

ARTHINGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 31st October 2023

Present:- Councillors Lesley Sanderson (chairman), Sue Handy, Bernadette Kennedy, Liz Ellis, Graham Robinson, Keith Ross

Apologies:- Cllr. Michael Kennedy (holiday)

Attendees:- Ward Cllrs. Kevin Parker and Jonathan Harris.
Mrs. Sarah Turner, Mr. Michael Borkan

Comments from the public:-

- 1) A dangerous stretch of footpath, covered in moss, has been reported to Street Doctor (5150498)
- 2) Road signs are obliterated by vegetation and not being maintained properly by the Unitary Authority. A resident has cut foliage back on several occasions.
- 3) A private hedge needs cutting back to improve the sightline opposite the post box. It is very hazardous at present.

Comments

from Ward Cllrs.:-

- 1) Cllr. Kevin Parker updated the meeting on various issues in Northampton.
- 2) Cllr. Jonathan Harris updated the meeting upcoming consultations – WNC Budget, Local Plan, Transport Plan etc.
At present there is a minor shortfall in housing.

Declarations of Interest:-

None

Previous Minutes:- It was proposed and seconded (AH/BK) that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 5th September and extraordinary meetings held on Tuesday 26th September 2023 be approved and signed.

Matters Arising:- None

Finance:- a) The meeting proposed and seconded (GR/LE) that the following invoices be approved for payment –

Leics Gardens (Aug/Sept 4 cuts)	T16	£	560.00
E.on (J/A/S)	T17	£	58.20
Npower (J/A/S)	T18	£	168.83

b) Receipts:-

J STAMP (P HUGHES)	#	80
WNC - PRECEPT	#	3500

Proposed Budget for 2024/25:-

The prepared budget was discussed by the council and it was proposed (SH) and seconded (KR) that it be accepted.

Transfer to

Unity Trust Bank:-

Barclays unexpectedly closed the PC bank accounts in mid-October. When questioned it transpires only a business account can now be opened with a charge of £8.50 per month.

After taking advice from NCALC, a Unity Trust account, with charges of £6 per month, is in the process of being opened. This bank was discussed during the banking review in November 2021 but it was decided to stay with Barclays until really necessary as the PC was reluctant to pay the fees for an account.

The clerk has opened 2 Unity Trust accounts – a current account and a savings account. The savings account has an interest rate of 2.75%pa at present.

It was proposed (KR) and seconded (LE) that funds be held in the savings account and transferred as necessary to help cover the cost of the bank charges.

It was agreed that the clerk and chairman have full access to the accounts and the signatories have access to view and authorise.

A letter of complaint to be sent to Barclays.

Change to

Standing Orders:-

It was proposed (GR) and seconded (KR) that the Standing Orders now read:-

Payment of all accounts (except bank charges) shall be authorised by the council, and payments authorised by two councillors or one councillor and the clerk. Online transfers between linked bank accounts to be completed by the clerk.

Website Charges:- Hugo Fox will now be charging for the website - £9.99 per month (£119.88 pa) for the basic package. The charge is from 4th October but they have waived it until 1st April as we are a small parish.
A recommended alternative is Parish Online at £250 pa
It was proposed (BK) and seconded (LE) that the council remain with Hugo Fox

Planning

Applications:-

New Applications:-

Notification of tree work at The Gate House, Home Farm Grove, Arthingworth

Intended tree Work includes:-

Works to 1xAsh, 1XOak, 1Xmaple, 1XLaurel, 1XCopper Acer, 1XWalnut and 3X Holly trees subject to TPO DA 131 & 451

The Parish Council offer no objection or comments.

