

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 at the Silsoe village hall.

### Present:

#### CLlr Offer in the Chair

CLlr Kelly, CLlr Mann, CLlr Appleman, CLlr Willard, CLlr Kevan, CLlr Gearey.

Central Bedfordshire Councillor Anna French

#### 189/24 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation

CLlr Royer, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Liz Childs

Declaration of interest: CLlr Kevan declared his daughter is buying a property in the village.

#### 190/24 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024 were agreed.

#### 191/24 Public participation:

None

#### 192/24 Report by Ward Councillors:

- Ward CLlrs held their surgery recently in Wrest Park
- The Fire service is providing feedback on the A6 danger areas.
- The review of Clophill roundabout will take place in September 2024.
- CLlr Childs is looking into the planned streetlights for Ampthill Rd.
- CBC are now reviewing the Consultation on Mander Farm Rd for proposed parking restrictions; Clerk has requested a meeting between CLlrs and CBC to discuss this further.

#### 193/24 Finances:

July Payments:

Website £162

D Granger £3,645.60

Village hall fees £30

N Power £

Ian expenses for the beacon £161.99 & £34.80

PD & Co £33.60

# SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

A Muskett £113.40

Payments proposed by Cllr Kevan, seconded by Cllr Willard, all agreed.

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £26,663 (June meeting this was £20,688). This main cost over the last month has been grass cutting (£3,753 excluding VAT).

There has been no income over the last month.

The bank account balances as of Jun 28th are:

Current a/c	£41,548.23	was £53,165.65
Deposit a/c	£204,586.40	was £204,586.40
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 £327,919.18 (balance last month was £334,681.19). 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
£87,255	Miller Homes Play Areas	was £87,648
£187	Village Hall	was £187

The total cost of £2,593 for the beacon repair has exceeded the amount officially budgeted for by £853, Cllr Offer proposed increasing the budget by £853 to cover these costs, seconded by Cllr Appleman, all agreed.

The N Power invoice has increased significantly over the last two months, it was proposed at the last meeting that the PC clear the increased usage in one payment and revert back to the original monthly payments. Clerk has submitted the meter reading and will do for July and August to ensure the payments are correct.

The Parish Council will not meet until September, clerk will make payments to David Granger and N Power in August and include them with the September payments, these are pre-agreed services. Proposed by Cllr Offer, seconded by Cllr Kelly, all agreed.

Clerk will prepare and submit a VAT return.

## **194/24 Planning:**

CB/TCA/24/00270 9 Holly Walk, Silsoe. The trees are in a conservation area, Cllrs happy for the Conservation and Tree officer to review the planned works.

## 195/24 Projects:

### 1. FUN DAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024:

Cllr Willard available to set up.

Cllr Offer will attend and run the stall.

Cllr Mann will attend and run the stall.

Cllr French will attend.

Cllr Kelly will attend.

Two areas to discuss with residents are Community Spirit and Traffic, are residents happy for the PC to prioritise the traffic initiative and incur the associated costs. It was agreed that handing out flyers would be beneficial, Cllr Kelly will look to organise some.

### 2. BLOOR:

Currently the handover has been delayed whilst updated plans are received, there is an area of land south of the Cricket pitch which is not included on Land Registry.

### 3. COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE:

The Sports Centre is now under new Management, Inspire have take over the contract from Stevenage Leisure, staff have remained, a TUPE agreement was reached. The new company is addressing staffing, cleanliness and class timings. Cllr Kelly is looking at works for improving the MUGA, S106 money is available to support the project, the money was originally assigned to the High St North area. ROSPA have emailed Clerk with 3 High risk areas on the North play area, Clerk will contact CPM for advice and repairs.

### 4. HOLLY WALK HEDGES:

David Swain is looking at ownership, he will put a report together. It appears that the area may be owned by a company that no longer exist.

The Pathway by The Grove is once again overgrown, Clerk will contact the maintenance company.

Several residents have allowed their hedges and foliage to overgrow, and it is restricting pathways, Cllrs will forward individual house details and Clerk will write to the residents in the first instance and follow up with CBC if it becomes necessary.

### 5. TRAFFIC:

A resident has recently carried out a traffic survey and published it on Facebook.

Cllr Willard proposed writing an article requesting that residents are respectful when parking in the village, there are a number of areas which are an issue:

Bedford Ave, parking within 10m of the junction.

Church Rd, parking on parking restrictions.

Parking opposite The Star and Garter.

Newbury Lane, parking across the junction.

## **6. CRICKET CLUB:**

Cllr Gearey has met with members of the Cricket club and David Granger via Zoom to discuss the grass cutting. A WhatsApp group has been set up to improve communication. The Cricket club will be cutting the grass on either a Tuesday or Wednesday and David Granger will white line either Thursday or Friday.

## **7. DATE AND TIME OF MEETINGS:**

The PC have met on the second Wednesday of the month for a number of years, Clerk is aware that this may not be the most suitable time, all Cllrs agreed to try an alternative time for meetings. From September the PC will meet on the first Monday of the month at 7pm, this will be trialled until December and reviewed.

## **8. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE:**

An area by the Cricket pitch requires cutting back, proposed by Cllr Offer, seconded by Cllr Appleman.

A tree on Bedford Ave needs cutting down and the stump grinding, proposed by Cllr Offer, seconded by Cllr Appleman.

## **196/24 Consultations and correspondence:**

The following correspondence was received:

- Arts and Culture strategy 21<sup>st</sup> July
- Rural Services Network group.
- Safer Central, Youth survey, Cllr Offer will display notices.
- Topic follows up, Library services.
- Local Plan briefing 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 7.30pm-8.30pm via Teams.

## **197/24 AOB:**

- Bollards by the bus shelter have been reported on Fix My Street and the response has come back that no work is required, Cllr Appleman will contact them and copy in Cllr French.
- There appears to be drug dealing at the Horticultural Centre again, Clerk will contact them and ask that they use their bollard to prevent access.
- There have been reports of young people on mopeds without helmets weaving up the high St and Millennium Green area, all incidents need to be reported to the Police.
- Cllr Offer will arrange new padlocks for the play areas where required.
- Police Priority Setting meeting 10<sup>th</sup> July 6pm-9pm.
- ASB meeting is being arranged.
- There is some doubt regarding ownership of the land running alongside 39 West End Rd, Cllr Gearey will look at the Land Registry.
- PCSO will attend the October meeting.
- The Cage has been repaired, using a different Mortar.

## **198/24 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024

Signed

Date