**ANSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTE 10 of 2023/2024**

**Monday 18th March 2024**

**PRESENT: Cllr NORGROVE (Chairman)**

**Cllr ARROWSMITH**

**Cllr BARRS**

**Cllr KEARNS**

**Cllr JACKSON**

**Cllr REES**

**KEVIN HAYES (Clerk)**

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

#### RULES AND PROCEDURES OF THE MEETING

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

#### APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Margaret Bell, Cllr Jodie Gosling

#### DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None

1. **REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Jackson reported on the following items:

* Thanks to Cllr Kearns for his assistance with the installation of the defibrillator outside the Ansley Village Church Hall. It has only taken 3 years to get the defib installed but it’s good to have it available. The clerk reported that the Big Local have said the second defibrillator will be installed on 30th April in Croft Mead.
* The clerk also reported that Cllr Gosling had said there may be funding available through the Social Fabric Fund as a means of tackling the number of domestic violence and anti-social incidents that have occurred across the Birchley Heath and Ansley Common areas.

1. **PUBLIC SESSION**

* A member of the public said that there was some fly tipping on the car park off St Lawrence Road. The clerk will report this.
* There was a concern raised about the number of refuse/recycle bins left outside that were blocking pavements and causing an obstruction. One litter/recycle bin was one on Birmingham Road near the old ‘Boot Pub’ where the pavement is verry narrow. This causes pedestrians to have to walk in the road. The clerk will draft a formal letter for the Chair to check before posting.
* There was also a report of some wooden gates that had been taken down by contractors of Countryside Properties (now known as Countryside Homes) and discarded along the public footpath on the Eaton Fields estate. The clerk to write to the contractors to ask for these to be removed.
* A concern was raised about the apparently blocked gate leading to the public footpath on the Nuthurst Farm on Arley Lane. The clerk to contact the owners to discuss
* A resident who had asked for the council’s help with some overgrowing trees on Thorncliffe Road, Ansley Common reported that these had all been cut back and thanked the parish council for their help in achieving this.
* The clerk reported that the Directors of Green Shoots Muddy Boots had emailed to ask if the parish council would still consider them for a grant from the parish council’s Community Grant Fund. The clerk read out the email. There was a general discussion, but it was decided that it was not appropriate for the parish council to use public money to fund a private limited company. The councillors were still unhappy that there were too many blurred lines and the advice to look at the structure of the company had still not been addressed. The clerk was asked to write to the Chair of Governors of Nursery Hill School to find out what their relationship was with the Green Shoots Muddy Boots project.
* The clerk reported that we had been asked to repair the pothole outside the Birchley Heath Recreation Grounds and had asked the lengthsman to repair it. After discussion the councillors asked that the clerk put it out to tender and obtain three quotes. We should let Stagecoach Bus company know the cost of repairing this as their bus uses this bit of our land to reverse the bus into so it can continue its route.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 19th, 2024,** These were agreed as correct and signed by the chairman.
2. **CLERKS REPORT** The clerk reported on the following points:

* I contacted the WCC Highways department to report the serious flooding at the junction of Birmingham Road and Nuneaton Road. I was told this was caused by a problem with a manhole owned by Severn Trent Water Authority and that Highways has been chasing them to get it fixed. I also reported the problem with the drains outside 124, 130 and 134 Birmingham Road. I was told that they had tried to repair the drain at 124 but it kept filling up with rainwater. Highways have decided that all non-urgent works have been put on hold until we recover from the start of the year’s bad weather which has created an explosion of potholes / defects and flooded sites. I also reminded them that the flood in Ansley Common near Plough Hill Road was reported to them in December 2023.
* I have started the financial 'end of year' preparations by dropping all the books to the internal auditor. She has finished the analysis of the books so far and will finish the audit when the end of March is complete. Her report will be available at the April 2024 parish council meeting.
* I ordered the new swings and chains for the Birchley Heath Playground. They have arrived and will be installed soon by our lengthsman. Cllr Gosling has today reported that we may get some financial support for improving the Birchley Heath Recreation ground from NWBC under the Social Fabric Fund. Birchley Heath & Ansley Common keep getting red flagged because of domestic violence and anti-social behaviour, so she asked if we could have some funding to help deal with this. NWBC are due to contact us to discuss making an application to the fund.
* The North Warwickshire Area Town and Parish Councils (NWAC) have restarted their meetings again and are looking for a representative from Ansley Parish Council. This is on the agenda for the March meeting. Their next meeting is on Tuesday 19th March, which is the day after our parish council meeting.
* I emailed Lorna Palmer at NWBC to ask if we can have signs put up directing people to the two public car parks in Ansley Village. There is one in Ludford Close and one in Croft Mead. People who are looking for parking spaces instead of cluttering the main Birmingham Road or Nuthurst Crescent could use these car parks. She has passed the request to the officer in charge of their car parks.
* We have been meeting with Stephanie Wagstaffe from NWBC who organises the Big Day out events and other events across North Warwickshire. She has been sharing her experience and managing systems to help us with the organisation of the Party in The Park event this year and in future years.
* The payments for advertising in the Village News magazine have started to come through into the parish council's bank account. I have checked with our internal auditor whether it is legal for us to be able to manage the magazine's finances and I am pleased to say we are allowed to do this.
* We have received an application from the Stan Bowley Trust for a grant of £250 from our community grants fund. This is on the agenda for the March parish council meeting.
* I have applied for and obtained a Temporary Events Notice (TENS) for the Party in The Park event taking place on 16th June.
* The Warwickshire Road Safety officer emailed to say that they are supporting free scoot ability training during the Easter Holidays. The nearest venues to us are The Memorial Park, Atherstone on Thursday afternoon 28th March and Kingsbury Water Park on Friday 29th March. Full information about all venues, dates and how to book is available on <http://warksroadsafety.org/scooter-training/>
* I have been aware of the large pothole by the entrance gate to Birchley Heath Recreation Area. I contacted NWBC and the WCC Highways Departments about this pothole but have been told it is not their responsibility. Having checked with the Matthew Dugdale Estates office it turns out that piece of road is part of the land we rent from the Estate. So, I have asked our lengthsman to repair it for us. I have in the past asked Stagecoach if they would repair it as it is where the bus reverses to turn around, but they have not responded.
* I received a request from Ian Andrew of Chess FC to use the football field at Ansley Village Recreation ground for practice and playing matches. They currently are a junior football club who play at Hilltop Playing Fields in Arley but are expanding the number of teams they operate in local leagues and are looking for a second venue to operate from. This is on the agenda for the March parish council meeting.

**8) PLANNING MATTERS**

1. Notification of appeal: PAP/2023/0120 Mr Green, Land South of Wood Barn Farm, Coleshill Road, Nuneaton. Erection of replacement building. The councillors agreed with the planners’ views.
2. **NEW MATTERS ARISING**
3. **Community Fund Application from the Stan Bowley Trust for grant of £250.** The councillors discussed this and asked the clerk to write to them and direct them to the Twycross & Perkins Charity for a grant.
4. **The Chess junior football club requests to use the Ansley Football Field for training & playing matches**. The councillors had no objections to this request. There were conditions and parking in Croft Mead was suggested (not in Lord Nelson Pub car park). Cllr Kearns & the clerk to meet with them to discuss the arrangements.
5. **Ansley Walks Website to be incorporated into the Ansley Parish Council website.** The councillors approved of this item and were happy to take over the Ansley Walks website. There was further discussion of the Ansley Walks map and signage for the walks. Cllr Barrs to contact Jane Cobbald to discuss the details**.**
6. **Warwickshire County Rights of Way Improvement Plan survey.** The councillors had no further comments.
7. **North Warwickshire Area of Town & Parish Councils (NWAC)** The councillors agreed that the Chairman should be the representative and the Vice- Chairman should deputise if they cannot attend.

**10) ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE**

1. **Review of ‘Lone Working Policy and ‘Risk Assessment Policy’** This item was moved forward to the April meeting.
2. **Bank reconciliation February 2024 – to be approved by councillors**

This was received as correct and signed by the Chairman

**3) Schedule of Payments March 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:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Salaries | £755.04 |
| Tradeprint Distribution Ltd (Village News magazine paid by Chris Cowan) | £1120.00 |
| NWBC Temporary Events Notice licence fee paid by K Hayes | £21.00 |
| Ansley Village Gardening Group (New cheque to replace Cheque Number 102825) | £500.00 |
| Fenland Leisure Products (Swings/Chains for Birchley Heath playground) | £703.68 |
| K Hayes (Mileage for 2023-24) | £139.50 |
| Petty Cash | £56.97 |

**This schedule was verified at the meeting of the full council on 18th March 2024**

**4) Clerks Worksheet**

This was signed by the Chairman

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

Cllr Rees asked about the parish council archives that he was holding and wanted to know if any of it could be disposed of. The clerk to meet with Cllr Rees to discuss.

Cllr Jackson said that it was hoped that we could keep the youth work operating across Arley and Ansley once the Big Local has ceased to exist. She reported that the plan was to bring the youth workers together to maintain the youth work across the borough. This new arrangement was looking for volunteer trustees for the new setup. Cllr Jackson volunteered and was accepted.

Cllr Jackson reported some potholes outside Mannie’s Shop in Ansley Common. And the footpath was very uneven, where an older woman fell over, leading to the shop. The clerk was asked to report this.

Cllr Kearns had contacted Streetscape to ask if they could clean all the road signs in Ansley Village before the 19th of July, the date of the judging for the Britain in Bloom competition. There was also a discussion about what to do with large vans parking and blocking pavement in Ansley Village. Could we encourage these owners to park in Croft Mead or St Lawrence Road car parks.

Cllr Barrs is still investigating the possibility of obtaining grants to retrofit some properties within the parish.

Cllr Arrowsmith wanted to encourage all parish councillors to walk the paths were cars/vans and overgrowing hedges are blocking pavements to see how difficult it is for people in wheelchairs to access the local shop.

Cllr Norgrove reported that the troughs connected to the Ansley Village signs at both ends of the village were rotten and needed to be removed . This was agreed. Cllr Kearns suggested that we look at the opportunity for some new village signs with the new website logo on in place of the existing ones.

**The meeting closed at 9.05 pm**

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