

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 11th October 2023 at the Silsoe village hall.

Present:

Cllr Kelly in the Chair

Cllr Offer, Cllr Gearey, Cllr Kevan, Cllr Willard, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Anna French, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Liz Childs.

Cllr Mann via Zoom.

100/23 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:

Apologies: Cllr Willard.

101/23 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 13th September 2023 were agreed.

102/23 Public participation:

A representative from the Allotments committee attended to update. The number of plots vary each year dependant on size, this year there are 87 plots with 85 tenants and currently there are no vacancies and no waiting list. There are discussions taking place regarding gates for the allotments, quotes have been obtained, the committee will need to seek the consensus of members as to whether the gates are an agreeable option. Cllr Offer has sent out invoices today for fees and requested payment within 30 days, Clerk will send through weekly statements so that payments can be ticked off. The new tenancy agreement will be provided to new tenants.

103/23 Police representative:

Police representatives will be able to attend the December meeting, there has been an increase in motor car theft, Cllr Gearey has contacted the Police regarding this.

104/23 Report by Ward Councillors:

- CBC have issued notification of their intention to put TPOs on the trees behind The Beeches. Order 07/2023.
- The S38 agreements have been obtained and passed to Cllrs.
- Cllr French is now on the Drainage board.
- There will be a meeting between the Ward Cllrs and Highways in November to review issues within the Ward.

- Cllr Childs has emailed Simon Ford regarding the SID data; she will chase him up. Ward Cllrs will set up a meeting with Simon Ford.
- Cllr Childs will contact CBC regarding glass collection, Barton has weekly collections as part of the Ward, could Silsoe have the same?
- A resident has contacted Clerk regarding some anti-social behaviour and neighbourly disputes, the PC are unable to be involved in neighbourly disputes, but Clerk has asked the Ward Cllrs for assistance.
- Clerk requested a photograph of Cllr French for the website.

105/23 Finances:

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £71,100 (Sept meeting this was £59,534), this does include the latest invoices. The biggest expenditures in the last month were Grangers £3,499.42 (grass cutting plus some hedge cutting), Gallagher £5,833.02 (insurance), and Road Data Services £1,140 (traffic survey).

No income has been received in the last month.

The bank account balances as of Oct 9th are:

Current a/c	£72,842.22	was £80,076.56
Deposit a/c	£202,360.08	was £202,360.08
Nationwide	£83,051.51	was £83,051.51

Adjusting for the value of unapproved invoices included and expected to be paid, this leaves a total current PC cash balance of £340,305.34 (balance last month was £352,728.29). Apart from the payments proposed in this meeting, the speed signs payment for £7,901.40 which was received back in April has still not cleared, Cllr Kelly is waiting until we have an update regarding access to the data.

There are currently reserved balances of:

£15,000	General reserve	was £15,000
£1,234	Allotment deposits	was £1,234
£85,279	Sports Centre	was £85,279
£90,553	Miller Homes Play Areas	was £90,695
£187	Village Hall	was £187

The funding available for new projects to end of March 2024 is £59,254 (last month was £59,254). There is only £321 remaining in the budget for the Millennium Green grass cutting which is only sufficient for one more cut between now and the end of March 2024, Cllrs approved £1000 be transferred in the budget to cover this, proposed by Cllr Offer, seconded by Cllr Offer.

Payments for October 2023:

Website: £162
D Granger £3,499.42
Zephyr Flagpole inspection £35.94 & £354.00
BATPC Course fees
£17
N Power £59.29

A Muskett £113.40
Insurance Gallagher £5,883.02
Village hall hire £27.00.
Silsoe News donation £250
PD & Co payroll: £32.40
Cllr Kelly expenses £111.72

Payments proposed by Cllr Offer, seconded by Cllr Gearey.

Training was discussed, there is £250 in the budget to cover any training Cllrs or Clerk feel would be beneficial.

A budget meeting will be arranged for the end of November 2023 via Zoom to discuss the budget for the next financial year, this will be presented at the full Council meeting in December 2023.

106/23 Planning:

The PC considered the following applications:

CB/23/02832/FULL 11 West End Rd, single storey side and rear extension. No objections.

CB/23/03139/FULL 8 Bedford Ave, New flat roof to extension with roof light, part conversion of garage, alterations to doors and windows. No objections, its tucked away.

