**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

**held on 11th May 2022 at the Silsoe village hall.**

**Present:**

**Cllr Kelly in the Chair**

Cllr Offer, Cllr Mann, Cllr Kevan, Cllr Gearey, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

Apologies: Cllr Willard.

**40/22 Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

Cllr Offer proposed Cllr Kelly as Chairman, seconded by Cllr Kevan, all agreed.

Cllr Kelly proposed Cllr Offer as Vice-Chair, seconded by Cllr Kevan, all agreed.

**41/22 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:**

Cllr Willard sent apologies.

**42/22 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising**:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 6th April 2022 were agreed.

**43/22** **Public participation:**

Three residents attended the meeting to discuss setting up a Men’s football team for Silsoe, they would like to enter a team into the Leighton District League. They have approximately 20 players and have one, possibly two sponsors lined up. The PC were fully supportive of the team and were able to offer advice. Clerk will forward details of their contact at Wrest Park to discuss the pitches, also contact details for the Silsoe Recreation for possible funding. The residents will try and make arrangements for the pitch and kits and will contact the PC for further support if and when required.

**44/22 Ward Councillor Cllr Alison Graham**:

* The Taymer application went before the DMC earlier today and was reviewed for over two hours. The main questions and concerns revolved around the access to the development. A suggestion was made for more critical changes to be made in the area. It was suggested a 40mph zone on the A6, approaching the roundabout, and a pedestrian crossing on Barton Rd, just before the corner. The changes were voted on and approved but is subject to consultation from Highways and the Traffic management Committee. In their meeting they will assess the access with Ringway Jacobs, if they conclude that the access is not viable the application will be reheard by the DMC. Cllr graham reminded the committee that Paul salmon had agreed to change the signage on the A6 to direct Wrest Park visitors to the village south entrance.

Councillor Kelly commended Cllr Offer and Cllr Graham for speaking on behalf of the Parish.

* Green wood application will be resubmitted in due course under another name.
* Cllr Kelly received an email yesterday regarding a TPO for the tree tunnel, situated in Park Avenue to the right of the first lodge. Cllr Graham advised if this was part of the land owned by Historic England it could be protected, NPPF stipulates that ‘A Heritage site includes the surrounds in which an asset is’ Cllr Kelly advised a tree officer is due to view.
* A resident has complained of aggressive bees coming from hives within Wrest Park and affecting walkers on an adjacent footpath. Cllr Graham has asked the footpath steward to look. SPC will speak to Tom Woodhouse next week.

Clerk updated Cllr graham, after reports of pupil safety whilst waiting for buses, she has contacted the schools, who have agreed to speak to all pupils using the school buses.

**45/22 Finances:**

OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR MAY:

* David Granger £3,436.75
* Aurora £162 plus 338 for the Domain
* Clerk expenses £581.61
* SLCC amount to be confirmed £78
* Village hall £186.25
* N Power £40.36
* Internal auditor £275
* Traffic report £1248.00

Credit:

Allotment rents £713.97

CBC Precept £36,717.00

Vat returns £4,760.93

Account balances: (9/5/22)

Current: £71,530.00

Savings: £200,960.60

Nationwide: £81,475.34

It was agreed to update the mandate for Nationwide by adding Cllr Offer.

The budget is on target for grass cutting. It was agreed to pay the first two invoices for SSG for the summer playscheme.

Clerk will confirm is SSG accept childcare vouchers?

The plan to erect traffic calming signs has been put on hold until further discussions take place with CBC regarding the Clophill Roundabout.

The Council agreed the Annual Governance statement section 1 and 2. Clerk will submit the documents to the external auditor. The internal auditor report has been received and highlighted some missing Annual return documents, clerk will arrange for them to go on the website.

**46/22 Planning:**

The PC considered the following applications:

CB/22/01460/FULL 63 High St, Ground floor extension with box dormer to rear. Concern over the style of windows.

Concerns over the style of window

CB/TCA/22/00233 Silsoe House, no concerns.

