

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2022 via Zoom.

### Present:

#### Cllr Kelly in the Chair

Cllr Offer, Cllr Mann, Cllr Gearey, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

Apologies Cllr Kevan, Cllr Willard.

### 11/22 Public participation:

- A Resident attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of having Wildflowers in the village in place of grass. Park Avenue was discussed but permission has not been granted by WPE. Outside the Hayfield development may be a consideration for future projects. Cllr Kelly and Clerk discussed the project with David Granger, the Grass and Groundwork contractor, Ampthill Road is not the ideal location, but the PC have decided to pursue this area. The PC will now obtain quotes from D Granger for carrying out the works and the ongoing maintenance.

### 12/22 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:

Apologies Cllr Kevan, Cllr Willard, and due to leaving the village, Cllr McGrory has resigned from her position as Cllr. The PC thanked Cllr McGrory for her work whilst on the Council.

### 13/22 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were agreed.

### 14/22 Report by Central Bedfordshire Councillor:

Cllr Graham was able to provide the following update:

- There is a CPRE protest walk from Wrest Park on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2022, it is to protest new developments, particularly Green Fields proposal, it is a national protest.
- Central government has decided to reduce all council tax bills by £150. CBC is considering how to carry this out, as council tax for the coming year has already been decided. All local councils have just fixed their council tax levels so this will be a common problem. It also means an overall loss of CBC council income, as a result.

- New Ward Councillor funding applications open in April 2022. Cllr Graham advised the PC to apply for £1000 towards the information board associated with the Cage.
- The Horticultural Centre are doing well, they are currently planting. The café will be re-opening in due course.
- Taymer home are doing well, they are currently managing Covid-19 well and do not have a staff shortage. CBC are continuing to provide support.
- No further update regarding the planned retirement village.

## **15/22 Finances:**

Cllr Kevan provided a Financial Report which included.

### OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR FEBRUARY:

- David Granger £1,278.14
- Aurora £162
- Advent window prizes, £30 Julie and £54 A Webb
- Community heartbeat £475.20
- Liquid designs £1,403.68
- Village hall £66.25
- Eon £1,453.90
- Allotment members fees £355

### Receipts:

- CBC grass cutting contribution £1,179.31
- A funding request has been received from The Hobbies Group; they would like to purchase a Tommie for the church grounds at a cost of £116.99. The PC asked Clerk to go back to the group and see if they will need to apply for a faculty for the Tommie.

### Projects

The Cllrs discussed the proposal to repeat the Children's Holiday Activities for this summer. All Cllrs agreed with going ahead with the project, for a period of 3 or 4 weeks? Details of the proposed programme will be confirmed at a meeting with SLL 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022. The full proposal to be presented at the next Council meeting.

### Banking

Current a/c	£47,217.24
Deposit a/c	£200,955.59
Nationwide	£81,475.34

## **16/22 Planning:**

The PC considered the following applications:

CB/22/00273/VOC North end, High St. Variation of condition to application. The application is associated with a new access, the PC have no concerns.

Cllr Offer has received an email from the principal planning Officer for the Greenfield and Taymer applications. In relation to the Taymer application, within the objections, the PC concentrated partly on the gym and café and how this was a conflict of interest with the Community sports centre. The developer is putting forward suggestions that the facilities could be exclusively for the use of residents. The PC do have concerns over this, but it is not the primary concern with the development. The PC also have concerns for the residents, being over 55, there will be medical needs for some, and the local GP practices are not taking on new patients at this time.

The hedgerow / tree line on the developer's side of the drainage ditch has cleared and tidied up on the Hayfield development. CBC Highways to be contacted to clear their area.

## **17/22 Projects:**

### **Wildflowers:**

This was discussed under public participation 11/22

### **Jubilee Celebrations:**

The Millennium Green have expressed an interest to be involved in arrangements. Clerk will try to set up a meeting with Silsoe Community Group, Millennium Green Committee, SOS, and PCC to discuss ideas.

SPC to advise Residents that would like to hold street parties, they will need to apply to CBC for Road closures.

### **Vandalism:**

There have been 3 episodes of vandalism in recent weeks. The MUGA was broken into, hockey goal posts were smashed. CCTV is being upgraded on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022. There have been increased Police patrols.

Clerk has been contacted by Maulden PC, they have had a fizzy drink and shards of glass on one of their slides, parents need to be careful, Clerk will arrange for information to go on FB and website.

