

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

**held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 via Zoom.**

### **Present:**

#### **Cllr Offer in the Chair**

Cllr Kelly, Cllr Mann, Cllr McGrory, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

Apologies Cllr Kevan, Cllr Willard, Cllr Gearey.

#### **01/22 Public participation:**

- A Resident attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of having Wildflowers in the village in place of grass. Areas discussed were , the High Street North alongside the Hayfields development, Barton Road South outside the Bloor development and Ampthill Rd. Councillors were in favour of the project but had no experience and will seek help and advice from the Horticultural Centre, Newbury Farm Plants or perhaps John Balaam. Daffodils planted in these areas are not to disturbed. The Resident offered to help with the project.

#### **02/22 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:**

Apologies Cllr Kevan, Cllr Willard, and Cllr Gearey.

#### **03/22 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:**

The Minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were agreed.

#### **04/22 Report by Central Bedfordshire Councillor:**

Cllr Graham was able to provide the following update:

- Rural Match funding has opened, completed applications deadline 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022.
- There was a Council Tax meeting yesterday, the maximum has been proposed 1.95%, with 1% ringfenced for adult social care.
- CBC has been researching unknown and unpaid carers in the area, now they have identified them they are going to set up online support for them, this has been outsourced to another company.
- Domestic abuse has increased during the lockdown, CBC now have two shelters, one in the north, one in the south and will be expanding to have safe apartments for children.

- There have been no further discussions surrounding the Taymer retirement village or the Greenwood development. NPPF have stipulated that Design is a material consideration. Development not well designed should be refused, it does not define ‘not well designed’.
- Biggleswade is to have a new Transport interchange, this will be a pivotal point for cycle routes, buses and trains and will have lifts to be accessible.
- There has been no further update on the CBC Local Plan.

## **05/22 Finances:**

Cllr Kevan provided a Financial Report which included.

### OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR JANUARY:

David Granger £180  
Aurora £162  
Sapworth Glazing £954  
R J Machinery £1,206.49  
A Muskett £108.00  
PD & Co (payroll) £74.10  
Came and Co £130.15  
£11.91 Anglian water

|             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| Current a/c | £50,097.57  |
| Deposit a/c | £200,955.59 |
| Nationwide  | £81,475.34  |

## **06/22 Planning:**

The PC considered the following applications:

CB/21/04678/FULL Land to east of Fielden court, Creation of a pond for drainage.

CB/21/05450/FULL 36A Amphill Rd Erection of front garage, new gate with front wall. Demolish side extension and rebuild single storey side extension and patio. (This has only been emailed out today s may not be available to view online prior to the meeting)

## **07/22 Projects:**

### **Wildflowers:**

This was discussed under public participation 01/22

## **Traffic survey:**

The Parish Council has received the details of the Traffic Survey conducted in October 2021. The Survey covers all four (4) main entry/exits into the Village as well as traffic in and out of Wrest Park. The Traffic Survey was scheduled to be conducted in August but due to various unplanned road works the survey had to be cancelled until later in the year.

The Parish Council's objective is to collect data from a series of Traffic Surveys over the next few years, to provide the Parish Council with up-to-date information about the types of vehicles, the speed of vehicles and traffic levels within the Village. This data will enable the Parish Council to make informed decisions about future traffic management measures.

The Parish Council have been successful in obtaining data from several traffic surveys conducted in the Village by Bedfordshire Police in 2019-20. It was noted that 80% of vehicles were going at 37mph+ through the 20mph zone.

Cllr Graham confirmed that the works to the Clophill Roundabout have now been fully funded, CBC obtained a percentage of a levelling up fund to complete the funding. Works will commence in 2023.

## **Police/Vandalism:**

The crime statistics do not seem to reflect the actual crimes within the village. The issues with drugs in the bus stop is still on-going.

Recently bottles were taken out of the bottle banks at the sports centre and smashed across the car park, staff had to clear it up.

Wreaths at the Church have been removed and thrown around.

New, improved CCTV is being considered for the sports centre, the equipment will be an integral part of the building and not the property of Stevenage Leisure.

## **Parking in the village and Mander Farm Road:**

CBC will be looking to go out to Consultation later this month.

## **Jubilee celebrations:**

Cllr McGrory has been in contact with the Silsoe community group, and they are keen to be involved with organising events, she will contact the Horticultural Centre and the Millennium Green committee to discuss it with them. The Beacon will need inspecting, the PC will look to try and cover the costs involved. The Cllrs felt that it would be a promising idea to find out what the community would like and if Residents would be willing to assist in organising it?

It was suggested a Sub-Group be set up involving key groups within the village so that the events could be planned and organised, Cllr McGrory will investigate this.

## **08/22 Consultations and correspondence:**

### **Bloor handover:**

The Parish Council are awaiting a response from Central Bedfordshire Council with regards to their letter and the interpretation and actioning of the conditions of the S106 Agreement.

## **Miller:**

Cllr Gearey has prepared an update on issues being dealt with on the Miller Homes area and this has now been agreed and shared with Residents on FB and the website. The Cllrs thanked Cllr Gearey for all his hard work.

## **Northern Pathway – Newbury Lane to A6**

Central Bedfordshire Council have officially declined the Parish Councils request to reinstate the pathway from Newbury Lane to the A6 going north.

## **09/22 AOB:**

- CPRE membership is coming towards an end, subscription is £36, all Cllrs agreed to subscribe for another year.
- Glasdon flyer.
- CBC Budget information has been received; Clerk will forward posters to Cllr McGrory for the noticeboards.
- Cllr Kelly attended a CBC presentation for the Queen's Canopy tree project, he will investigate this further.
- Cllr McGrory visited the Horticultural Centre, when delivering the Advent Window prize, they are planning some works this year and hope to re-open the café. They are keen to work alongside the Parish Council and it was suggested links could be made with English Heritage?

## **10/22 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022.