

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at the Silsoe village hall.

### Present:

#### Cllr Kelly in the Chair

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

Cllr Offer, Cllr Mann via Zoom

Apologies: Cllr Willard and Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

### **82/22 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:**

Apologies:

CBC - to discuss Clophill roundabout - will attend the November meeting

Bedfordshire Police - will attend the December meeting.

### **Declaration of Interest:**

None

### **83/22 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022 were agreed and signed by the Chairman

### **84/22 Public participation:**

None

### **85/22 Central Bedfordshire Council to discuss the planned Clophill works:**

A brief presentation was offered to Councillors, outlining the decision-making process and consultations that had taken place, Trish Etheridge attended on behalf of CBC.

The Traffic Management Committee will meet on 27/11/22 to ratify the 30mph speed limit.

Tenders will be received in the next two weeks and a contractor will be appointed ready for a January start. The project completion date is March 2024.

Experimental traffic orders will be in place at peak times and will be adjusted:-

- A ban to right turns from A507 on to Ampthill Rd.

- A ban to left turns from A507 to Maulden bypass.
- A ban to right turns from Maulden bypass on to A507
- All times ban to right turns out of The Causeway and Warren Lane on to A507.

These will be physically 'manned' at peak times.

The PC put forward their concerns that the issue for Silsoe is traffic management during the construction works was not being addressed adequately. When the A6 is closed it has a major impact on the village and it becomes gridlocked in minutes.

A further concern was that during the current financial difficulties, budgets are being massively squeezed and HM Government has given warnings that there may be financial cutbacks on essential services, how can CBC justify this expenditure? The CBC representative to request an official response to this question.

The footbridge will be removed, it is not in the best condition and works cannot physically go ahead unless it is removed. The footbridge was a planning condition when the local dwellings were built; however, the Head of planning has confirmed it is to be removed, the new Toucan crossing will be as safe.

Cllrs expressed their concerns over the diversions being too long and people would look for short cuts. They also requested that CBC monitor the contractor and the traffic flow.

The Parish Council noted that CBC conducted a traffic survey in the village which monitored only 3 out of the 4 entry/exits of the village and that the survey was conducted during half term and was therefore not an accurate representation.

Cllr also reminded CBC representative that Wrest Park Enterprises has approximately 2000 vehicle movements per a day aside from the English Heritage 155,000 visitors annually.

A resident, heading up the Silsoe Road Safety Campaign – School Transport stated that she has received a lot of generic responses from CBC but no direct answers. A safety assessment has been conducted, but no data had been made available, the assessment should include number of children, road safety issues, traffic levels, adequate standing space etc. The group would like to work alongside CBC. The number of children from the village using school transport has grown in recent years as the village has expanded. However, there is no evidence of a recent safety review of the Pavements and footways, standing areas, crossing points, drop off and pick up areas. Trish agreed to ask the dedicated member to contact the group directly. The number of children relying on school transport has grown in recent years as the village has expanded but no re-assessment had been made

The Cllrs queried the position of the proposed Toucan crossing A6 south . The meeting was reminded that Silsoe still has no pedestrian footpath access to the north of the village to access the A6. Pedestrians must walk in the roadway to get to the A6 and cross four lanes of

traffic to cross the A6. Cllrs reiterated their concerns for pedestrian safety with the crossing positioned as per the plans.

Cllrs are also concerned about the speed of traffic along Ampthill Rd, there are no speed reduction facilities or crossings for the children walking to school. Cllrs asked CBC to review this requirement for speed reduction facilities , traffic lights or crossings within the village.

## **86/22 Police representative:**

Apologies sent for this month, PC Steven Beer is back with the Cohesion Team and 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.

## **87/22 Report by Ward Councillor:**

Apologies sent.

## **88/22 Finances:**

### **OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR NOVEMBER:**

£6573.72 David Granger  
£31.50 Village Hall  
£30 PD & Co  
£162 Website  
£35.20 N Power  
£329.99 A Willard  
£407.95 Busy Tots (payable to T Medley)  
£117.03 Condolence table (payable to T Medley)  
£235.75 Expenses Clerk

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £61,523 (balance in Oct was £54,809). This includes the latest invoices to be agreed at this meeting. The major expenditure is with Grangers, which includes £3,672 for tree maintenance / hedge trimming on the High Street and around the football fields by the school.

We have also received

- £1,000 from CBC re. funding for The Cage works
- Allotment rent - payments paid directly into the bank of £710.

The bank account balances as of November 8th are:

Current a/c	£64,513.80	was £70,168.67
Deposit a/c	£201,037.68	was £201,037.68
Nationwide	£81,698.78	was £81,698.78

# SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Adjusting for the value of unapproved invoices included and expected to be paid, this leaves a total current PC cash balance of £339,465.91 (balance in the June meeting were £347,151.88).

