

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 10th November 2021 in the village hall and via Zoom.

Present:

Cllr Kelly in the Chair

Cllr McGrory, Cllr Offer, Cllr Willard and Cllr Gearey Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

Apologies Cllr Kevan and Cllr Mann.

94/21 Public participation:

- Two residents attended to discuss the issues with parked cars in Newbury Lane, at the High St end. Cars come down the road very fast and are met by oncoming vehicles, particularly near the bend, where visibility is often reduced due to parked cars. The residents are concerned that an accident will occur soon and suggested possible yellow lines? Cllr Graham was able to update the residents that Highways at CBC are considering double yellow lines. The PC are in the process of arranging a traffic survey to obtain a complete idea of traffic flow through the village, this has been delayed due to the roadworks. The PC are arranging an Open meeting for residents in January 2022 to discuss parking in Newbury Lane.
- Two residents attended to discuss whether there would be an option for a skateboarding park in the village? Cllr Kelly will discuss this under the Bloor discussion.

95/21 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:

Due to work commitments Cllr Tierney is unfortunately having to step down from his position as Cllr, Cllr Kelly thanked him for all of his hard work.

96/21 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

- The Minutes of the meetings held on 13th October 2021 were agreed.

97/21 Report by Central Bedfordshire Councillor:

- Cllr Graham has received two emails regarding the yellow lines in Park Ave, suggesting they are in the wrong place, they should be on the other side of the road? There has been a request for more double yellow lines, but this will need

to be approved by the Traffic management Committee and then go out for consultation prior to it being approved.

- CBC has received part of a Government Grant of £600,000 over the next four years for tree planting. Applications for trees should be made to the Local Authority Tree Fund at CBC.
- Cllr Graham will contact Taymer to ensure they have sufficient staffing as we have now received the last day of staff vaccination requirements.
- CBC estimates that 300,000 people are caring for a relative, many of these are unknown to the authority. There is currently a Consultation to try and encourage them to access financial assistance and support.
- CBC ran a scheme to assist lower income families with food last winter, this scheme will run again this winter.
- Cllr Graham has now resigned from the Police and Crime Panel, she will keep in close contact with the members, instead she will now be Chair to the BMK Waterboard Consortium. This will be an essential project for the Oxford/Cambridge Arc. The aim is harvest flood water and move to draughts.
- Drain covers in the High Street keep becoming dislodged, Clerk will report this to CBC.

Cllr Willard raised concerns over the traffic in Church Road, since the double yellow lines have been put down in Park Ave there has been an increase in parked cars in Church Rd. Due to lack of pathways children do walk on the road going to and from school and the increase in parked cars and speeding traffic is a health and safety concern as the situation is dangerous to children. The PC questioned whether there should be more double yellow lines in Park Ave? The village needs a full strategy so that one problem is not moved to another area.

98/21 Finances:

Cllr Kevan provided a Financial Report which included.

OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR OCTOBER:

David Granger £4724.63 + £60

Aurora, website, and social media £162

Eon £65.51

CPM £336.00

Clerk expenses £360.65

All payments agreed.

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £48,684 (balance last meeting was £43,334). This does include the latest invoices.

SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

The bank account balances as of Nov 8th are:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Current a/c | £61,615.98 | was £62,986.34 |
| Deposit a/c | £200,950.58 | was £200,950.58 |
| Nationwide | £81,475.34 | was £81,475.34 |

Adjusting for the value of unapproved Grangers invoices included and expected to be paid, this leaves a total current PC cash balance of £338,585.76 (balance last meeting was £341,490.66). The small drop in the total balance compared with the increase in value of total payments made is due to the receipt of the grant from Bedfordshire Police of £3,155 re the children's summer activities club. We have also received £21 and £16 allotment rent payments. – Peter.

There are three points to highlight with the accounts for the financial year:

- The total cost of grass cutting budget has been increased by £2,000 as agreed at the last balance, so we have £4,177 allocated now to cover us until the end of March 2022.
- The agreed cost of £4,237 plus VAT for Kompan repair works to the play areas, but still have not seen an invoice yet?
- The funding available for future projects as increased by approximately £1,200 from last month to £34,695 due to the receipt of the Police Grant less the adjustment to the grass cutting budget.

There are currently reserved balances of:

| | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| £15,000 | General reserve |
| £520 | Allotment deposits |
| £108,759 | Sports Centre |
| £93,650 | Miller Homes Play Areas |
| £187 | Village Hall |

Could councillors please consider any projects that they want to put forward for inclusion in next year's budget? If you can't make the budget meeting, please drop an email to Clerk with anything you want to put forward with brief details on what, why and how much?

The Silsoe News have sent through a forecast, they hope to break even at the end of 2021. However due to an increase in printing costs and the effects of Covid on income the forecast their income for 2022 to be £7100 and costs £8000. With this in mind they have asked if they could please have their grant for 2021 of £250 transferred to them and if we could budget the same for next year? All Cllrs happy with this proposal.

