

ASTWOOD & HARDMEAD PARISH COUNCIL AGENDA

Thursday 30th July at 7.30 via Zoom

Attended: Vice Chair Rebecca Geldert (RG), Cllr Teresa Giddings, Cllr Piers Sheddon

Apologies: Cllr Sarah Evans- Parker, PCSO Arlene Ormston

Ward Cllr's - Peter Geary

Parish Clerk – Andrea B. Jones

Residents

1 resident attended

Minutes – to be signed and adopted post meeting

DUE TO THE EXCEPTIONAL NATURE OF COVID19 THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WAS CONDUCTED VIA ZOOM FOR THE FIRST TIME. HOWEVER, POOR INTERNET LED TO AN UNSUCCESSFUL QOURAM. AS A RESULT, AJ HAS RAISED VARIOUS QUERIES IN RED SO THAT THESE CAN BE PROGRESSED AND AMENDED. PLEASE PROVIDE FEEDBACK IF APPLICABLE. ALSO, SOME ISSUES WERE NOT FOLLOWED THROUGH FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES AND HAVE BEEN KEPT AT THE END, PLEASE CONFIRM.

Zoom Meeting

Due to Covid 19 the meeting was held, for the first time, via zoom. Unfortunately, in some areas there was poor connection with the internet dropping out. TG and PS were briefly able to join and the meeting was chaired by RG but it was only briefly a quorum and is minuted therefore as an unsuccessful quorum. At times it proved difficult to hear some comments and the meeting ended without all topics being discussed. Subject to Covid 19 developments it was proposed that the next meeting on the 22 October at 7.30pm be attended in person by the Parish Council in Astwood village hall with a Zoom meeting link so that any residents could safely attend via zoom. This is pending covid developments and a health and safety review. *with a decision to be made on Monday 19th October and posted on the website/village hall notice board.*

Ward Councillor update

Housing infrastructure fund 90 million applied for last year and has gone through to a cabinet decision two nights previously (Planning policy document in place which approves 5000/8000 houses). PG noted it was likely to go through, subject to conditions (to be accepted by March). PG noted that the masterplan layout will be important to understand and that opposition remains strong.

Other Issues

- Local Tips – due to Covid 19 a booking system has been operating however it been difficult to get through. PG said they have tried to persuade the council to provide more flexibility, but they have been intransigent.
- Fly – Tipping has increased – is it repeat offenders? Environmental Crimes team can provide hidden CCTV. They can track some waste i.e.envelopes with addresses. Tel 691 691 and ask for Environmental Crimes – AJ/PS to action

- Solar Farm – Pre Planning Application. PG noted it is good practice for the company to do a consultation. It has to go through three different planning applications. There is no section 106 on the solar farm however PG noted that the developer could be approached to see if there are any funds proposed for Astwood village.
- Solar Farm name – the name is an issue as it is called “Cranfield Rd” but may not be on Cranfield Rd. The route of construction is important to understand i.e. the direction the lorries will go/where workers will be temporarily living. This needs resolving at the planning stage. AJ to progress. (N.B. as there was an internet breakdown RG has raised queries which have been added in an addendum at the end of the meeting for councillors’ to comment on before AJ progresses this)
- NB speed – PG mentioned data needed re speedwatch traffic for example through Astwood? Who has this data currently? See page 3 updated from previous minutes with status at that point. Please can TG discuss with AJ?
- **Traffic Calming** – PS raised this a month ago to the Parish Council. There is new access off Hardmead Road which is resulting in cars overtaking farm vehicles with near misses. It has been raised with Thames Valley Police but needs the support of the Council to put in traffic calming. PG suggested there are 2 issues
 - a) The next two weeks (as it is the height of harvest)
 - b) Longer term
- and that Divine Millership was the contact to progress this. PG asked PS to call so that PG can set up a meeting in the next week (early morning) to discuss. PG will contact DM and in the autumn at the parish council meeting for Astwood and Hardmead the 20mph be added to the agenda. Speed bumps were discussed however PG noted that there is a noise element to speed bumps.
- **Security** – PS – has looked at the feasibility of cameras providing CCTV and vehicle recognition for speed but these are £2,000/£3000 to install with ongoing costs. The most realistic prospect is a straightforward CCTV system at the village hall – a hard disk is approximately £500 plus a possible £400 installation (for value therefore a better system).
- **Unsuccessful Quorum due to Zoom/Internet Issues** – The meeting for voting for Chair and Parish Councillors’ was postponed to October. In the meantime, a campaign needs to be implemented to look for additional councillors. AJ proposes to discuss content with TG to go on website and leaflets (is it worth a leaflet drop as well as a notice on the Village Hall)?
- **Website update** – TG – This is running well and is one of the top performing sites with 244 page views taken (3rd July for the last month). DP (Derek Philips) is updating regularly.
- **Neighbourhood plan** – No comments from public. Some extensive comments from MK Council (Emily (?)) reviewing neighbourhood plan. This will be resubmitted with the next meeting on 5th August (where will it be?)