There are currently reserved balances of:

£15,000	General reserve
£1,234	Allotment deposits
£104,357	Sports Centre
£92,185	Miller Homes Play Areas
£187	Village Hall

It was agreed to adjust the council expenses budget to cover the costs incurred to date plus further expenses forecast for this year. We have just purchased a laptop to support the zoom meetings and there were expenses related to the condolences book set-up by the council, proposed by Cllr Kevan, seconded by Cllr Kelly, all agreed.

The 'spare' funds available for new projects has dropped to £20,550 from £20,624 last month.

Finally, a reminder of the budget 2023/4 meeting in early December. CBC have already confirmed that the tax base has increased from 1,403 units to 1,435 units, a 2.3% change.

The Silsoe Road Safety Campaign – School Transport requested the PC cover the costs of Survey Monkey software to enable the group to conduct surveys, in the first instance to gather opinions and secondly to survey the children. The PC were reminded that Government statutory guidance requires that arrangements should be made for children to feel safe and stress free on their journey to school, the group would like to gain feedback from the children involved. The purchase of Survey Monkey software was proposed by Cllr Kelly and seconded by Cllr Kevan, all in agreement.

A quotation for £4,188.00 has been received for the cutting of the hedges and trees at the Millennium Green and the Allotments area, works agreed.

The Mander Farm hedges are overgrown, Cllr Gearey will check.

Busy Tots submitted another application for further funding of £250, this was proposed by Cllr Kelly and seconded by Cllr Offer, all agreed.

Cllr Offer emailed a final list of Cage expenditure prior to the meeting, outstanding funding should be received soon.

N Power have recently read the meters and the PC were over charged so far for 2022, a credit is therefore on the account, the latest invoice does not take the credit into consideration, Clerk will contact N Power to agree outstanding amount, should be approximately £3.

## **89/22 Planning:**

The PC considered the following applications:

- CB/TRE/22/00557 Skene House, 1 the Maples. Works to trees protected by a TPO. Left to the tree officer to decide.

- CB/22/03848/FULL 24 High St. Conversion of a retail unit into 2 residential dwellings. Concerns over the access and parking space for vehicles of both properties.
- CB/22/04042/FULL 8 The Coppice. Two storey front and side extension and single storey rear extension. Insertion of 3 rooflights in existing roof. Cllrs were concerned that the dark grey windows and balcony are not in keeping with the other properties in proximity and not consistent with the design statement and planning guidelines for this development.
- CB/22/03868/LB Yellow Barn House, 26A High St. Replacement of timber front door and French doors. No objections.
- CB/TCA/22/00577 15 The Rowans, works to trees in a Conservation area. Cllrs were keen to retain the trees if possible.
- Greenwood, no further update, or application
- Taymer, waiting to be heard before the TMC

## 90/22 Projects:

1. **THE CAGE:** The works to the Cage have now been completed, Cllr Mann will update residents in the newsletter. A list of costs has been emailed to all Cllrs. Cllr Offer will have two more keys cut.

2. **BLOOR HOMES:**

Cllr Kelly has met with David Swain to discuss the adoption of the Community Woodland; this does not include the play area. With reference to the dispute over the adoption of the Village Park They a KC has been contacted to advise if the PC has an arguable case?

3. **BOTTLE BANK:**

CBC have put on hold their plans for moving the bottle bank, we are awaiting further updates.

4. **CROSSING FOR SCHOOL:**

Discussed by CBC representative.

5. **SPEED OPERATED TRAFFIC SIGNS:**

Jenny Goddard CBC Highways is away until 29/11/22, on her return the positions will be finalised, and old signs removed.

6. **MILLER HOMES:**

There is a new Property, Regional and operations manager. A meeting has been arranged by residents on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Cllr Kelly to attend. The meeting is for residents to express their dissatisfaction for Mainstay.

**7. STREET WATCH UPDATE:**

A diary is being organised, there will be 7 evenings in November.

**8. ADVENT WINDOWS:**

Clerk will speak to Abby McGrory to see if any further assistance is required?

**9. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:**

Clerk has applied for a road closures, Cllr Kelly has arranged volunteers from Rotary, Clerk has a Cornet player, just need to confirm timings. Volunteers are needed. Lieutenant Deputy Geoffrey Farr and his wife Catherine will attend and lay the first wreath. 30-40 representatives from Scouting will Parade.

**10. CORONATION AND BEACON:**

Cllr Kelly will arrange a meeting with Phil Hammond to discuss plans. The PC will request volunteers from the village.

**11. EMERGENCY PLAN:** Clerk will attend CERT training for the emergency plan and start the plan on behalf of the PC.

**91/22 Consultations and correspondence:**

- Greensand Trust, Clophill Pond project
- Tree planting grants from CBC available until March 2023.
- SCRT Committee- Resignation of Mr J Robinson.
- Draft Parking standards
- BLMK Care partnership new strategy.

**92/22 AOB:**

- Traffic meeting 23/11/22 Sports centre
- Budget meeting 5/12/22 Village Hall

**93/22 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Signed

Date