99/21 Planning:

The PC considered the following applications:

- CB/21/04793/FULL 27 Mander farm Rd, single storey extension. No objections.
- CB/TRE/21/00578 Land to the rear of 34 Amphill Rd and adjacent to 59 The Grove, remove 1 Sycamore tree to ground level. Cllrs will check and confirm with Clerk.
- CB/TCA/21/00582 Trees at Wrest Park, no objection.

Hayfield Development:

Cllr Offer will wait until Hayfield have finished the lighting before assessing if it is bright enough for pedestrians. The ditches will also require attention to allow for drainage off the road. Cllr Graham

advised that there should be the same flow of water off the development as there would have been off the field or else the developer will be in breach of their application.

Bloor Homes

The PC have met with the Principal Planning officer and exchanged emails, all papers have gone forward for interpretation and then will go to the S106 team for consideration. David Swain will write to CBC requesting that they engage with the PC prior to going back to Bloor.

Two residents asked if the PC would consider a skatepark on the Bloor development. Lots of young people in the village own a skateboard and are using them on curbs, which is dangerous. As skateboarding is now an Olympic sport, they felt it would be a good time to look into this, Government has also given money to building skateboarding facilities across the country. Cllr Kelly confirmed that at the moment the PC do not own the land but once the agreement with Bloor has been completed, they will consider the idea. Clerk will contact Flitwick and Shefford Town Councils for information.

Cllr Offer will look at the Hayfield footpath to see if there is sufficient lighting, if there isn't he will follow it up.

100/21 Projects:

Roadworks:

The road works from the A507 seem to be completed, there is still no information on roadworks in the village on the website.

Platinum Jubilee celebrations:

Platinum jubilee celebrations, Cllr McGrory will follow this up.

Advent windows:

Cllr McGrory has sufficient homes for all windows. Judging will take place between Christmas and new year and three prizes will be awarded.

Traffic survey:

This has been delayed due to the roadworks, Cllr Kelly will contact them now and make arrangements.

Tree planting:

Cllr Kelly will contact CBC regarding the Queens Green canopy tree project. Areas for consideration include tree fill ins on A6 and replacement of the recently removed Oak.

Website:

The website is now up and running, it was felt that we should advertise it more, in the newsletter, noticeboards and on FB. It was also suggested that FB posts should link back to the website to provide additional information. Aurora has also set up letterhead for the PC.

Vandalism:

Clerk will be organising a follow up meeting with the Police to discuss action that has been taken and the current reports of crimes. Suggested date 25th November 2021 at 4.30pm.

Village sign:

Another quote has been sought, Cllr McGrory will arrange for it to be removed and Cllr Kelly will arrange the works.

Miller Homes, First port/Mainstay:

Cllr Gearey has been in contact with Paradigm housing regarding The Conifers, they have asked Mainstay to remove the rubbish but there is confusion as to who is responsible? There are also 3 abandoned cars in the area alongside the rubbish. If a result cannot be achieved the PC will go to CBC.

The street lighting has been fixed.

Works are required to Forest path, CBC claim it has not been adopted but it has, Cllr Gearey will show them the S38 drawings.

The property manager at Mainstay is looking at quotes for the 16 bollards that are currently not working. Some of them seem to be wired to properties. They are also looking at the management of the hedging and the ditch in West End Rd, Clerk reported that CBC should be attending this month to clear the part that they are responsible for.

Parking in Church Rd:

Clerk will arrange a meeting with highways to walk around the village and assess the ongoing situation with parking.

Parking in Newbury Lane:

Discussed earlier in the meeting, Clerk will arrange open meeting date.

101/21 Consultations and correspondence:

- The PC have been contacted by a Charity regarding a donation for a hardship fund, Clerk will email and ask if Silsoe residents are actually benefitting from the works of the charity.
- Beds, Luton and MK Clinical Commissioning group are consulting on fertility, MK pharmacy first and gluten free prescribing.
- Sunshine gym flyer.
- Eon, notification of increase in prices.

102/21 AOB:

- Items for the newsletter, Advent windows, website, Police meeting, PCC information (Cllr Kelly to arrange)
- Summer activities discussion deferred to next meeting.
- Wildflowers, no response so far from WPE, the resident has asked for other areas of the village to be planted, Clerk will ask her for suggestions and to identify areas?
- Defibrillators, the cabinet at the allotments is rusty, Cllr Offer will take photographs to submit.

- Cllr Kelly and Cllr Offer attended an EDI function at Wrest Park, the aim being to discuss the next stage of development for Wrest Park. Both Cllrs raised a number of concerns on behalf of residents.
- A Governor from the School has been in contact to clarify if the school should have free use of the sports centre? Cllr Kelly was able to confirm that this was not the case and referred her to the S106 agreement.

103/21 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th December 2021 in the Village Hall, the meeting will be face-to-face, but residents and Cllrs can attend via Zoom if necessary.