CB/21/03406/OUT Land adjoining Taymer nursing home, discussed earlier by Ward Councillor.

**47/22 Review of Documents:**

All documents were circulated prior to the meeting and agreed:

* Code of conduct
* Councillor Co-option Policy and application and Dispensation guidance.
* Complaints procedure
* Equality and Diversity Policy
* Financial regulations
* Death of an Official
* Privacy Policy
* Risk Assessment
* Assets, the main changes to the assets were removal of two traffic signs that no longer work and addition of CCTV.

**48/22 Projects:**

**Summer activities:**

Clerk will seek confirmation of the deposit required and arrange for payment as per finances

**Bottle banks**

The resident has submitted evidence of noise to CBC, the insulated bins have been trialled but have made no change. The PC all agree that they would like the bottle banks removed permanently. The Bottle bank at the sports centre is to be for use of the sports centre only, not residents. Cllr Kelly will inform Stevenage leisure.

**Rural match funding/crossing:**

CBC propose to put two signs up on Mander farm, warning drivers that children will be crossing. All Cllrs in agreement. Clerk will confirm with CBC.

**Jubilee Celebrations:**

The Beacon has been purchased and is due for delivery. Scouts will help to put lights on the trees around the millennium Green, Beavers have made bunting and Cubs lanterns for the trees.

Arrangements will be:

**Thursday 2nd June - 14.00hrs, at St James Church,** Town Crier

**Thursday 2nd June - 20.30 hrs, at the Millennium Green,** Jubilee Garden Plaque**,** Refreshments**,** Town Crier**,** Piper Music – “Dui Reganare” – 21:35hrs**,** Lighting of the Beacon - 21:45hrs**,** Choir Music.

**Sunday 7th June 2022 - 10:00am,** Church Service – St James Church, The Big Lunch – Street Parties

The events will be advertised on FB, the website and in the shops, noticeboards.

There was discussion over who should light the Beacon?

**Bloor:**

The Trust are communicating with CBC, a letter has been written to CBC and relevant parties. Cllrs agreed it is time to seek professional advice, this has been agreed in a previous meeting.

**The Cage:**

Works are due to start 25/5/22, the door will be taken off. The information board that had been suggested is too big for the site, Cllr Offer recommended a smaller version (measuring 800x700mm) in metal.

**Roles and responsibilities:**

Agreed and will be sent out to Cllrs.

**Traffic signs:**

Project on hold until the discussions regarding the Clophill roundabout are complete.

**Clophill Roundabout:**

Cllr Offer has contacted Sarah Hughes to arrange a follow meeting to discuss the Clophill roundabout proposed works, to clarify the works and the diversions, Sarah will be in contact, once the Consultation has begun. Clerk will find out when the consultation begins.

Cllr Kelly has requested regular updates from the Speed watch team to add to the PC monitoring of speed through the village.

**Play area, Covid review:**

It was agreed to keep the signs in place for the time being.

**TPO Tunnel:**

Discussed by Ward Councillor.

**Lighting review:**

Clerk requested a quote from Andy Muskett to change the light settings on the streetlights in an attempt to reduce the use of energy. The cost for each light is £48, the Cllr felt this was not cost effective.

**49/22 Consultations and correspondence:**

* A resident has asked if the PC would ask drivers to stop tooting at the junction of Ampthill Rd and Newbury Lane. The PC felt this make may the situation worse and may be the cause of an accident if a driver was reluctant to toot when necessary.
* CBC Community involvement information.
* CPRE Magazine.

**50/22 AOB:**

* The PC met with Pioneer member of the Co-op group to discuss funding; applications are open till 29/5/22.
* Wrest Park update, there are currently four filming sessions booked, St George’s Day saw 8,500 visitors, they estimated 6,000 with lots of positive feedback.
* The Neighbourhood plan may need to be reviewed; the PC will look into this.
* The Allotment society wish to close some of the entrances, the PC will advertise on FB and the website.

**51/22 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th June 2022.