

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 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.

#### 122/23 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation

Cllr Willard, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Liz Childs.

#### 123/23 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023 were agreed.

#### 124/23 Public participation:

None

#### 125/23 Police representative:

Sarah and Sam were unable to attend the revised meeting date of 6th Dec. They are both attending the anti-social behaviour meeting on the 14th Dec, along with, Cllr Gearey, Clerk Sarah Carne, Sam Hewson, Gary Nesbit CBC, possibly Ward Cllr Childs to discuss Anti-Social Behaviour. Andrew G is attending the Rural Crime Event on the 14th Dec.

#### 126/23 Report by Ward Councillors:

- Ward Cllrs have been looking into the Wrest Park Christmas event, particularly parking and vehicles arriving/departing from the event. Cllrs reported that the lighting in the parking area should be improved, and they have requested that the marshals attend until 10pm, the end of the event each evening rather than 9pm.
- Ward Cllrs have attended a meeting with Highways to discuss traffic in the village, Cllr French suggested bringing a large plan of the village to a meeting so Cllrs could look at the village as a whole and then perhaps a follow up meeting with highways to discuss the plan.
- Cllr French would like to know the priorities for Silsoe in terms of highways.
- The new lamp columns for Ampthill Rd have been added to the 2024/25 annual plan, designs and locations will be looked at.
- Cllr Childs has been looking at the positioning of a fence in Newbury Lane.
- Clerk has reported the mobile chip van to the licensing department but has received no response, Cllr French will follow this up.

- Cllr French has had a response to the request for glass collection which she will share with Cllrs.

## 127/23 Finances:

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £84,215 (Nov meeting this was £82,238). This does include the latest invoices. The small increase is due to much lower costs over the last month, reflecting that the grass growing season has finally finished for 2023.

Since the last meeting a further £197.00 has been received for allotment rents, making the total so far £1,432.80. We do need confirmation of how much of this relates to club membership fees which needs to be paid on to the allotment club.

The VAT refund of £7,439.13 was received on Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

We also received £704.66 interest on the Barclays Deposit account covering the last 3 months.

The bank account balances as of Dec 4th are:

Current a/c	£56,866.70	was £61,087.35
Deposit a/c	£203,064.74	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 £334,400.15 (balance last month was £328,086.63). 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 been resolved.

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
£89,821	Miller Homes Play Areas	was £89,821
£187	Village Hall	was £187

Payments for December 2023:

Website: £162

D Granger £

N Power £63.06

I Kelly expenses, wreath and hymn download £70

Village Hall hire £27.00.

Payments proposed by Cllr Kevan, seconded by Cllr Kelly, all agreed, Clerk will set up payments.

Costs side of the budget for the next financial year was discussed and agreed, including £2,500 to be included for the D Day events. Proposed by Cllr Kevan, seconded by Cllr Mann, all agreed.

The Precept for the financial year 2024/25 was discussed and a 3% increase was proposed by Cllr Mann, seconded by Cllr Kevan. There will be a slight increase due to the change of base rate as a result of new developments.

Barclays have asked the PC to confirm mandate details again, Clerk will complete and submit it.

## **128/23 Planning:**

The PC considered the following applications:

CB/23/03650/FULL The Mansion House, wrest Park. Installation of 3 electric vehicle stations. No objections.

CB/23/03771/FULL 22 High St, creation of new front entrance and door. No objection but concerns for parking for clients.

CB/23/03704/FULL 11 west End Rd. Garage conversion including new roof. No objections.

CB/23/03298/FULL 24 High St. Conversion of retail unit to one ground floor dwelling. No objections but concerns for parking.

Consultation for Mander Farm Rd parking restrictions. Cllrs feel that the yellow lines do not go far enough and doesn't take into account the consequences, it could build upon rather than alleviate the issues.

Planning obligations consultation deadline is 11/12/23. Cllr Offer will email clerk with comments.

