

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 8th June 2022 at the Silsoe village hall.

Present:

Cllr Kelly in the Chair

Cllr Offer, Cllr Kevan, Cllr Gearey, Cllr Willard, Cllr Mann via Zoom. Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

Apologies:

52/22 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:

None

53/22 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

The Minutes of the meetings held on 11th May 2022 were agreed.

54/22 Public participation:

A resident attended for an update on the Bloor handover and community land, including the cricket pitches, he had heard rumours in the village. Cllr Kelly confirmed that the PC were having difficulties with the handover, the S106 Agreement allowed for the PC to takeover the areas of community land in sections as per the bequest by Cranfield:

1. Silsoe Community Sports Centre & football pitches, already handed over to the PC.
2. Village Park, which includes the cricket pitch.
3. Community Woodland
4. Land behind the Co-op

The PC have been negotiating the handover from Bloor Homes for several years and reached an agreement in 2021, Bloor were required to write to CBC with a Letter of Offer CBC would in turn pass this to the PC. At the moment CBC are of the view that they will pass the land back to Bloor Homes. In the original negotiations Cranfield University, it was agreed that various sections of land would be passed to the PC. This was documented in the S106 Agreement agreed between CBC, Cranfield University and Bloor Homes. The PC are gathering evidence and seeking legal advice to pursue this. The PC have written a number of letters to the Chief Executive at CBC and asked for a meeting to no avail, Nadine Dorries MP has been advised and she has appointed a Case Officer to assist, and Cllr Kelly is contacting Cranfield University, Cllr Graham will also support the PC and try to facilitate a meeting with the Chief Executive.

It was agreed that a statement would be prepared and shared with Residents to quash any rumours and to provide an accurate update.

Resident offered to assist with contacts at Cranfield University.

55/22 Ward Councillor Cllr Alison Graham:

- Central government have agreed to delegate local Government some of the powers that the Police have in terms of dealing with HGVs to prohibit them using villages as short cuts and allowing the local authority to issue fines. CBC are intending to run nine pilot schemes to implement the new legislation and Silsoe has been identified as one of the areas. There will be signage on the A6 and A507 prohibiting HGVs from entering the village unless for a delivery. Four fixed term cameras will log them entering and exiting the village, if this takes more than an average time then they have clearly made a delivery but if they take less time, they were using it as a short cut and will therefore be fined. CBC will identify the company and they will receive a warning letter for first offence then a fixed penalty fine for subsequent offences. Cllrs expressed that they would like the cameras to monitor Ampthill rd. as that is where the HGVs cut through, they do not just enter at one end of the High St and exit at the other. It is anticipated that the project will commence June 2022. Cllr Dalgarno would like the PC to support this scheme, all Cllrs in favour.
- The PC have funding for two speed cameras, Cllr Graham confirmed this scheme was only aimed at HGVs so would not impact on these cameras.
- A resident has contacted Cllr Graham regarding the lost pathway towards Clophill, CBC confirmed they would not restore it but would keep it cut back, it is overgrown, Clerk will report it.
- Cllr Graham has not been notified when the traffic Management Committee will meet to discuss the Taymer application.

56/22 Finances:

OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR JUNE:

- David Granger £2,838.70
- Aurora £162
- ICO £40
- J Trotman (The cage) £300
- Village sign repair £1074.50
- SSG £2,678.40 and £300
- Sapsworth £822
- N Power £34.65
- Jubilee expenses £601.67

Account balances:

Current: £63,872.40

Savings: £200,960.60

Nationwide: £81,698.78

£500 transferred to the Clerk expenses budget, grass cutting so far, there have been 12 cuts to the play areas, 8 Millennium Green and 6 for the village.

£35 expenditure was proposed by Cllr Kelly for a bag for the Beacon, total Jubilee expenditure £1,128.26. 200-300 attended the Beacon lighting, Deputy Lord Lieutenant lit the Beacon, the event was successful. Certificates have been received for the Beacon lighting and will be displayed on the noticeboards and website. Clerk will forward photos to CBC. Lionel did a fantastic job as Town Cryer and looked particularly good all dressed up, the flower display in the Church was amazing.

57/22 Planning:

The PC considered the following applications:

CB/TCA/22/00219 Works to trees within a conservation area, Wrest Park, no objections.

CB/22/01804/OUT Greenwoods, outline application for up to 3,750 residential units. Cllr Offer will email the support group and planning officer to see if we need to resubmit the same document? Pc will communicate with residents to ensure they resubmit their views.

The PC agreed to endorse the paper prepared by the action group, proposed by Cllr Offer, seconded by Cllr Kevan, all agreed. English Heritage will resubmit their points.

CB/22/01894/FULL The Gateway, Blackthorn Place, five additional office car parking spaces and new single storey cycle store and external storage for flats, removal of 7 Apple trees and planting of 14 Apple trees. This is Bloor land. Cllrs have no objection to the additional spaces for parking, however, were concerned for the expansion at the rear. Its flat roof and does not fit with the existing building, they are also concerned that this will create an area for antisocial behaviour. They also questioned the need for additional storage?

CB/22/01542/FULL 7 Hanscombe Drive, Shillington, erection of five detached dwellings, N/A

CB/22/01750/LB 20 West End Rd, demolition of single storey rear extension and erection of single storey rear orangery style extension and re-building of outbuilding. No objections.

The Enforcement team contacted Cllr Offer today, regarding the shop on the High St. An extension is being built in line with a 2019 planning application, even though the application was withdrawn so permission was not granted. Case officer will follow it up.

58/22 Projects:

Summer activities:

The PC paid the initial invoices and now agreeing further payments. Childcare vouchers cannot be used as Stevenage Leisure are taking the bookings and they are not Ofsted

registered, bookings opened in June. Free places will be available for those eligible for free school meals, consideration will be given to others finding payments difficult.

Vandalism and Police:

Cllr Gearey and Clerk attended the last Priority setting meeting. Areas agreed for the next three months as targets are speeding and HGVs. Update:

1. Burglary lowest it has been for a while (dedicated team monitoring Prison releases)
2. Robbery, pretty steady, again there is a dedicated team.
3. