

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at the Silsoe village hall.

### Present:

#### Cllr Kelly in the Chair

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

### 89/23 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:

Apologies: Cllr Willard.

### 90/23 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> July and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were agreed.

### 91/23 Public participation:

A representative from the allotment club attended to discuss the proposed new tenancy agreement. In 2001 the average age of an allotment holder was 69yrs, in 2022 it is 44yrs. Lots of allotments are now being taken by families, the new tenancy agreement incorporates clauses regarding children on the allotment for the safety of all tenants.

There was an incident at the allotments in February 2023, whereby a young mum with two small children was verbally abused by young people who gained access to the allotments, the Police treated it seriously and a culprit was arrested, although the club are not aware of the outcome. The club would like to see locked gates on the entrance to the allotment with an access code to prevent people just entering the site. Cllr Kelly asked the representative to come back to the council with an idea of what gates and costings.

There is a current trend for upcycling, usually baths and sinks as planters etc, the allotment will not allow this.

The PC has the ability to terminate any tenancy, after giving warnings, the club would also like this ability, they will inform the PC of any circumstances that arise.

Clerk confirmed all residents are insured under public liability irrespective of age.

The new tenancy agreement was proposed by Cllr Offer, seconded by Cllr Gearey, all agreed.

A resident attended to see if there was any update regarding Bloor. The PC have outlined what they would like and are awaiting a further response from Bloor. The resident is questioning the works of the maintenance company and the fees charged to residents, the PC are not directly involved but suggested the resident contact the Residents group. The Ward Cllr will speak to planning to see if she can obtain the S38 drawings.

## **92/23 Police representative:**

None

## **93/23 Report by Ward Councillors:**

- The Greenwood developer has requested the application is not decided before the end of the year, CBC are working alongside the developer. The planning officer denied that the Clophill roundabout works is connected in anyway.
- A new Local plan is being worked on and will incorporate new policies.
- Cllr Childs has been in contact with CBC regarding the concerns of residents, CBC have looked at Vicarage Rd and are hesitant to take any action, it has been noted that speed is probably worse due to the Clophill works. With limited budgets CBC have to prioritise schemes that will have maximum impact. In respect of pedestrian safety, CBC use personal injury data to predict locations where there are likely to be more future accidents, whilst an accident would be unfortunate in Vicarage Rd, it would not be considered a higher priority than those areas where accidents happen on a regular basis. CBC will continue to review this area to see if a speed count would be appropriate.
- A resident has requested more streetlights on Ampthill Rd.
- Nettles on The Rowans have been strimmed.
- Highways have agreed to a Christmas tree being on the roundabout by the Co-op, planning permission is not required.
- CBC will be attending to clear the roundabout by the Co-op.
- A resident querying ownership of land adjacent to 34 Mander farm Rd has had it confirmed that miller are the owners, and they will cut it back.

## **94/23 Finances:**

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £59,534 (July meeting this was £50,579). This does include the latest invoices. The biggest expenditures in the last 2 months was £5,971 for Grangers (excluding the VAT that we can reclaim).

We have received this week the second and final precept payment from CBC for £37,554. We have also received in September £540.76 of interest on the Barclays deposit account.

The bank account balances as of Sep 12th are:

Current a/c      £80,076.56      was £51,546.68

# SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Deposit a/c      £202,360.08      was £201,819.32  
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 £352,728.29 (balance last month was £324,935.96). 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.

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
£90,695	Miller Homes Play Areas	was £91,168
£187	Village Hall	was £187

The funding available for new projects to end of March 2024 is £59,254 (last month was £58,793). This has increased slightly due to the interest received which now takes us over the amount we budgeted for.

## **OUT GOING PAYMENTS FOR AUGUST:**

- £3,101.66 David Granger
- £162 Website
- £9.00 Village Hall hire
- £49.95 N Power
- £312.00 ROSPA
- £107.93 CBC Election fees

## **OUT GOING PAYMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER:**

- £162 Website
- £4,124.82 David Granger
- £504.00 Mazars, External audit
- £17.51 Anglian water
- £50.13 N Power
- £1,140 Traffic survey

Payments agreed, Clerk will arrange bank transfers.

The audit is now complete, advisory comments were to put a zero in box 11a rather than leave blank and the Council should use the PC formal email if possible.

David Granger quoted for the hedges to be cut back at the Millenium green at a cost of £4,449.60, proposed by Cllr Kelly, seconded by Cllr Kevan, all agreed.

David Granger has also quoted for works to the trees at the West End rd. play area, at a cost of £708, proposed by Cllr Kelly, seconded by Cllr Kevan, all agreed. Cllr Kelly will discuss the shape with David.

A tree was blown over in high winds and has damaged the streetlight in Newbury close, it is a PC light, A Muskett has quoted £1,485.00 for repair, proposed by Cllr Kelly, seconded by Cllr Gearey, all agreed.

## **95/23 Planning:**

The PC considered the following applications:

CB/23/02577/FULL 12 The Oaks, Silsoe, single storey side and rear extension. No objections.

CB/23/01006/FULL 7 New Inn Farm, change of use from class B2 showroom to class E(d) indoor gym. Cllrs will agree via email.

CB/23/02832/FULL 11 West End Rd, single storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing garage. Cllrs will agree via email.