Decisions from West Northants Council:-

2023/5580/TPO

Bosworth House, Oxendon Road, Arthingworth

Wellingtonia in front of the house- Clear dead wood, reshape- two branches are growing sideways and unbalancing the tree, lift the crown -bottom branches to 1.50/1.80m

The application has been granted with the following conditions:-

1. Before any pruning work is carried out, the work shall be agreed on site between the appointed tree surgeon and the LPA. The work shall be carried out in accordance with the details confirmed in writing. The works shall not involve any reduction in height of the tree or any pollarding.
2. All tree works shall be carried out in accordance with British Standard 3998:

2023/6549/FULL

Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and replacement single storey rear extension as well as single storey side extension to form gym space along with roof light over stairwell and replacement of living room window to bi-folding doors

Peal House Home Farm Grove Arthingworth

The application has been granted with the following conditions:-

1. Development to be begun within 3 years
2. External materials to be used as specified in the application.
3. Development shall be carried out strictly in accordance with submitted plans.
4. No equipment, machinery or materials shall be brought onto the site until details of fencing and protective ground matting for the protection of trees or hedges that are to be retained on the site have been approved by the LPA. The fencing and matting (or similar) shall be implemented in accordance with these details and shall remain in place until all equipment, machinery and surplus materials have been removed from the site. Nothing shall be stored, disposed of, or placed, nor fires lit, in any area fenced and shall not be driven across by vehicles, altered, nor any excavation made (including addition/removal of topsoil/subsoil) without the written consent of the LPA.
5. Prior to the commencement of the works for the single storey gym side extension a method statement and associated detailed drawings and elevations with regard to specialist foundations shall be submitted to and approved by the LPA.

2023/6754/FULL

Church View, 3B Oxendon Road, Arthingworth

Conversion of garage to bedroom and en suite bathroom, including small front extension with pitched roof

The application has been granted with the following conditions:-

- 1) Development to be begun within 3 years
- 2) Development to be carried out strictly in accordance with the submitted plans

- 3) External materials to be in accordance with the submitted plans

Other Planning

Matters:-

- 1) Private land at the Old Manor – E/WND/2022/8184/D – No further news.
- 2) Golden Stables – should be heard at the November planning meeting
- 3) Greenfields - No further news

Neighbourhood Plan

Update:-

The hearing regarding the village confines took place and, following site visits to the areas under discussion, the examiner questioned all parties concerned and found that the confines should be left as originally drawn by the working group. YourLocale still has to amend the village plan which shows the green areas going over the road.

It is hoped that the Plan will be ready to be heard at the November WNC planning meeting.

Replacement of old MBFU

Street Lights:-

Quotes have been obtained as follows to change all the old MBFU lights (which are now obsolete) to LED lights:-

Lamps 4,11 & 12 - £290 ex VAT

Lamp 13 £340 ex VAT

Total £1210

The Street Light fund stands at £3911

It was proposed (BK) and seconded (GR) that all the lights be changed

It was proposed (BK) and seconded (GR) the balance of the street light fund be kept as a separate fund.

Discuss Priority Changes at Junction of Oxendon / Braybrook / Kelmarsh

Roads:-

It was decided that a meeting with Highways should be called to ascertain the possibility of changing the priority at this junction for safety reasons.

Village

Maintenance:-

- 1) Water running down Kelmarsh Road from a natural spring. Gully to take the water has been requested from Highways – need photo when the water is running again
- 2) Brampton V. Way – car park and access points need attention. – This has been reported by Cllr. I-S.
- 3) Tree (broken branch) on the Green – reported to Overmans
- 4) Oxendon Road outside no.18. To be monitored.
- 5) Grass cutting – verges on the Harrington junction by the bench are not being mown. From Highways - *The Parish Council is responsible for mowing all of the grassed areas within the highway up to the village confines. Highways do not usually mow or clear around benches which are the responsibility of the PC.* The clerk to request one last cut and arrange removal of bramble around the bench.
- 6) It was reported that a field footpath is not usable at present. Details to be forwarded to the clerk to report.
- 7) Moss covered footpath on Oxendon Road – reported by a resident (5150498).

Consultations:-

None

Correspondence:-

Circulated by email:-

- 1) NCALC weekly mini updates
- 2) NCALC monthly E-Update
- 3) Town & Parish briefing
- 4) Weekly list of received and determined planning applications
- 5) No Mow May

At Meeting:-

- 1) Clerks & Councils Direct – includes an article on Internal Audits

2) From NCALC – Model Financial Regulations are due to be reviewed

Possible change of meeting

start time to 7.30:- The council voted that the starting time remain at 8pm

Any Other

Business:- 1) Clerk to renew with Pensions Regulator

Date of Next

Meeting:- Monday 8th January 2024 at 8pm in the village hall.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm