

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at the Silsoe village hall.

### Present:

#### Cllr Kelly in the Chair

Cllr Gearey, Cllr Kevan, Cllr Willard

Cllr Offer, Cllr Mann, Clerk and Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham, via Zoom

### 94/22 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:

Apologies: PC Steven Beer.

### 95/22 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chairman

### 96/22 Public participation:

None

### 97/22 Police representative:

Apologies sent for this month from PC Steven Beer from the Cohesion Team he would like to attend meetings, Clerk will send his dates. He has offered also to do some training with the security team at Wrest Park, Clerk has approached Tom Woodhouse.

PC Hanne Jorgensen attended and was able to discuss on going issues in the village:

- There have been two incidents in recent months involving dogs, this is an ongoing investigation, however PC Jorgensen was able to confirm that it was the same breed on both occasions and there will be no further incidents involving the last person responsible.
- There have been incidents of anti-social behaviour at the end of West End rd. and Mander Farm rd., car wheels screeching, smell of marijuana, late night noise, rubbish dumped, shouting. Cllr Gearey has reported it to PC Sarah Carne and to Aragon housing. PC Jorgensen recommended all incidents are reported using 101 and to her directly.
- Crime statistics show a few incidents in Ossier walk and an assault on High St, these are on-going investigations.

- There was an incident on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at Wrest Park and the offender was caught, parents have been involved and there has been no further incidents. PC Jorgensen will visit the school the child attends to discuss anti-social behaviour and vandalism.
- The ram-raid and burglary at the Co-op are ongoing investigations.
- The Cllrs requested visits from the speed van on the village in an attempt to tackle speeding, the van is only funded to serve north Bedfordshire as it is not funded by the Police. PC Jorgensen will visit using the speed gun.
- Cllr Ian raised concerns over the safety of children walking to school, particularly when crossing Ampthill rd.

The PC thanked PC Jorgensen for attending the meeting. It was discussed whether to continue involving the Police at full council meetings or whether a separate meeting would be more appropriate? It was agreed to continue with full council for the moment.

### **98/22 Report by Ward Councillor:**

- Cllr Graham fed back that she didn't hear approximately 90% of the previous discussion due to poor sound.
- No movement on the Greenwood application or the care village.
- CBC has appointed Milestone infrastructure as the new contractor for highways, replacing ringway Jacobs. It's a 7-year contract.
- In order to benefit from maximum Government funding for Highways the highways strategy has to be viewed as excellent, CBC have just received this status for the second time.
- Highways have reviewed the salting routes within CBC, giving priority to roads that lead to or connect to Hubs, e.g., Hospitals or stations. Ampthill rd. and High St, Silsoe will be on the salt route.
- Stagecoach changed their routes in October 2022 and there has been some issues with the routes and times, CBC are not responsible for Stagecoach but have spoken to them and things seem to have improved. At the last Executive meeting, funding for vulnerable people was discussed. Food vouchers will now be increased from £15 to £17.50; these are available from children's centres. regarding where children's centres can be found, from where vouchers can be obtained, is in CBC's public spaces, e.g., libraries.
- £1.4 million will be spent on supporting vulnerable people over the next 6 months.
- The Horticultural centre have contacted Cllr Graham regarding salt for the road leading to the centre, Cllr Graham will follow this up. Cllrs expressed concern over a lack of salt bins in the village. Particularly south of the village, Clerk will contact CBC.
- Cllrs asked if there was any update regarding the HGVs through the village? Cllr Graham will request more information from Cllr Delgarno.

## 99/22 Finances:

### OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR DECEMBER:

£5371.65 & £576 David Granger

£18 & £54 Village Hall

£162 Website

£3.79 N Power

£250 Silsoe news

£30 BATPC course fees

£21.82 and £12.03 Anglian water

£3144, approximately for supply and fitting of new dishwasher, Clerk is awaiting invoice.

Payments agreed, Clerk will arrange bank transfers.

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £68,572 (balance in Nov was £61,523). This does include the latest invoices. The major expenditure is again with Grangers, which includes £4,188 for tree maintenance / hedge trimming around the allotments and Millennium Green.

We have also received a £2,153 grant re. funding for the Cage works and the VAT refund claimed of £7,149.

The bank account balances as of Dec 13th are:

Current a/c	£64,862.79	was £64,513.80
Deposit a/c	£201,149.77	was £201,037.68
Nationwide	£81,698.78	was £81,698.78

Adjusting for the value of unapproved invoices included and expected to be paid, this leaves a total current PC cash balance of £341,012.69 (balance in the last meeting was £339,465.91).

There are currently reserved balances of:

£15,000	General reserve
£1,234	Allotment deposits
£104,357	Sports Centre
£92,092	Miller Homes Play Areas
£187	Village Hall

Cllrs discussed the forecast expenditure for the balance of the current financial year and for the next financial year 2023/4 in the budget meeting. The revised forecast for 2022/3 and proposed budget for 2023/4 were circulated after the meeting for further consideration by councillors. At the end of the budget meeting the suggestion was that we keep the per household precept fixed at this year's cost, giving a total precept of £75,108 (see second attachment for details and comparison with prior years). With the draft spending plans as detailed, this would leave the PC £41,280 to cover new projects and any other unforeseen costs.

A representative from Bedford band played at the Remembrance service, a donation of £25 was agreed for the band and £25 expenses.

The PC discussed the Community foundation's request for a donation towards the Christmas lights, the annual donation was to extend the lights in the village each year, as there has been no extension this year, it was agreed the PC would not donate.

A budget for the next financial year was discussed and agreed, proposed by Cllr Kevan, seconded by Cllr Offer, all agreed.

The Precept for the financial year 2023/24 was discussed and a nil increase was agreed, proposed by Cllr Kevan, seconded by Cllr Kelly. There will be a slight increase due to the change of base rate as a result of new developments.

The Crickey club grass cutting was discussed, Cllr Kelly will arrange a meeting with the cricket club to discuss their use of the pitch and grass cutting.

The additional Christmas tree by the Co-op was discussed and it was agreed it was too expensive.

## **100/22 Planning:**

The PC considered the following applications:

- CB/22/04356 The Oaks, Demolition of existing utility room. Erection of two storey side extension, single storey front link extension, and single storey rear extension. Also, erection of a detached garden room. No objections.
- CB/22/04290/LDCC Land to the northwest side of New Inn Farm, Barton Rd. Lawful Development Certificate Existing: Use of land and associated building for the storage, valeting, servicing, repair and sales of Roma caravans. No objections.
- CB/HDG/22/00645 Remove 5m hedgerow to access a laydown area for drilling across Warren Lane and under Wrest Park access needs widening to allow for heavy duty vehicles to safely turn and enter. The Cllrs would like to see the hedgerow replaced; Cllr Offer will prepare comments to submit.

## **101/22 Projects:**

### **1. THE TRAFFIC MEETING:**

Cllrs arranged an open meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November to discuss the issues with traffic through the village. Two key points were identified. Firstly, the PC could probably not impact on the number of vehicles passing through the village but could try to make it safer by reducing the speed of the traffic. Secondly it was felt that the PC should request more Police presence with the speed vehicle to try and address the speed. The Children of the village have now been offered an alternative bus stop to the one

on the High St, which should make it safer for them to cross and await their transport. Cllr Willard and Cllr Gearey will form a sub-committee to discuss the issues and feedback to full council.

## **2. THE CAGE:**

The project is now complete, and all funding has been received.

## **3. BLOOR HOMES:**

A letter of confirmation of adoption of the Community woodland was received by the PC, some terms were inaccurate, CBC have amended this and sent it to Bloor for agreement. Cllr Kelly is looking at costings for legal advice. Bloor did visit the paly are on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December and asked to view the CCTV from the sports centre following a child being injured on the paly area in August 2022. CCTV did not go back that far. The PC did contact their insurance company, but no action was required.

## **4. SPEED OPERATED TRAFFIC SIGNS:**

Travelo have visited the site and agreed the position of the signs, Cllr Gearey will send this to Cllrs for agreement when he receives it. The signs will be fitted January 2023/ Cllr Kelly asked if the speed on the signs could be adjusted to use in both the 20mph zone and 30mph zone. Cllr Gearey will ask?

## **5. MILLER HOMES:**

There have been complaints of a Camper van parked in Plantation view, with someone living in it. The Police and CBC have visited the camper van and the owner is not committing any offences. The residents have been updated.

The residents meeting originally planned for 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 was cancelled but has been provisionally arranged for 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Cllr Gearey will be attending the meeting as a resident not as a Cllr.

A resident has contacted the PC regarding the litter outside the co-op he has asked for signs to be erected to ensure people do not leave engines running whilst in the shop or drop litter. Cllr Gearey will follow this up.

## **6. ADVENT WINDOWS:**

Clerk has contacted Abby to arrange prizes and judging but has not had a response, she will try again

## **7. CORONATION AND BEACON:**

Cllr Kelly will arrange a meeting with Phil Hammond to discuss plans.

Beacons will not be lit for the Coronation as it is so close to the Jubilee celebrations, the aim is to make it different. Beacons will be lit for the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the DD landings.

Cllr Kelly will speak to the sports centre for use of the facilities for the Coronation.

One resident has offered to help with the arrangements.

- 8. EMERGENCY PLAN:** Clerk will have attended the CERT training for the emergency plan and will start the plan on behalf of the PC in the new year. A resident, who has experience with Emergency plans has offered to help, Clerk will meet with him in the new year.

## **9. CRICKET CLUB:**

Cllr Kelly will arrange a meeting.

## **10. STREET WATCH UPDATE:**

No update, its dark, cold and quiet.

## **102/22 Consultations and correspondence:**

- A resident has reported a truck being parked at the end of Newbury Lane effecting the visibility of drivers, can it be moved? Resident will be advised to contact the company and the PC will ask the Police to view.
- Resident contacted PC regarding noise and issues at The Conifers. Cllr Gearey will follow this up.
- Resident contacted PC to provide comments post the traffic meeting.
- Parking consultation 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023
- Finance training BAPTC
- Thank you letter from Magpas re the donation and their autumn newsletter.
- CPE magazine.

## **103/22 AOB:**

## SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

- The sign alerting drivers to be aware children crossing is being discussed by CBC next week and hopefully then ordered.
- Vehicle tax on the lawnmower has been renewed, no cost.

### **104/22 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023

Signed

Date