Notice of the TPOs to be applied to the trees behind The Beeches has been received.

Some land near to New Inn Farm is up for auction.

Cllr Offer will visit The Cage and if necessary, contact the architects, the mortar is cracking after only one year.

107/23 Projects:

1. ENGLISH HERITAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

English Heritage are planning a Christmas illuminations event at wrest park, which will run from 1st December through to 1st January. Connie Main has passed concerns to the company organising the event. The PC have expressed concerns that if visitors are asked to pay for parking they will park in the village and walk up, EH have confirmed that charges for parking will only be for non-members and the demographic is normally that 75% of visitors are members.

2. LITTER PICKING:

The school have contacted the PC, the children are going to carry out some litter picking in the village and asked for advice from the PC as to where would be best to focus. The Cllrs suggested the area by the sports centre, Plantation play area and woodland area, Clerk will pass this information on.

3. DOG FOULING AND DOGS IN PLAY AREAS:

Clerk has received several complaints regarding dog fouling and dogs in play areas within the village. A request has been posted on FB and the website asking residents to be considerate and pick up after their dogs and to not allow them access to play areas. Clerk will contact the dog warden. A resident has asked for more dog bins in the village, particularly near to West End Rd, Cllrs agreed that an additional bin in West End Lane where it crosses with Mander Farm Rd or where West End Rd meets west End Lane may be useful? Clerk will contact CBC.

4. ZOOM/TEAMS:

There have been some issues regarding Zoom access, this was deferred to the next meeting.

5. MILLER HOMES/FIRST POINT:

Cllr Gearey will attend a meeting on 31st October with Rebecca and the Regional manager to discuss maintenance that has been missed and trees that required surveying.

The roundabout near the Co-op is still full of debris, the PC have had confirmation that it is the responsibility of CBC, Cllr Gearey has chased them again, Cllr French will also follow this up.

The residents of The Conifers have not been provided with the combination for the locked storage and therefore it has been left open and has attracted fly tipping again. Cllr Gerey has spoken to Sheila Day, the manager to resolve this.

Mander Farm parking is still an issue, Cllr French is looking into this.

A resident contacted Clerk before the last meeting regarding the hedges along Mander Farm Rd and Holly walk, the PC will establish who is responsible for this.

6. CLOPHILL ROUNDABOUT UPDATE:

The next CBC update via Teams is 12TH October 6-7pm.

CBC are proposing using Newbury Lane and Ampthill Rd as a diversion.

A few residents are concerned that the pedestrian crossing will cause congestion, the PC are of the view that safety is paramount, and the crossing is required.

The PC will continue to update residents via FB and the website.

7. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:

The road closure is in place, the Lord Lieutenant's deputy will attend, Cllr Kelly will provide a reading. The wreath has been ordered and the Scouting groups will parade. The Rotary club will control the traffic and will also lay a wreath.

8. COMMUNITY SPIRIT:

Deferred until the next meeting.

9. CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS/LIGHTS:

Cllr Gearey is looking at the roundabout as an option.

10. BUS SHELTERS- ROOF AND GLASS REPAIR:

Cllr Kelly has placed an order for the repair of the bus shelter at a cost of £1,950.00.

11. ROSPA PLAY AREAS- REPAIRS:

CPM have been instructed to carry out the repairs identified in the ROSPA reports.

12. HIGH STREET NORTH PLAY AREA:

Cllr Kelly is seeking quotes from contractors for repair and replacement of equipment.

108/23 Consultations and correspondence:

- CBC Clophill meeting 11th October 6-7pm via Teams
- Sustainability information
- Sustainability topic session November 2023
- Topic session follow up- outdoor spaces and community facilities.
- Clerk has been contacted by the Community safety Team regarding events they are planning next year, the PC agreed they would like an event in the village.
- CPRE magazine.
- Details have now been received from the Land Registry.

109/23 AOB:

1. An event was arranged recently for the Beavers to work towards their international badge, it was a complete success with residents attending to talk to the children about their different cultures. Two residents have offered to come back and do more work

with the Beavers. They also recently held a campfire evening, and a parent has expressed an interest in becoming an assistant leader for the Cubs. There is still a waiting list for the scouting groups.

2. David Appleby has been attending PC meetings and has expressed an interest in joining as a Cllr, he will be Co-opted at the next meeting.

110/23 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th November 2023

Signed

Date