

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at the Silsoe Village Hall.

### Present:

#### Councillors Kelly in the Chair

Councillors Offer, Councillors, Councillors Mann., Councillors Willard, Councillors Kevan, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham

#### 34/23 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:

Apologies: Councillors Gearey.

#### 35/23 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 36/23 Public participation:

None

#### 37/23 Police representative:

None

#### 38/23 Report by Ward Councillor:

- There is now a retrospective planning application for New Inn Farm, where the enforcement team have been involved.
- National Grid gave a presentation at CBC, they have committed to increase capacity will be sited in Biggleswade, details of this were provided in the Parish pump. National Grid have always provided output energy but now will need to adapt to input for green energy.

#### 39/23 Finances:

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £11,289 (in 2022/23 was £80,765). This does include the latest invoices Clerk has included in the notes. The biggest expenditure £7,901 is for the speed signs (for which a grant was received in March for £5,000) and the rest is mainly Grangers.

We have received the first 50% of this year's precept from CBC for £37,554. We also received at the end of March interest of £1,353 on the Nationwide account.

The bank account balances as of Apr 11th are:

Current a/c	£90,228.89	was £50,786.07.
Deposit a/c	£201,399.42	was £201,399.42.
Nationwide	£83,051.51	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 £362,843.74 (balance in the Mar meeting was £332,025.35).

There are currently reserved balances of:

£15,000	General reserve
£1,234	Allotment deposits
£103,994	Sports Centre
£91,853	Miller Homes Play Areas
£187	Village Hall

The funding available for new projects to end of March 2024 is £58,793 (last month was £41,509). As I forecast last month, the increase is due to the clearing of unspent budgets which did not need to be carried forward.

## **OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR APRIL:**

£3,298.90	David Granger
£162	Website
£27	Village Hall hire
£11.90	Anglian water
£671.00	BATPC
£411.98	Ian expenses (Coronation lamppost signs)
£34.80	payroll
£7,901.40	CBC Travelo speed signs
£57.31	N Power
£2117.40	N Power

Payments agreed, Clerk will arrange bank transfers.

The Scouting group approached the PC for a contribution towards a mug for each young person in celebration of the Coronation, this was discussed and agreed at the last meeting. Councillors agreed to support this by covering the full costs of the mugs.

The Silsoe Village Hall Management Committee had not requested any funding for the previous financial year, including post office rent, Councillor Mann will follow this up.

The PC are currently covering the costs of cutting the football pitches due to insurance difficulties whereby Bloor Homes Ltd. have taken ownership of the Village Park and the Cricket Club are having to re-apply for a lease to use the cricket grounds.

Clerk will now prepare for the internal audit.

## **40/23 Planning:**

The PC considered the following application:

CB/23/01032 Land to the northwest side of New Inn Farm, change of use of the land, associated single storey barn and storage containers for storage, valet, servicing, repair, and sales of Roma caravans (retrospective). Councillors would like to resubmit previous comments.

## **41/23 Projects:**

### **1. BLOOR HOMES:**

Councillors Kelly reported that he was still in talks with Bloor Homes. Nothing to report.

### **2. VEHICLE OPERATED TRAFFIC SIGNS:**

The two (2) SIDs were installed, the funding has now been received as well as the invoice from CBC. The PC need to discuss accessing the data from the SIDS with CBC and the removal of the old units.

The bollard on Barton Rd is still missing by the bus stops.

### **3. MILLER HOMES:**

Residents have received more invoices from First Point Ltd: Councillors Gearey is looking into what the contractors are scheduled to maintain and the fees being charged.

### **4. EMERGENCY PLAN:**

Clerk has emailed the plan to all Councillors in advance of the meeting and the councillors are happy for the plan to be adopted. Councillor Kelly suggested a “dry run” to ensure that all Councillors were comfortable and familiar with the operational issues.

### **5. CLOPHILL ROUNDAOUT UPDATE:**

Councillor Willard has met with the project manager to discuss the concerns the Councillors have with traffic management during the scheduled works. Traffic management lies with Octavius (Project Managers) and Environ (Construction) Only the northern arm has been planned now, the remaining works should be designed and agreed by end of April 2023. The biggest issue will be drainage on the site. The company are of the opinion that they should be completed by December 23/January 24. The company are endeavouring to close the roads as little as possible, each arm for hopefully for only 1-2 weeks and they are trying to avoid closing the entire roundabout at all.

During the reconstruction of the western arm the company will try to schedule the closure during the school holidays. They are currently considering closing the A507 prior to the Silsoe turn so that only access to Beaumont farm will be permitted, this will be physically covered.

Nicola Foster has been appointed to cover PR/Communication and will be running coffee mornings at the Methodist Church Clophill weekly, she will also attend PC meetings, Councillors Willard has arranged for her to attend the Silsoe PC meeting in May 2023.

## **6. ELECTIONS:**

Clerk submitted all the election forms to CBC and has handed each Councillors a copy of the form. CBC confirmed last week that the election is uncontested.

## **7. BOTTLE BANKS:**

CBC have moved the bottle banks to the new site, the Clerk will contact Socx UK, shoe collection again to ask them to relocate.

## **42/23 Consultations and correspondence:**

- Have your say Police survey.
- Elan city traffic signs
- CPRE Magazine

## **43/23 AOB:**

- Stevenage Leisure's contract at the Silsoe Community Sports Centre has approximately 1 year to run , prices have been changed as of 1<sup>st</sup> April.
- Quite a few lights are out on the badminton courts, Councillors Kelly will investigate this.

- Councillors Offer has contacted Tom Woodhouse at Wrest Park for information regarding the ownership of the land by the gate and the triangle to the south. The application for changes to the fascia is not from Homes England, who used to own the land.
- The PC will not be running the Children's Activities this summer.
- There is a gate missing on the Bloor play area, Bloor are looking at a repair.
- The 5-bar gate by the A6 has been removed/stolen.
- Flitwick Leisure Centre has now been taken over by Everyone Active Ltd, reports indicate there have been considerable issues during the handover period.
- Apologies for May and June meeting from Councillor Kevan and apologies for June from Councillors Willard.

**44/23 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023

Signed

Date