## **129/23 Projects:**

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

The grit bins have also been replenished. The Conifers needs a few more bags of grit. Niki from Octavia has asked for the dimensions for the pipe to secure the Christmas Tree, Ian has kindly sent a drawing with dimensions, I will forward on (Phillip Hammond mentioned the above as a great idea)

### **2. GRASS TENDER:**

Clerk has gone out to tender to six companies for the ground's maintenance contract for the village. The closing date for tenders to be submitted is 29<sup>th</sup> December too enable the PC to discuss quotes received at the January meeting and appoint a contractor.

### **3. ANNUAL MEETING:**

Pre-covid Clerk discussed the Annual meeting and whether the PC should make it more of a community event? Clerk suggested that the PC invite other groups to the meeting and provide them with an opportunity to provide a 5-minute update on what they have been doing over the last year, followed by refreshments? All Cllrs agreed, the meeting will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the Community sports centre.

#### **4. ADVENT WINDOWS/JUDGING:**

Judging will take place between Christmas and New year and the winners will be notified. The judges will ask the families for a photo beside their window to be posted on FB and the website. The judges will evidence their marking to ensure it's a fair decision.

#### **5. DEFIBRILLATOR:**

The defibrillator at the Star and Garter is faulty, Cllr Offer has discussed a repair with the maintenance company, and it is irreparable. Cllr Offer propose that the PC purchase a new one at a cost of £1,296.00, seconded by Cllr Kelly. Clerk has spoken with the Ward Cllrs and submitted a Ward Cllr funding application for £550 towards the cost. Cllr Offer will look at whether any free defibrillators are available.

#### **6. WARM SPACES:**

The PC are offering the Café at the sports centre as a warm space to residents this winter, residents are not obliged to purchase food or drink whilst there. CBC are also offering warm spaces in their libraries and leisure centres.

The Warm Welcome Network offer support along with 50 Charities and also help with isolation over the winter months.

#### **7. HEDGES:**

An expression of interest for hedges along the A6 has been made to CPRE.

#### **8. COMMUNITY SPIRIT:** Deferred until next meeting.

#### **130/23 Consultations and correspondence:**

The following correspondence was received:

- Christmas waste and recycling update.
- New Cllr training is available through BATPC on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Adult social care strategy and survey.
- National tree week, CBC planting grant scheme, deadline 31/01/24

- ID is now required at the tidy tips, Marston Moretyne PC are appealing against it and have asked for support from other PCs and Ward Cllrs. Cllrs agreed they are happy with the new requirements.
- Man Shed: The UK Men's sheds association are encouraging local communities to come together to build friendships, address loneliness and value experience and skills. If the PC are interested in pursuing this further Cllr Ian Titman is the lead. Cllr Kelly will pass the information onto a group who meet at the Community sports centre.
- Planning obligations consultation deadline is 11/12/23.
- Clerk has recently attended the Police priorities setting meeting, lots of villages across Bedfordshire are experiencing issues with anti-social behaviour and drugs along with speeding.
- Cllr Gearey will be attending the OPCC Rural crime event on 14<sup>th</sup> December 23.
- CPRE have sent through the annual membership renewal at a minimum cost of £36.

## **131/23 AOB:**

1. Cllr Gearey has reported the Potholes on Ampthill Road on the junction with Fir Tree and Vicarage Road and Barton Road, A6 Roundabout
2. The TPO labels for the 33 trees at the Beeches have been ordered.
3. No update on old SID removal and data.
4. Mobile Fish and Chip van sited on Mander Farm Road (Youngs now offering a delivery service Fri to Sun) ward Cllrs will look into this.
5. The Busy tots have asked the PC to advertise their party and are looking for raffle prizes, Cllr agreed to advertise but didn't think it appropriate to donate prizes.
6. Cllr Kelly gave an update on his chairman training.
7. The crown of the Oak tree on West End play area needs lifting, Cllr Kelly will look at it.
8. Works have started on the norther play area.
9. The lawnmower requires a service, Cllr Kelly will contact the company.

## **132/23 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Signed

Date