**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th September 2020 via Zoom**

**Present:**

Cllr Kelly in the Chair

Cllrs. L Mann, Cllr Kevan, Cllr Offer, Cllr Willard, Cllr Tierney and Cllr Bache, CBC Councillor Alison Graham.

Apologies: Cllr McGrory.

**115/20 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising**:

* The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th August 2020 were agreed.
* The deletion of the previous meeting recording was agreed.

**116/20 Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:**

* None.

**117/20 Public participation:**

A resident played a recording taken from her bedroom of the noise from the bottle bank, the noise continues throughout the day and some people visit during the night or as early as 6.15am. The bottle banks are in regular use, there used to be four bins emptied twice a week this has now increased to 6 bins emptied three times a week. Lots of the visitors are non-residents therefore any FB posts or signs are not having any effect. Fly tipping has also increased. Clophill and Puloxhill have removed their bottle banks increasing the use of the ones in Silsoe. Cllr Graham suggested, in July 2020 that the resident contact the PC to ask them to request the removal of the bottle banks by CBC.

There are curb side collections in Bedfordshire, including Barton. Clerk will contact CBC for information on how Silsoe can apply for curb side collections and question why this service is being offered to some areas and not others? Resolved Clerk will contact CBC to ask about roadside glass collection for residents like they have in Barton and express they are unwilling to continue with the bottlebank.

**118/20 Report by Central Bedfordshire Councillor:**

* A meeting has taken place in response to the Petition for traffic along Ampthill Rd. It was agreed that the signage on the A507 and A6 is inadequate, this will be remedied.
* It is the intention of CBC to prohibit Wrest Park traffic from entering the village on the north entrance, this should alleviate the summer visitor situation.
* It was also agreed that the speeding along Newbury lane should be addressed by installing at least 1 raised table at a cost of £10,000 to £14, ooo, funding is being investigated.
* The increase in parked cars at the end of Newbury lane is becoming an issue, Cllr Graham suggested it could be a project for Rural Match funding.
* There have been an increasing number of HGV vehicles through the village. The LA does not have the legislative power to do anything about this, the Police do have the power but unfortunately don’t currently have the spare capacity to monitor. Central Government are in the process of having the legislation amended to provide local authorities with increased powers. Up till then there is a better response from individuals reporting the vehicles to their companies.
* A resident approached Cllr Graham regarding the ownership of the houses in Wrest Park, they are owned by Housing England. Cllr Graham does not have a contact number for the resident but will include this information in her report.
* There have been incidents on the 200 school bus, the drivers have been missing the collection of children and sending a bus which does not have the capacity for all students. Cllr Kelly will send further details to Cllr Graham who will investigate.
* There is currently an EAI Scoping opinion between a developer and CBC case officer is Debbie Quinn CB/20/02892/SCO. The development would provide 3,850 houses, 600 retirement homes, retail units, health centre, community building, sports facilities, and full schooling. The development will be situated between Silsoe, Barton and Gravenhurst.

The Planning for the future White paper was discussed and the impact on the S106 funding. The White paper has not yet been passed and the five-year desirable housing plan will still be applicable. Cllr Offer will look into this and contact the case officer for more information. Clerk will contact the Clerks at Barton and Gravenhurst.

**119/20 Finances:**

Cllr Kevan presented his latest Financial Report which included

* Current Account = £65,300.30
* Deposit Account = £200,930.54
* National wide = 81,257.39

Outgoing payments for August 2020:

* David Granger £3,434.70
* Website/social media £150.
* Eon £48.53
* Character Press (play area signs) £342
* PC repair £90
* Profile property maintenance £1375 (village hall S106 money)
* Insurance £4,352.97

Credits:

* Precept £32,897
* S106 money £1375 (for invoice above)

The cheque dated April from Aurora has now been received.

£1000 additional money was transferred into football pitch grass cutting budget as there was £500 remaining. It was hoped that the cricket club would have taken over the grass cutting, Cllr Mann agreed to join the team of grass cutters.

A letter has been received from Eloise Markham of the GCLP's Sandstone Structure Grant Panel regarding the funding to assist with the repairs to The Cage. There appears to be a difference of opinion about the repairs to the door and the roof and whether the quote includes the repairs to the roof? Cllr Kelly and Cllr Offer will continue to look into this.

All payments agreed, Clerk will set up online payments to be authorised by Cllr Kevan.

**120/20 Planning:**

CB/20/02874/FULL 30 College Chase: No objections, the proposal is similar to properties either side.

CB/20/03104/FULL New Inn Farm: The Cllr were concerned with the compliancy for disabled people. Cllr Kelly will prepare some information for other Cllrs.

**121/20 Bloor Homes:**

A meeting with Bloor took place on 26th August 2020 and a revised budget was submitted for maintenance and operation of the estate. After reviewing the submission Bloor Homes requested that an additional sum be included for play equipment replacement. BH confirmed that they are currently preparing the Agreement. The meeting also reviewed the Remedial Works with particular mention of the ownership of the fence along Mander Farm Road and the maintenance of trees along Barton Road South. The revised budget including the agreed amount for the play equipment replacement was submitted to BH on 28th September.

BH have stated that the repairs to the Plantation View Play Area should be completed by 2nd October 2020. BH requested that SPC supply & install the Covid-19 signage on their behalf, costs have been approved. Clerk has ordered these and will arrange for fitting.

**122/20 Highways:**

1. **A6 noise:** Cllr McGrory may be able to update at the next meeting?
2. **Ampthill Rd:** Dealt with under 118/20
3. **Bridge repairs:** Not Highways Dept – Structural **-** Cllr Graham will investigate this.
4. **Lorries through the village:** Dealt with under 118/20

**123/20 General Items:**

1. **Play Areas:** The repairs have been completed and the protective mats are being monitored. CPM will adjust the swings once the parts are received. Clerk has requested a quote for tree works in the Northern play area.

Natasha is now assisting Cllr Mann with play inspections for the West End play area.

1. **Silsoe Community Sports Centre:** A meeting has recently taken place; membership is currently 87% of what it was prior to lockdown. There have been lots of requests for indoor bowls, Cllr Kelly is looking into this. Half of the hall is now taken up with weights to comply with social distance.
2. **Silsoe Cricket Club:** They are carrying out the grass cutting to the Village Park outfield, and it is hoped they will commence cutting the Football Pitches shortly.
3. **Pathway P3:** John Chandler from CBC met Lionel to determine the exact location of the original path. Option 1 would be to dig it out and start again, this would be expensive. Option 2 would be cut it all back and heavy roller it.

Cllr Graham highlighted that it was always the aim to resurrect the pathway on completion of the path at the new development. She will speak to John regarding a temporary option. Cllr Tierney expressed concerns that a temporary surface may encourage users thinking it’s safe when it may not be fit for the purpose? Cllr Graham undertook to discuss the options with John.

John Chandler also recommended that the PC request that the wooden barrier at the High St North play area is replaced with a metal one.

**124/20 Police matters and Community Safety:**

A further meeting has taken place with the Community Safety team and Cllr McGrory walked the village with one of the team. Cllr McGrory has been emailing PC Dagley regarding the nuisance youths in the village, there have been several recent incidents. The Community Safety Team are reporting the issues to the Children’s services.

**125/20 Bottle bank:**

Discussed under 117/20

**126/20 Communications- Website and Social Media:**

Aurora hopes to end through some screenshots of the front page, what it will look like soon. Cllr Willard has offered to be part of the website planning and therefore will be involved I meetings as we progress.

**127/20 Acquisition of old telephone box as a book exchange library:**

Cllr Tierney would like to investigate the possibility of bringing an old telephone box to the village and for it to be used as a book exchange library. A volunteer would be responsible for running it, but residents would be able to freely access it. All agreed that it was a good idea, however consideration would need to be given to the security aspect. The telephone box would cost in the region of £2750.00 with electrical supply as optional. It would be fitted on a concrete plinth. Cllr Tierney will put forward a proposal to the council.

**128/20 Projects:**

* + 1. **Park Avenue:** The draft legal document is being reviewed by the Wrest Park Enterprises legal team. Clerk has been chasing them with no response, she will try to set up a meeting with WPE and Chris Dorow to discuss it.
    2. **Hayfields Development - Highway lighting:** CBC have responded stating that there was no condition of planning so therefore the light was fitted as per the requirements of CBC. Cllr Offer stated that remainder of the High St are black Georgian lights, and this is stated in the Design Statement of the Neighbourhood Plan. Consideration should have been given to the Neighbourhood Plan, which was in progress, even though it had not been adopted at the time the planning application was submitted.
    3. **The Cage:** Discussed under 119/20.
    4. **New Noticeboard:** Cllr McGrory is looking at quotes, Cllr Graham said it may be eligible for Ward Councillor funding.
    5. **Perch Seat:** There have been no further comments regarding the existing one, will review next year.

**129/20 Trees and Pathways, including allotments:**

Cllr Tierney is creating a spreadsheet of all the pathways and trees and their condition within the village. Work has now been completed on footpath 16. It was suggested this could be a shared document. Cllr Willard is looking into document sharing systems for the PC.

There is debris to be cleared from the allotments where allotment holders have trimmed back bushes. Clerk will obtain a quote for this. A quote for the cutting of the hedges at the millennium Green is required. Cllr Kelly will break it down into areas and instruct clerk, who will obtain quote. Works to the Allotment and millennium green are discussed on an individual basis regarding funding. Millennium quote will be discussed at the next meeting. Ditch also needs cutting back.

**130/20 Fly tipping and litter bins:**

Cllr Mann has emailed several photos to Cllrs of fly tipping in the village. Clerk made arrangements to have this cleared but it appears some still remains, Clerk will report it again.

**131/20 Christmas lights:**

£500 donation was agreed to the Silsoe Community Society towards the lights. The SCT anticipates that the event will be substantially reduced due to Covid-19.

The Advent windows will also be running this year, this will be beneficial as it is a socially distanced activity to involve residents in.

**132/20 Silsoe Emergency Plan:**

This has been discussed on several occasions, Clerk will contact CBC to see if they have an example plan and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

**133/20 Consultations and correspondence:**

* Emails regarding HGVs through the village.
* Emails regarding the bottle bank and fly tipping in the village.
* Email regarding the Public Realm scheme.
* Details of the Great British September Clean, Cllr Mann will do a litter pick.

**134/20 AOB:**

* Cllr Offer has just this evening received a response from CBC in relation to the affordable housing, he will forward details to Cllrs.
* This is Cllr Bache’s last meeting, the Cllrs thanked him for his work with the Parish Council, wished him well with his move.
* Cllr Kevan passed on apologies for the next meeting.
* There have been several bonfires recently within the village, they are discouraged but not illegal.

**135/20 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be held via Zoom at 7.30pm on 14th October.