**SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in

Silsoe Village Hall on Wednesday 15th January 2020.

Present: Cllr Jarrard in the Chair

Cllrs. L Mann, I Kelly, Offer, Harrison, Kevan, Bache, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

1/20 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Residents attended to raise concerns over The Orchard behind the new CO-OP, there are a number of bread trays that have been dumped there and young people have climbed on these to pull down bat boxes and insect trays, there is litter all around the area and temporary fencing has been erected but not completed and only seems to include part of the trees within The Orchard. The PC were able to update residents that this area remains the responsibility of the developer, it is hoped that the PC will adopt the area sometime soon but up until this point the PC are unable to act. Two of the trees are causing issues with a property in West End Road and these are earmarked to be removed, an arboriculturist is preparing a quote. There should have been on the original plans a hedge or fence in front of Cherry Blossom lane, this will need to be followed up with the developer in order to provide privacy for the residents from people walking past. Once they have adopted the area the PC will look at additional litter bins.

The residents also raised concerns over planning application CB/19/04248/FULL, change of use to the units by the CO-OP. Residents are concerned that a take away will increase the amount of litter, noise, odours and an increase in opening hours will cause a disturbance. The Councillors will be considering this application later in the meeting. There is currently a Caribbean food stall in close proximity to the CO-OP on a Thursday evening, the Parish Council were asked by a resident if this was allowed? Cllr Graham will check with CBC.

A resident asked if the CO-OP has CCTV? Cllr Jarrard will check.

2/20 MINUTES:

Minutes of 11th December 2019 were agreed and signed as correct record of the meeting. Cllr Kevan did declare an interest with planning at the previous meeting which was not minuted.

Matters arising:

3/20 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None.

4/20 CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR UPDATE:

* Taymer roundabout hedges have now been cut back ensuring the access is no longer obscured.
* CBC Executive has announced the Council tax increase will be just under the Central Government cap of 1.95%, 2% has been ringfenced for social care, Still waiting for confirmation of the fire and rescue precept.
* Horticultural day centre works are now completed, there is a big car park and bus area for easy access. The day care centre for the elderly is now open and the garden centre runs alongside this. A Cllr requested information on the area behind it that is all churned up? PC to contact the centre to see if works are completed.
* The £2000 ward member grant is still ongoing. CBC have launched a new grant scheme per ward, the Community asset grant, this is capped at £25,000 has to be capital expenditure, has to be match funded and fulfil the criteria.

5/20 WEBSITE MANAGEMENT:

A lady attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of taking over the maintenance of the PC website and social media. Her business manages and updates company websites as well as reporting on social media so as to enable companies to communicate online.

The PC expressed an interest in having a consistent voice to the residents that was of a friendly, but informative manner. The PC requested that she looked at the current website and provided the Cllrs with an update of items requiring attention as well as looking to provide an information session for the Cllrs, at an additional cost. The cost of the service would be £150 a month. All Cllrs agreed, Clerk will be in contact to make arrangements.

6/20 SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT:

Discussed under 5/20

7/20 DAMAGE AT THE NORTHERN PLAY AREA:

There has been some damage to the wooden barrier, which is close to the Northern play area, the bottom rung keeps being removed off. Clerk will look into this.

8/20 NEW COUNCILLORS:

It was agreed that the PC would advertise in the Silsoe news, on social media and on the website for new Councillors.

9/20 STAR AND GARTER:

The Star and garter are registered as an ACV and the PC are keeping in contact with the brewery.

10/20 THE CAGE:

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership have agreed to submit an application for a full grant for the Cage repairs, the next step will be to obtain quotes for the door.

11/20 PARK AVENUE:

Clerk has been in contact with Tom Woodhouse at English Heritage and he has agreed to meet to discuss the possible pathway on Park Avenue, Clerk is awaiting possible dates from him.

The Pc need to measure and agree the width of the path and have some plans drawn up. This could be a project for The Community asset grant?

12/20 THE CO-OP:

As discussed under 1/20

On the original design the flats above the CO-OP were to be affordable housing, however they appear to be advertised at a cost of £900 for professional tenants with a private letting agency. Cllr Offer will follow this up with the Enforcement team at CBC.

13/20 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 15th April 2020.

14/20 PLANNING:

CB/19/04108/FULL Thriftwood Farm, Construction of a new garage alongside existing with first floor annexe above. No objections.

CB/19/04248/FULL 10 & 11 The Gateway, Blackthorn Place. Change of use inclusion of additional use A5. The PC decided to submit their concerns regarding the positioning of these units under flats, particularly concerns regarding ventilation, refrigeration and odours. Also, of concern are the addition of litter and noise, especially the late opening times.

15/20 FINANCE, INSURANCE COVER FOR LAWNMOWER:

Payments to be made:

Grangers £384 and £60

I Kelly £1820.50 (expenses)

A Muskett £125.40

Horticultural Supplies £191.96 (rats at the allotment)

Anglian Water £12.07 and £99.86

Village Hall £40

EON £55.44

Community Heartbeat Trust £475.20

It was suggested that perhaps the unit which has been removed from the pub should be re-sited at the CO-OP?

Balances:

Current acc £93,951.02

Business acc £65,789.15

Nationwide £80,530.63

£1380 has been paid in for the allotments.

Clerk will be paying in £200 donation from Silsoe SOS for the rubbish bin.

Came and Company have provided an Insurance quote of £111.81 for the lawnmower, this will cover any named driver. The quote is based on all drivers being over 25years, full English licence, no convictions and haven’t been refused insurance previously. The PC will need to check with all potential drivers. Four potential drivers have been identified; their details will need to be checked.

The precept application has been submitted to CBC and has been accepted.

16/20 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

* CPRE MEMBERSHIP £36
* Budget Consultation from CBC, paper copies.
* Information on Street watch launch, Saturday 1st February 2020 at 12 noon.
* Neighbourhood Plan workshop run by CPRE on 4th March 2020.
* CPRE magazine.
* Greensand Trust newsletter.
* Bishops catalogue.

17/20 AOB:

1. Young people have climbed onto the roof of the container by the cricket pitch and dented it causing a crack and leak. The cricket club suggested anti-climb paint. The PC are not in agreement as this may lead to claims towards the PC for damage to clothing etc, the side screen has been moved as this was used for the purposes of climbing. Alternative options will be investigated.
2. Letter from the Cricket Club expressing their gratitude at the purchase of the new lawnmower. The club have now committed to run both All Stars (4-8 yrs. olds) and Dynamos (9-11yr olds) programmes in 2020 and are arranging adult fixtures.
3. Clerk had a price of £179 for a perch seat in the bus stop plus fitting charges by CPM, all Councillors agreed.
4. The removal of the rats has been successful at the allotments.
5. Remedial works to the footpaths near the sports centre are due to start next month.
6. The pathway near to the Horticultural Centre is covered in mud, rubble gravel, knocked down posts. Clerk will contact the centre. Also, there is a sign for no horse riding but it’s a Bridle way?
7. Someone has lit a fire in a bin at the play area near the sports centre, a Cllr has replaced the bin. The signs have also been removed.
8. Works to the acoustic lining and condensation at the sports centre are due to begin.
9. Cllr Jarrad has contacted the resident regarding the overgrown trees on the pathway between Ampthill Rd and Elm Drive.
10. Lights 4C and 4B are buried in the trees, Clerk will report.
11. A large pothole is on the High Street by the shop, Clerk will report it.
12. A resident has approached a Councillor regarding the cutting of grass on the quadrangle in Fir Tree Rd, this area is owned by the residents and therefore is to be maintained by them.

18/20 NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 12th February 2020.