**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 14th April 2021 via**

**Zoom**

**Present:**

Cllr Kelly in the Chair, Cllr Offer, Cllr Kevan, Cllr Mann, Cllr McGrory, Cllr Willard, Cllr Tierney.

**Apologies:**

Silsoe Cricket club sent apologies; they did express their sincere thanks for the support of the PC.

**Individual Councillor reports:**

All reports from Councillors were available on the website prior to the meeting. Reports are included as part of these minutes.

**Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:**

* None.

**Ward Councillor Alison Graham:**

Report on the website for all residents to view.

**Public Participation:**

* A resident expressed her sadness at the trees that are being damaged within the village and asked if any of them could be salvaged? Her and her neighbours are happy to water and tend to any trees planted in the area they live. The resident suggested it would be nice to have tees surrounding the cricket pitch for spectators to sit under and watch. Technically the trees and land are still owned by Bloor Homes, S38 agreement specifies the replacement of damaged trees, however this has not yet been signed off. Cllr Graham highlighted a scheme being run by CBC for funding of trees. Cllr Kelly will visit the area with the resident and discuss the possibilities.
* A resident raised questions regarding the proposed retirement village, the PC confirmed it is a separate entity to Taymer home. The PC have some concerns over the development but were unable to offer more information until they have met with the property consultants to discuss it further, Cllr Graham will also be attending this meeting.
* A resident requested an update on the situation regarding the flats above the retail units. The original planning application and S106 agreement outlined that the flats would be affordable housing, the flats now have been on the open market and are occupied. The PC have argued that the S106 should have been adhered to and they are not happy with the current outcome, it appears that the agreement has been inadvertently overlooked. If the PC wanted to pursue this further there would be significant financial implications.
* A resident commented they were pleased with the update on the new webpage and good that it would include some history of the village, there are copies still of the History of Silsoe book available to buy.
* Concerns were raised over the speed and quantity of traffic in Ampthill Rd, a resident reported damage to her vehicle from a stone coming from large pothole, she also reported difficulty on entering and exiting her driveway. The PC reported that they currently have three enquiries in with CBC and they have requested the Police report on Ampthill Rd, along with freedom of information request for flow of traffic and accidents to the south of the village. The PC need to understand the full volume of traffic before any further action is taken. CBC have so far not responded to emails, Cllr graham will chase them, she was also able to confirm that there will be Highways works planned for this coming year.
* A resident has been working to reduce the number of HGVs to the village and asked if Ampthill Rd could be made ‘HGV excluded’? Cllr Graham confirmed that Local authorities do not have the statutory power to restrict HGVs. There has been a recent study of the A507 from Shefford to Clophill roundabouts, this did not include the Clophill roundabout but another study later this year may review it. The speed on this patch has been reduced following two fatalities.
* A resident suggested that the proposed new retirement village could open an opportunity for more facilities e.g. A Drs surgery? It was also suggested that it could possibly be an opportunity to change the roundabout and possibly look at an alternative entrance to Wrest Park? CBC have raised concerns over the roundabout in connection wit this proposal, however no alternative has been discussed. Cllr Graham advised the PC to work alongside the planners rather than the developers to achieve a desired outcome.
* There are a number of sites within the village that could be potential development sites, Homes England look after a number of these sites and have been trying to have the land declassified from historic parks and gardens. The PC are watching this closely. When permission was granted for the Hayfield development, the argument was that the village had been urbanised to the north, if the retirement village is successful to the south, it may be argued that this is equally becoming urbanised. There are no identified areas of development in the Local Plan, once this plan has been approved it will be more difficult for developers to be granted permission as they will be viewed as additional areas outside of the plan.
* Clerk confirmed that she has written to residents concerning the overhanging shrubbery blocking pathways, CBC will write to the residents now.
* The turn left only out of Wrest Park is still being looked at, the original sign is still there, the PC wish to look at traffic flow throughout the village before committing to any ideas, they will aim to avoid moving an issue to another part of the village.
* A resident recently spoke to some teenagers sitting on play equipment in the Under 8’s play area, the young people reported that there was nowhere for them to go. The resident suggested that maybe the PC could consider providing something in the village for the young people? It was agreed that a distinction needs to be made between the young people who would like to join in and those who are currently causing vandalism and displaying anti=social behaviour. It was agreed that Cllr Kelly would speak to the sports centre to see if they could accommodate groups of young people for activities e.g., table tennis, fitness and training?
* There is a bollard damaged at the end of Mander Farm Rd, it has been reported. Cllr Kelly asked all residents to report items on ‘Fix my Street’ on the CBC website and to leave a name so the PC could contact them individually if necessary.

**Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 7.30pm on 12th May 2021.