There have been complaints of late-night music and shouting again, Paradigm Housing have been updated, concerned residents can also contact CBC Noise pollution team.

### **Queen's GREEN Canopy tree Project:**

Cllr Mann and Cllr Kelly, met with CBC to discuss eight (8) sites for trees in the village.

- Park Avenue
- Cheery Blossom Close
- West End Road
- Mander Farm Road (1)
- Mander Farm Road (2)
- Forest Path/Lime Grove
- Forest Path Play Area

- A6 South Hedgerow

**Park Ave** - CBC explained 'Shadow planting' CBC will happily look to plant trees if there is evidence that a tree was previously planted there

**West End Rd** is an area for 1 or 2 small trees by the crossroads.

**A6 Highway** could be suitable for a hedgerow project, from the bridge to the Southern roundabout on the village side.

The layby parking area on Mander Farm/West End Rd was suggested but this would need to be a project for Mainstay.

CBC also agreed look at removing the roots large tree removed at the junction of The Oaks and Amphill Road and to advise about fungal infection die-off period before or replanting.

## **CERT.**

With Cllr McGrory resigning from the PC an additional Admin person was required on the CERT group. Cllr Gearey is happy to be added on.

## **RURAL MATCH FUNDING:**

Cllrs discussed whether it would be possible to apply for a crossing on Mander Farm Road for school children? Clerk will email CBC.

## **Police Grant:**

Clerk applied for a Grant for new speed signs to replace those that are broken, £5,000 has been awarded. Cllr Kelly will approach CBC for advice on which signs to purchase.

## **Defibrillators:**

Cllr Offer has arranged for an electrician to investigate why the power keeps cutting out to one of the defibrillators, it was thought that it had been fixed but it has cut out again. The electrician will look again tomorrow. It may be the heater needs replacing.

## **The Cage:**

Cllr Offer is still working alongside Daniel for the interpretation board, which will be adjacent to the village sign. Works to the cage it is anticipated will be carried out in May 2022.

## **Grass cutting:**

Clerk and Cllr Kelly met with D Granger to discuss the grass cutting contract for the next financial year. There will be a 6% increase in charges from April 2022. The play areas have been cut prior to half term; the PC will not be cutting the areas in Plantation View Play Area as this is responsibility of Bloor Homes. The Millennium Green was cut a total of sixteen (16) cuts from March through to end of September, this year it has been agreed that twelve (12) cuts will be carried out and an additional cut prior to the fun day on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.

## **Mainstay:**

The maintenance team will be on site tomorrow to cut the hedges and clear the ditch in Mander Farm Rd. All the streetlights have been fixed, but there are some bollard lights that require

attention, and which are linked/supplied via domestic properties , Cllr Gearey will contact these residents to ask if they would agree for them to be fixed?

## **18/22 Consultations and correspondence:**

Consultation details from Luton Rising. Future LuToN is a proposal to increase the capacity of the airport to 32 million passengers per annum, by building a second terminal.

Resident has contacted the PC regarding traffic issues in the village – No action.

## **19/22 AOB:**

### **PARKING:**

Clerk has written to residents in Mander Farm Road, the adjoining part of West End Rd and Lark Rise regarding safe parking. Two residents have emailed me expressing their concerns over potential restrictions.

### **LIFEGUARDS:**

Stevenage Leisure have vacancies for Lifeguards at the Flitwick Centre for any personal interested training being offered by Stevenage Leisure with the potential for employment at the end, Clerk will put some details on FB and the website.

### **LIGHTING:**

Concerns were raised for the lack of lighting in the north of the High St, Clerk will speak to A Muskett for advice on how many decorative lights would be required?

### **ROAD CLOSURES:**

Amphill Rd will be closed 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> February by Fir Tree Close for patching works. Secondly it will be closed near Beaumont Farm 12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September for pipe works by Anglian Water.

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:**

Clerk requested an alternative date for the APM, it was agreed 5<sup>th</sup> April, clerk will check if the main hall is available?

### **MANDER FARM FENCE:**

As the hedges have been cut back this fence looks even worse, Cllr Gearey will investigate it.

### **BLOOR HOMES:**

It was agreed by all Cllrs that if legal advice was required to progress further with Bloor, then a budget of £1500-£2000 was agreed.

## **20/22 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022. Clerk will be isolating so will attend via Zoom.