



NEW ASH GREEN VILLAGE ASSOCIATION LTD

Registered Office: Centre Road, New Ash Green, Longfield, Kent DA3 8HH

Meeting of the Council of Management of the New Ash Green Village Association Limited

Date: 13th December 2021

Time: 1930

Location: Zoom

Present:

Bruce Clarke – Chairman (BC)

Representative Members

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------|------------|
| • Ken Smith (KS) | Ayelands | |
| • Paul Campion (PC) | Bowes Wood | |
| • Dick Joel (DJ) | Capelands | |
| • Cameron Clark (CC) | Chapel Wood | |
| • Dean Gorton (DG) | Knights Croft | |
| • Paula Wilson (PW) | Over Minnis | |
| • Lynda Bolton (LB) | Penenden | (from 8pm) |

Consultant Members

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------|
| • Bob Ashford (BA) | | |
| • Sharon Brine (SB) | | |
| • Stephanie Clarke (SC) | | |
| • Simon Cornelius (SCo) | | (from 8pm) |
| • Alexandra Franklin (AF) | | |
| • Muriel Galinis (MG) | | |
| • Duncan Mackway-Jones (DMJ) | | |
| • Ray Viney (RV) | | |
| • Keith Wale (KW) | | |

In Attendance:

- Jo McGarvey

Apologies for absence

Received from:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • Suzie Kilcullen | Caling Croft |
| • Dave Spurgeon | Colt Stead |
| • Tessa Pina | Foxbury |
| • David Clark | Lambardes |
| • Mo Wright | Manor Forstal |
| • Malcolm Rich | Westfield |
| • Alan Pett | |
| • Terry Vivian | |

Chairman's report

BC was hopeful that it was apparent how much work had been done since the AGM to move things forward. It was clear that change was happening, with more in the pipeline and an acknowledgement that some change would take a significant amount of time to effect.

Approval of AGM minutes

Minutes had been circulated to CoM and had been approved. KW stated that the increase in CoM numbers had meant there was no need for an election but that those elected should still be reflected in the minutes. PW asked that the end of the meeting be recorded on the minutes to ensure completeness. BC stated that minutes were approved subject to amendments

Office

To amend and circulate

Finance report

- £155,657.76 – Business account
- £100,095.61 – Capital account
- £25,001.83 – Insurance account

It was noted that 435 residents took up the opportunity to pay contributions by Direct Debit, with a further 43 to be included from 2022.

It was noted that the arrears of £155,013.34 at 31st December had now been reduced to £36,665.30 due to Kelli's hard work. The remainder of the 171 residents still owing money from 2020 were discussed and Kelli had taken the appropriate steps to try and recover these amounts. PW was very impressed by Kelli's efforts and wanted the minutes to reflect this. RV queried the outstanding balances. MG explained that there were a variety of reasons for non-payment and each case was treated on an individual basis depending on circumstances.

PW queried whether the budget had been agreed. MG confirmed that the budget was agreed by CoM in October, prior to the AGM.

Office report**Office**

Further to the report it was noted that the office would close at 4pm on Thursday 23rd December and re-open at 9am on Tuesday 4th January. It was reported that emails and voicemails would be monitored during the intervening period.

To advertise the Christmas opening hours on all platforms

Hardlands report

Further to the report it was noted that the crossing barrier between Spring Cross and Capelands had been damaged as the result of a car accident so that would be added to the list of repairs. CC asked if barriers between Colt Stead and Seven Acres, and Penenden and Church Road were on the list to be repaired. DMJ confirmed that both were.

The plans for the Millfield Lane parking scheme had received largely positive responses. CC added that a decision was expected on 22nd December and that expenditure on bat surveys or ecological surveys should be delayed until after a planning decision had been made. CC added that EVCPs might be a condition of planning approval.

CC queried the quality of lighting repairs i.e. the volume of long term temporary repairs using gaffer tape.

DMJ to liaise with TV and report

Greenlands report

SC started by stating that due to a longer than usual growing season, the winter works were late getting underway, but the project on the Manor Forstal / Spring Cross buffer zone had been completed.

The salt bins around the village had all been filled, ready for winter and there is a stock of salt at the depot.

MG and SC are looking at a job description in order to recruit for the vacant position.

It was noted that Jerry Ash had completed the first draft of the woodland management plan and as soon as there was an update it would be circulated.

BC & DMJ both expressed their thanks to the Greenland team for their continued efforts around the village.

PC questioned the lack of action in respect of Spring Croft Woods. The residents are increasingly frustrated at the lack of activity, especially when they can see work taking place elsewhere. SC explained that any works carried out to dead, damaged or diseased trees. SC also confirmed that without the felling licence, the VA's hands were tied. Once the felling licence is renewed, there will be a conscious effort to maintain it. BC added that the report was the first of several steps and that BWRS would be kept updated of all progress.

RSLO report

Notes from the first forum had been circulated to all RS', and SB and DJ were working on the action points and circulating to CoM.

It was advised that the planned forum on 10th January might have to be postponed. It was felt that it would not be practical to hold the forum via Zoom and given the uncertainty around COVID guidance, a decision wouldn't be taken until the new year.

Thanks were expressed to the two independent notetakers at the forum, Lynda Bolton and Louise Walsh.

CC suggested keeping a log of all office enquiries. BC added that queries should be consolidated into a service user agreement or something similar. This would enable processes to be set and followed.

A set of FAQs was suggested for publication on the website. PW asked if individuals could keep logs of enquiries and refer them to the VA. BC added that the nature and medium of enquiries varied hugely and keeping a log would not be practical.

Amenity Committee report

BC shared that Jerry Ash had been in contact to say that, for personal reasons, he needed to step back from CoM but would remain actively involved with the Amenity committee and Woodlands Group.

The Amenity Committee had met the previous week and the usual applications for extensions, windows, doors etc had all been dealt with without issue, as per the minutes which will be circulated in due course.

Ash Parish Council had sought approval to plant a tree in commemoration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. SC advised that the VA intends to plant a tree at the edge of the sportsfield, between Knights Croft and the 2nd team rugby pitch.

Parish Council, Amenity Committee and Greenlands to agree a suitable location

Ash Parish Council also expressed a desire to donate a bench but a location had not yet been confirmed. It was suggested that installing it along a public footpath would be suitable.

Communications report

CC reiterated that the communications survey highlighted people's preference to be contacted by email but that consideration needed to be given to GDPR guidance and that people would have to opt in. It was also noted that in spite of a preference for electronic communication, that communications needed to be accessible to all.

It was agreed that the January finance letter should have an insert with the communications survey details and details of how to opt in to communications emails. Several members queried whether emails would be sent to one member of the household or to all those that wanted to sign up. This is something that can be looked at when the mailing list is set up.

EVCP update

The questions raised at the AGM had been answered by connected Kerb and CC was satisfied that the VA could now move forward with the project. The comments from Connected Kerb had been circulated.

PC queried whether there was a consensus on how EVCPs were installed on individual properties throughout the village. BC stated that this was currently under review but that any installations needed to be done sympathetically and consistently. AF to take this back to the Amenity Committee for their input

AOB

BC thanked everyone for their continued hard work and the headway already made.

BC's final comment was to wish everyone a healthy and happy Christmas and new year.

The meeting closed at 9pm