

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Wednesday 12th June 2024 at the Silsoe village hall.

Present:

Cllr Offer in the Chair

Cllr Kelly, Cllr Mann, Cllr Appleman, Cllr Royer, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Anna French and Central Bedfordshire Councillor Liz Childs

179/24 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation

Cllr Willard, Cllr Kevan, Cllr Gearey.

Declaration of interest: None

180/24 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 8th May 2024 were agreed.

181/24 Public participation:

A resident attending to express an interest in becoming involved in The Orchard when the land is taken on by the PC. Cllrs explained the process and hoped that the agreement would be signed in the near future. Cllrs have met with representatives from two Orchard groups, who will offer advice and assistance with The Orchard, they will be in contact with the resident. There are 25 trees that all have TPOs.

182/24 Report by Ward Councillors:

- Both Ward Cllrs are to meet with Mr Kelly, CEO to The Pyramid Trust to discuss School transport. The results of the Consultation are yet to be published but will be heard by the Scrutiny Committee on 10th July 2024, Mr Kelly and the Ward Cllrs will be present.
- Ward Cllr Surgery is 9-10am 20th June 2024 at The Avenue Café, Wrest Park.
- The Consultation on the Transport Plan is open until 30th June 2024.
- Ward Cllrs have raised concerns over the Clophill roundabout markings, CBC are waiting for the official review before they look into this any further.
- Cllr Childs will follow up on the ASB meeting.

183/24 Finances:

June Payments:

Website £162
 D Granger £6,718.80
 Village hall fees £20 & £30
 N Power £119.64
 BATPC £700.00
 Projects in The Wood (Beacon) £2,120.00
 CPM (play area repair) £216.00
 ICO £40
 Cllr expenses (beacon) £255.21
 Anglian water £70.60 & £18.21
 L Bains (Internal audit) £275.00

Payments proposed by Cllr Offer, seconded by Cllr Mann, all agreed.

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £20,688 (May meeting this was £11,062). This does include the cost of the repairs to the beacon (£2,176 excluding VAT) and grass cutting costs (£5,299 excluding VAT).

Over the last month we have received £762.25 of interest on the Barclays deposit account (this is paid quarterly).

The bank account balances as of Jun 6th are:

Current a/c	£53,165.65	was £62,699.60
Deposit a/c	£204,586.40	was £203,824.15
Nationwide	£85,965.94	was £85,965.94

Adjusting for the value of unapproved invoices included and expected to be paid, this leaves a total current PC cash balance of £334,681.19 (balance last month was £344,652.45). There are no old un-cleared payments.

There are currently reserved balances of:

£25,000	General reserve	was £25,000
£1,772	Allotment deposits	was £1,772
£85,279	Sports Centre	was £85,279
£87,648	Miller Homes Play Areas	was £88,303
£187	Village Hall	was £187

Taking into account the adjusted Beacon budget, this means there is £53,524 (balance last month was £53,960) currently available for new projects between now and March 2025.

The Internal audit is now complete, and the report has been received. She has no issues with the accounts or record keeping. Cllr Offer thanked Clerk and Cllr Kevan for their work on this.

Chairman and Clerk signed a copy of the AGAR to be sent to the External auditor with all of the supporting documents.

The Exercise of Public Rights dates were agreed as 17th June- 26th July 2024, Clerk will advertise these.

The Internal auditor has had a 3-year fixed contract with the PC, she has sent through a quote for the next 3 years, it's at a fixed annual cost of £275, which is the same cost as this year. Proposed by Cllr Offer, seconded by Cllr Kelly, all agreed.

Clerk has contacted Barlcyas to have Cllr Offer added to the Mandate, he now needs to contact them for proof of identity.

The N Power invoice has increased significantly over the last two months, Cllr Offer and Clerk have followed this up with N Power and appears the usage has increased, the allotment group used heaters to keep the potato seedlings warm over the winter. Cllr Offer proposed that the PC clear the increased usage in one payment and revert back to the original monthly payments and that the PC should in this instance cover the cost, seconded by Cllr Kelly, all agreed. Clerk will make the arrangements.

