take place on this site until the issues with the junction were resolved.
3. **PAP/2024/0516 Mr. Jamie Roberts, Hood Lane Cottage, Hood Lane, Ansley. Erection of triple garage** No Objections.
4. **PAP/2023/0449 Mr. Green, Land to rear of 1 to 3 Birmingham Road, Ansley. Appeal to Planning Inspectorate for outline application to erect 9 dwellings with associated access.** Concerned because of impact on linear character of village and the fact that village farm now accepted the access to the two developments will face each other.
5. **NEW MATTERS ARISING**
6. **Funding support for burial site at St Laurence Church.** Cllr Jackson suggested that we need a meeting outside of the parish council meeting and invite the residents so they can be informed about the plans for the creation of a burial site for cremated ashes. We should invite t Rev Medley& someone from the diocese to address the residents. We need to organise public meeting.
7. **Plans for organising the emergency food parcels for residents** It was agreed to get some leaflets printed to be delivered to all residents asking if they were in need of support or if they know of someone in the parish who needs support. Ask Lindsay Kearns if she can help with the design of the leaflet and get a price for printing.
8. **Plans to set up a youth club in Ansley** We have been granted £3000 from Warwickshire County Council to set up and run the youth club for a year. The grant will cover the salary of part time youth worker, hire of hall, equipment and resources. The working party will meet on January 6th at 6.30pm to discuss how to set up and run the youth club.
9. **Party in the park 2025 report** It was agreed to organise the next meeting of the working group on Tuesday 28th January at Hood Lane Farm, Ansley Lane to discuss the arrangements for the Party in the Park event planned for Sunday July 6th 2025.
10. **Appointment of a caretaker** Cllr Kearns reported on behalf of the interview panel that the interviews took place on 10th December. Originally there were two candidates but one pulled out the day before. We were left with one candidate and interviewed that person and very happy to offer the position to Jean Hayes. The clerk will organise a DBS for her and then do a start letter.
11. **Funding request from Britain in Bloom 2025**

The clerk reported that we have had a funding request for £750 out of the parish council community fund. The clerks agreed that the Britain in Bloom 2024 was a great success and the village had not looked so good in years. They were happy to support the bid but felt concerned that donating £750 would not leave funding support for other who might seek support from the council during 2025. The funding request was for £750.

Cllr Kearns proposed that we fund £500 now and if there was anything left from our £1000 for this year we give them what was left over. This was put to the vote and carried. There was a discussion about the amount we have in the pot for community grants and how this should be administered in the future. This needs a future discussion.

1. **Future funding of Village News magazine**

The magazine has now been set up as a separate Community Interest Company (CIC) and they plan is to produce 4 editions in future rather than 3 editions. There were not yet self sufficient and needed support from Ansley and Arley parish councils to continue. Cllr Jackson said the magazine was very good and had been well received by the residents. All councillors agreed. It was proposed that we continue to support the magazine during 2025 and the £1000 come out of the reserves. This was put to the vote with 5 in favour and Cllr Rees abstaining.

1. **Funding request to start a new branch of the Women’s Institute in Ansley** The request is for £245 to pay for room hire for the first 7 months of the new Women’s Institute branch in Ansley**.** By that time they will be self-sustaining. This was put to the vote and carried unanimously.
2. **Dates of future parish council meetings** I asked if the halls were available for a Tuesday evening. The answer is no because the hall in the Ansley village were available. The Church annex is available and Croft Mead community rooms. Agreed to have a look at the annex and check if we can get the heating turned on. Also have a look at Croft Mead rooms to see if that is suitable and available on a Tuesday.

1. **ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**
2. ***Bank reconciliation November 2024 -*** *To be approved & signed**by the Chairman –* **This was approved and signed by the Chairman.**

**SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS FOR DECEMBER 2024**

As per section 5.6 of the Financial Regulations, the following is a schedule of payments made or due to be made which are either agreed in the approved budget, or agreed at a subsequent council meeting:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Salary | £666.00 |
| Petty Cash | £67.31 |
| Phone and broadband (April to October) | £334.90 |

1. ***Schedule of payments December 2024***

**This was approved and signed by the Chairman**

**3) Clerks’ worksheet – This was signed by the Chairman**

**12) COUNCILLORS BUSINESS RELATED TO PARISH MATTERS**

Cllr Barrs reported that there is a flood in Church Lane. This is caused by blocked gullies outside one of the houses who are responsible for cutting back the hedge and clearing the gullies. The clerk to find out who is responsible and ask Highways to write and ask them to clear the gullies. Cllr Kearns has cleared the gullies for now so Cllr Barrs to take photo next time it floods and send to the clerk.

Cllr Jackson questioned whether the building site on Ansley Common, on the right hand side of the road as you enter Ansley Common towards Nursery Hill School, had planning permission. The clerk was not aware of it but Cllr Kearns believed the planning application had been submitted.

**The meeting closed at 10.00pm**

**Chairman…………………………………… Date………………….**