

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 8th March 2023 at the Silsoe village hall.

Present:

Cllr Kelly in the Chair

Cllr Offer, Cllr Gearey, Cllr Mann.

23/23 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:

Apologies: Cllr Willard, Cllr Kevan, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham

24/23 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 8th February 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

25/23 Public participation:

None

26/23 Police representative:

PC Mountforth gave a presentation on Cybercrime to all Cllrs.

27/23 Report by Ward Councillor:

- Apologies were sent.

28/23 Finances:

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £78,811 (balance in Feb was £76,586). This does include the latest invoices, included in the notes, additional invoices have come in since the notes were prepared. The biggest expenditure is Grangers but there are no large items of expenditure over the last month.

Since the February meeting there have been no further receipts for Allotments rental. Payment of the Allotment membership fees was agreed.

PC did receive the CBC grass cutting contribution of £1,250 and interest of £250 on the Barclays Deposit account. Clerk will request a statement for the Nationwide account at the end of the month with the balance as of March 31st?

The bank account balances as of Mar 6th are:

Current a/c £50,786.07 was £53,792.69

SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Deposit a/c £201,399.42 was £201,149.77
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 £332,025.35 (balance in the Feb meeting was £332,966.44).

There are currently reserved balances of:

£15,000	General reserve
£1,234	Allotment deposits
£103,994	Sports Centre
£91,995	Miller Homes Play Areas
£187	Village Hall

The funding available for new projects to end of March 2024 is £41,509 (last month was £41,184). Next meeting will be our first in the new financial year. Therefore, accounts will be cleared, and carried forward where appropriate, any unspent budgets. This is likely to increase this available funding.

OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR MARCH:

£1,739.72 David Granger
£162 Website
£27 Village Hall hire
£113.40 A Muskett street lighting
£88.50 SLCC membership fees
£31.94 N Power
£29.84 Anglian water
£67.80 Chairman's allowance for Ward Cllr leaving.

Payments agreed, Clerk will arrange bank transfers.

Clerk is currently carrying out the interim internal audit,

The Scouting group have approached the PC for a contribution towards a mug for each young person in celebration of the Coronation, Cllrs agreed to support this, an amount will be agreed at the next meeting.

29/23 Planning:

The PC considered the following applications:

- CB/23/00530/FULL 16 The Oaks, Demolition of existing dwelling and garage, erection of new dwelling, no objections.
- CB/23/00008/FULL 4 Fielden Court, no objection submitted after the last meeting.

30/23 Projects:

1. BLOOR HOMES:

Cllr Kelly is in continued talks with Bloor Homes, next meeting is scheduled for 10th March 2023. Bloor are discussing a temporary agreement with the Cricket club, which will allow them access cross to cut the football pitches, David Granger will cut the pitches until this agreement is received.

2. VEHICLE OPERATED TRAFFIC SIGNS:

The 2 SIDs were installed, they initially displayed the wrong speed but have since been rectified. The funding application to the PCC has been submitted, the CBC also needs to be submitted by end of March 2023, Clerk will do this or Cllr Gearey if she is not available.

3. MILLER HOMES:

The refuse area is now nearly complete, secure locks have been fitted and now just need to ensure residents use the area.

Cllr Gearey has a meeting scheduled with First Port and a resident has also requested a meeting with them for a group of them to discuss the associated costs.

Cllr Gearey has requested an assets list but so far has only received a list of gardening tasks, he has requested more information. Cllr Offer explained that CBC would hold a Landscape management plan, this would have needed to be signed off by CBC.

4. Emergency plan:

Clerk has met with a resident to work on the Emergency plan for the village, the draft has now been circulated to all Cllrs, it is now open to comments, hopefully it will be adopted at the next meeting. The resident recommended some stationary items to have on hand...

5. RECRUITMENT OF NEW COUNCILLORS:

It was agreed the Chairman would write a recruitment article for the Silsoe news, it was agreed that the Cllrs should encourage residents to become involved with projects within the village and assist the PC. Clerk suggested the Cllrs all take a month

each and do a write up for the Silsoe news about their personal involvement with the PC.

6. CORONATION:

Signs were agreed for the lampposts within the village, Cllrs will calculate how many are required. Cllrs have agreed to contribute to the Scouting group mugs.

The theme for the bank holiday Monday of the Coronation weakened is volunteering, Clerk suggested an open event, inviting other groups within the village and asking residents to attend to find out about volunteering and hobbies within Silsoe. Refreshments could be offered.

7. BOTTLE BANKS:

CBC confirmed that the bottle banks will be removed on 13th March, taken to the depot to be cleaned and repaired and then moved to the new site. Clerk has contacted Planet aid and they have moved the clothes bank, she has also contacted Socx UK, shoe collection and they will remove their bank.

31/23 Consultations and correspondence:

- Parish briefing-Clophill roundabout. This was attended by Cllrs, no management has been put in place so far, CBC will monitor the situation. A follow up briefing has been arranged for 21st March, 6.30pm via Teams. Silsoe Cllrs are also requesting a Community engagement event within Silsoe. Cllrs will agree a list of issues to discuss with Cllr Degarno. CBC have reduced the scope of the project and anticipate traffic issues to be less and they have decided on narrowing lanes as opposed to road closures, any road closures will take place at night. There will be a no right turn from the A507, but this will not be policed. The PC also suggested there should be an emergency contact number during the project for out of hours emergencies. Cllr Kelly will request information at the end of the project, An audit on how successful the project has been?, Is it safe on completion?, What about the bridge, Cllrs were led to believe it was condemned and this was part of the reason for its removal?
- Community engagement event-Clophill roundabout.
- A6 reduced speed due to subsidence.
- Greensand Country festival.
- Design Guide Topic session offered by CBC 1st March.
- All Age skills strategy engagement event 23rd February.

- Waste Reduction Topic session feedback.
- BATPC Training schedule.

32/23 AOB:

- Election papers completed for those wishing to stand after the elections.
- The May meeting may have to be moved if an election is required.
- Residents have contacted the PC, concerned with some young people playing in the Gault pit, where the water is quite deep. The youths have a bucket of nails and a rake and are building trenches. Clerk has contacted the Community Policing team, submitted a report on 101, and has contacted both the Community safety team and Assets at CBC.
- A case has been launched by CBC Enforcement for the Hayfields development, the planning officer has visited the site toady and will now look at the land ownership and what the Inspector approved the lane to be.
- Clerk has been in contact regarding the Advent windows, unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances and illness they were not judged, Clerk will put a post out on FB to update residents.

33/23 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 12th April 2023

Signed

Date