

SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in

Silsoe Village Hall on Wednesday 11th January 2017.

Present: Cllr Jarrard in the Chair

Cllrs. P Kevan, L Mann, E Owen, J Foolkes, H Flack, J McGrory and A Webb, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

Apologies: Cllr Kelly, Cllr Vass

1/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Bruce Liddle, the owner of Newbury Farm Plants attended the meeting to discuss the proposed Telecommunication tower at Beaumont farm; it's situated on the brow of the hill heading towards Maulden. The resident was concerned that the tower would be intrusive, unattractive and spoil the beautiful landscape. Bruce was concerned that the residents of Silsoe would not be fully aware of the position of the tower and have an opportunity to express their concerns. Bruce will submit his objections to Central Bedfordshire Council; the Parish Council are in agreement of this objection and will investigate further.

Resolved:

Councillor Jarrard will contact the Telecommunication Company and planning department and arrange a site visit.

2/17 MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2016 were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

3/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None.

4/17 REPORT BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR:

Cllr Alison Graham attended the meeting and provided the following update:

- Donna Lavender has confirmed that a change of use has been submitted for The George, she has requested an explanation for this, however one has so far not been given. When it goes before the Development and Management Committee they will be aware of the request and lack of response. The earliest it will be listed is March 2017.
- No decision so far on Ampthill Rd Appeal.
- No further update on the Gravenhurst Rd Traveller site, the enforcement officers will be unable to take any further action until ownership of the land is established. Questions are being asked as to whether they are actually travellers?
- No Gladman update.

- The Bedfordshire Rural Police presentation took place in December; Catherine Holloway is fully aware of village issues and is addressing them. Central Bedfordshire has been divided into north and south and Silsoe is in the south area with Inspector Tracey Day and Inspector Annita Clarke. The south is also sub divided into wards, Silsoe is in ward 26 and the designated Police constable is Aaron Dagley (5832). Neighbourhood watch scheme co-ordinator is Juliet White. Community Safety Officer is Inspector Hob Hoque. Wayne Humberstone runs the force control room and the specials.
- The data recording system defines what a crime is and not all crimes are included and counted.
- BLMKST- NHS has divided England into 44 footprints; the first priority will be for primary care. Community hubs, similar to the old Cottage style hospitals offering Drs, nurses, health, fitness, leisure activities. The nearest one is planned for Flitwick. Mobile paramedics on motorbikes will also be introduced as well as community nurses. Cllr Graham has spoken to Julie Ogley expressing Silsoe's continued interest in a medical centre.
- A meeting is due to take place on 24th January 2017 with the Chief Executive of Beds and Herts Surgery Committee. The meeting will be attended by Cllr Jarrard, Cllr Kelly, Cllr Owen and the Clerk.

5/17 PLAY AREAS:

Work has started on the play area, the cone spinner has been reinstated and the gates fitted. Due to a misunderstanding the area around the elephant was dug out on the second day, the cost of this work will be an additional £2000, all Councillors agreed to this.

Plans for the new Bloor Playground were presented at the meeting for Councillors to put forward their opinions. The following points were made:

- The play area would be better situated adjacent to Chestnut Ave and this would make the bins more accessible. However moving to this position would make it more isolated and prone to ASB.
- Larger equipment will encourage older children to play later and a subsequent increase in noise level.
- Increased parking in the area.
- A lot of adventurous equipment, concerns over possible injuries and insurance.
- Safe play surfaces will be requested, some equipment may result in excessive wear of these surfaces.
- Only two seating units are on the plans and one waste bin, more will be required.
- Further details required on the fencing/ hedging planned to enclose the play area.
- Football kick around area will be changed to a picnic area.
- Lots of trees are included who will be responsible for these and the maintenance?

It was proposed the SPC utilise the services of external specialists to advise regarding any issues unresolved prior to SPC taking responsibility of the area, including football pitches, community woodland, cricket pitch and village green. Cllr Kelly has contacted ROSPA leisure services for a proposal. Concerns have been raised over ponds on the site, one area has now been enclosed in a fence.

Concerns were raised over whether residents had been approached about the planned play area, they should have been told when they initially looked at the plans of their property. It was felt that if the Parish Council did move the location of the park then they would be open to complaints from residents.

All Councillors were happy with the wonderful equipment and generally happy to accept, a trim trail is also a suggestion that was put forward.

6/7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Silsoe is now a designated area; the constitution has been written and is on the website. The steering group has been set up with a number of sub-committees with responsibilities. The next meeting will take place on 9th February. The committee plan to attend the pancake race to publicise the work taking place. If the expenditure over runs the allotted grants available then the committee will put a request for additional funding to the Parish Council.

A6/High Street Diversion:

Cllr Jarrard has contacted CBC and Herts traffic management and has requested a site visit. It was suggested that someone contacts the bus company and school transport, Cllr Graham will follow this up and notify the Clerk. The planned road closure is for 15th-21st March, is this excessive?, Cllr Graham will confirm.

The school traffic has so far not caused any problems, the school start times have been staggered so as to avoid congestion.

7/17 FINANCE:

£32,000 was the original amount in the future projects fund this has now been reduced to £25,000.

S106 money for the play area has now been received and a further payment for the Sports centre should be received shortly.

Current account balance: £45,345.50

Deposit account balance: £130,455.67

This month's payments:

Zephyr Flags £300

Eon £122.57

A Muskett £143.22

Grangers contacted the Clerk in December with a number of outstanding invoices which had not been received. The total amount of invoices outstanding amounts to £6363.02, payments prior to April amount to £1178.54, we had agreement that the accounts were settled at the start of the financial year so the Clerk will arrange payment for the later invoices but not for those prior to April 2016. For the next financial year the requirements will be 12-14 cuts a year rather than weekly.

8/17 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE: None

9/17 AOB:

- Notice board, there still is not a plaque on the notice board stating that it was sponsored by SOS. Cllr Kelly and the Clerk are making the arrangements.
- Cllr Foolkes has now received three quotes for the hedge work:
R.Harris £4412.00 + vat
S.Deare £3470.00 +vat
Jempson £2450.00

All Councillors agreed on the quote from S. Deare.

The amount for the Millennium Green and allotments is £2,800.00, a 40% cut of that for the Millennium green trust is £1,120.00; this will be deducted from their payment.

- Emergency Planning meeting will be attended by Cllr Foolkes and Cllr Jarrard, the plan should involve the SOS, Church, sports centre and school.
- ASB. Cars have been damaged by keys, tyres damaged in Holly Walk and wing mirrors have been damaged in Newbury Lane.
- Permitted rights letter for the Bungalows was submitted to CBC on Monday 9th January.
- 24A High Street has been issued with an enforcement notice.
- Street names within Silsoe were discussed.

10/17 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th February 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.