184/24 Planning:

CB/24/01298/VOC NorthEnd, High St, Silsoe. Variation of condition. No objection.

CB/24/01404/FULL 9 High St, Silsoe. Replacement of rear conservatory with single storey rear extension. No Objection.

CB/24/01499/FULL 83 Newbury Lane. Single storey side extension to provide garage, pitched roof space. Conversion of existing garage to habitable space. Cllrs felt this was quite a large extension, no immediate objections but the application has only just been sent through, so they have not had chance to look at the actual property. Clerk will delay responding for a week to allow Cllrs the chance to view the property.

Cllr Offer has been looking at who took ownership of the land between the Barton Rd and the A6 Bypass, it has been confirmed it is Lagan Homes.

The conditions surrounding the Taymer development have been partially discharged, the 40mph zone will be extended and the crossing will be moved further down Barton Rd to the site of the existing Bus stop, the Bus stop will be relocated to opposite the other bus stop, CBC felt this wouldn't be an issue.

185/24 Projects:

1. Miller Homes:

Deferred until next meeting.

2. The Orchard:

Cllr Gearey and Cllr Appleman are in contact with the local Orchard groups and are putting a plan together to present to Council, once the land is transferred.

3. ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR:

A follow up meeting is being arranged, involving the PCSOs, CBC, Ward Cllrs, Cllr Gearey and Clerk.

4. D Day:

It was agreed that the evening was a fabulous success. Cllr Offer thanked Cllr Kelly for making all of the arrangements, thanked Cllr Mann in his role of Town Cryer and Cllr Appleman for lighting the beacon.

The flag flying for the Scouts groups was also a success and included investment of new children and two new leaders. The PC thanked the organisers for making the arrangements for this.

Cllr Kelly has requested a quote for a grill to cover the beacon and for the burner assembly to be removed.

186/24 Consultations and correspondence:

The following correspondence was received:

- CBC Police and Crime Advisory Panel survey
- Rural services network group.
- Topic session, trees follow up.
- UKSPF/REPF Community Grant fund and Neighbourhood Plan.
- Topic session follow up Library services Strategy and Arts Culture Strategy.
- Local Transport Plan Consultation.

187/24 AOB:

- Cllr Offer has spoken to the Architect involved in the refurbishment of The Cage; it appears that the mortar did not have sufficient time to dry prior to rainfall. All of the mortar will be removed this month and replaced with a more suitable mortar.
- The PC have seen that CBC are proposing to put additional streetlights on Ampthill Rd, Cllr asked the Ward Cllrs who made the decision, when and what was the reasoning?

The Pc have not been consulted and the existing lights are owned by the PC. Ward Cllrs will look into this.

- A complaint has come in from a resident concerning the increased litter near the chip shop and Co-op. Cllr Appleman used to clear the rubbish every morning and has stopped as residents were complaining about him litter picking. Cllr Appleman will speak to the chip shop and Co-op on behalf of the PC and Clerk will write to them both.
- There is graffiti on the British gas building, Clerk will report.
- Clerk will update the contacts list.
- Cllr Royer has spoken with a resident concerned over parking on both sides of the road in Church rd. and the lack of pathway.
- Cllrs asked for an update on the Wildflowers by the allotment, so far there are only dandelions, seeded pads were laid, the group will see what happens by the end of the season.
- Cllrs commented on overgrown hedges and grass obstructing the vision for drivers. If this is outside the 30mph zone it needs to be reported on Fix my street for CBC to cut back.
- Cllr Appleman will take over the inspections of Plantation View play area once it has been handed over. Cllr Kelly will go through the inspection process with him and the requirements. Clerk reiterated that a full inspection needs to be carried out prior to handover to ensure the play area is safe following a serious accident in there.
- Cllr Mann asked if ROSPA had inspected the play areas yet? Clerk arranged for them to be inspected in May 2024 but hasn't received the reports yet, she will chase them.
- Cllr Royer will take over the role of inspecting the trees in the village, Cllr Kelly will go through the THREATS report with him.

188/24 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday 1st July 2024

Signed

Date