Update PCSO – Arlene

Arlene sent her apologies but emailed through the most recent crime figures, comparing them with the previous (as below). The figures below indicate a continued higher crime rate in the period to 30th July 2020 to the previous six months in Hardmead but slightly lower in Astwood.

Crime statistics Astwood 22/08/2019 to 23/01/2020

1 x criminal damage	to garden	10/09/19
1 x Arson		22/09/19
1 x burglary & criminal damage	(Frog Hall Farm)	07/12/19
1 x attempted theft of quad bike		12/12/19
1 x theft of mini-digger		17/01/20

Crime statistics Hardmead 22/08/2019 to 23/01/2020

None

Crime statistics Astwood 23/01/2020 to 30/07/2020

2 x criminal damage		Feb 2020 and May 2020
1 x theft of vehicle		April 2020
1 x theft of trailer		April 2020

Crime statistics Hardmead 23/01/2020 to 30/07/2020

1 x hare coursing		Feb 2020
1 x burglary of shed – tools stolen		March 2020
1 x theft of tools from van		Feb 2020

At the previous meeting it was noted that Arlene offered her services to do Tack Marking – contact her directly to arrange this. Arlene suggested we contact Mark Stevenson to advertise our website in the Phonebox. (AJ – has this happened? If not AJ will progress)

Also at the previous meeting Arlene said that “Speedwatch” is taking more time to arrange as more information is being required – Teresa has the forms. (what is the status? AJ to progress with TG and then provide data to PG)

Finances

Note – Bank Statements were circulated via email for the last six months with the current bank position. AJ – Query – a set of R&As need producing when is year end? AJ to send a bank mandate to Barclays to enable her to counter sign cheques. AD currently has the cheque book whilst waiting for a counter signatory for one final cheque.

Parish Clerk

AJ has taken on the position of Parish Clerk but is there a document that needs signing (as per the documents for Councillor).

Precept 2020-21

AnnMarie was completing the necessary forms to submit this. AJ to double check this has been finalised.

Astwood Playground – SEP could not attend the meeting so this was not addressed at the meeting and has been kept for the next agenda.

Sarah has emailed regarding the invoice for the sign. Sarah will provide costings for the bird spikes and the dog hooks.

Neighbourhood Plan IS THERE AN UPDATE ON THIS?

Sam is now reviewing all the submitted development areas and will clarify the suitability of these areas. There will be another date where the village can review and provide feedback on the areas. Then it will go into a formal report for statutory consultation which can take 6 weeks.

Black Bins – not discussed – to be kept for next agenda

Security

Layby A422 –We will keep **reporting issues** and keep it on the agenda. Neil proposed we write a letter to the Council. (this was agreed). **Was a letter done and by whom AJ?**

PC meeting dates for 2020

Thursday October 22nd @ 7.30pm

AJ – originally this was 8pm but is now 7.30 is this ok? AJ will let website have updated time if so

Questions from the public

None

AOB

Addendum

Solar Farm Questions – PG had asked AJ to progress with developer whether there were potential funds for Astwood (although no section 106 is in place). Note: a section 106 is a legal agreement requiring the developer to provide funds. RG had some further queries which are below (RG I have only included those that are directly relevant but have tried to answer your queries separately where they may not be directly applicable). Please can all parish councillors confirm there are no further comments.

1. Where is the access point going to be for the Solar Farm? On Cranfield Road or from A422? (PG had asked AJ to get clarification in order to better understand traffic issues/look at speed limits)
2. Will the village receive any benefit directly from the solar farm (even though there isn't a 106)?
- 3) Why is it named Cranfield Road (see point 1)
- 4) Will there be landscaping (trees/shrubs) around the site?
- 5) Where will the labour force be housed during the installation of the farm? (Again with a view to impact on roads/traffic etc).
- 6) How long will it take to install?
- 7) What is the duration of the solar farm before it is decommissioned?
- 8) No consultation has been had with Astwood, is one planned shortly?

Not directly relevant to the application – Answers to other queries raised can be found on bre.co.uk regarding what works on solar farms – including livestock, crops and contamination issues. Link below. AJ will ask if there is current literature/ pdfs that the developers can provide for information.

https://www.bre.co.uk/filelibrary/nsc/Documents%20Library/NSC%20Publications/NSC_-_Guid_Agricultural-good-practice-for-SFs_0914.pdf

- 10) Who owns the land?