## **96/23 Projects:**

### **1. ENGLISH HERITAGE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:**

English Heritage are planning a Christmas illuminations event at wrest park, which will run from 1<sup>st</sup> December through to 1<sup>st</sup> January, the event will run from 4pm. English heritage have asked the PC for advice on where to place cones to try and prevent parking in Park Avenue? 4,000 additional visitors are expected, Cllrs will propose that EH look at an alternative entrance/exit, directly off the roundabout using the track. Cllr Kelly will contact EH with the Cllrs concerns.

### **2. WILDFLOWERS:**

An area has been agreed by the Millenium for the planting of wildflowers.

### **3. TRAFFIC SURVEY/VICARAGE ROAD:**

Cllr Kelly has now received the recent data from the traffic survey. It was proposed by Cllr Kelly that there should be another survey, during the closure between 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023, preferably to include some term time, seconded by Cllr Gearey, all agreed. Cllr Gearey will discuss positioning with Cllr Willard.

### **4. MILLER HOMES/FIRST POINT:**

A budget has been agreed for tree works over the next five years. Cllr French will contact the Community safety team regarding the parking in Mander Farm Rd, it has deteriorated, and people are parking on the bends, blocking visibility. Cllr French will also speak to highways regarding a crossing.

## **5. CLOPHILL ROUNDABOUT UPDATE:**

The next CBC update via Teams is 21<sup>st</sup> September 6-7pm.

CBC are proposing using Newbury Lane and Ampthill Rd as a diversion, although they did insist diversions had to be on comparable roads. Cllr Willard has submitted the views of Cllrs to Highways and suggested a 5-way traffic lights to control traffic, he is awaiting a response or follow up meeting.

Cllr Childs will set up a meeting with Assistant Director Gary Powell to discuss the concerns of the PC.

The PC will update residents via the Silsoe News, website and FB, first update later this week.

## **6. REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY:**

Clerk has requested a road closure for the parade and has arranged for the Lord Lieutenant's deputy to attend, the bugle player is unavailable.

## **7. D Day 80/BEACON:**

Deferred to next meeting.

## **8. COMMUNITY SPIRIT:**

Cllrs met to discuss Community spirit, it was agreed that there were two prongs to focus on, firstly how to get volunteers involved in arranging events, secondly how to join the residents together with events. It was agreed to hold a 'freshers' type fayre, where residents could find out what opportunities and groups were available in the village. The advent windows will be run this year and it was agreed that an event would be organised for announcing the winners and presenting the prizes. A sporting event, perhaps 5 aside tournament was discussed, as was a summer event.

## **9. CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS/LIGHTS:**

Clerk contacted the Community group and ask if they would consider extending the Christmas lights further to the south of the village? They had a meeting in July and have decided to extend the lights north down the high St to include the house next to The George flats and upgrade the lights at the village hall.

## **10. EMERGENCY PLAN:**

A meeting took place on 17<sup>th</sup> July to discuss the Emergency plan and actions that should be taken. Clerk has shared an emergency cascade for contacting one another in the event of an emergency in the village.

## **11. NEWBURY LANE LAMP REPAIR:**

A streetlight was damaged in recent winds, a tree blew over, knocking the light over. CBC made the light safe, but it is one owned by the PC, Clerk has received a quote for £1,485.00 + vat for supply and installation of a new column and lamp.

## **12. BUS SHELTERS ROOF AND GLASS REPAIR:**

Cllr Kelly presented two quotes for works to the bus shelter and proposed the works in the quote for £1950.00, seconded by Cllr Kevan, all agreed.

## **13. ROSPA REPORTS FOR PLAY AREAS:**

ROSPA carried out inspections of all play areas and have highlighted a number of issues. Quotes have been obtained for repairs:

£275 West End play area

£3,115 High St North

£230 Forest path

Cllr Kelly proposed instructing CPM to carry out works, seconded by Cllr Mann, all agreed. Cllr Kelly will instruct CPM.

## **14. WAR MEMORIAL REVIEW:**

A survey of the war memorial has recently been carried out to ensure it is safe.

## **15. ALLOTMENT REVIEW AND AGREEMENT:**

Discussed under Public participation.

## **97/23 Consultations and correspondence:**

- CBC Topic session 7<sup>th</sup> September, notes to follow.
- Times Radio interview request, this was regarding Nadine Dorries that has now resigned.

- Festiva for older people 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023
- Parking standards for New Developments supplementary planning document
- PCC Annual Parish meeting 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023, Forest centre, Marston Mortaine
- Public spaces protection order consultation
- Clophill roundabout meeting scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> September 6-7pm via Teams
- Invitation from English heritage for Cllrs to attend a theatre event on 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> September 2023.

## **98/23 AOB:**

1. The Shoe collection bin will be removed by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September, Clerk has told the company if it is not removed by the end of September then the PC will make arrangements for it to be removed.
2. Hedges at the end of Holly walk have been maintained by a resident who is no longer able to do the works, Cllr Gearey will discuss the area with the resident.
3. Cllr Kevan has applied for online access to the Land Registry.
4. Cllr Kelly has been looking at the S106 money available:  
£82,097.53 for play equipment at the High St North paly area.  
£13,633.54 for recreational space, outdoor sport and informal open space.  
Cllrs will investigate what is available and discuss options.

## **99/23 Date of next meeting:**

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

Signed

Date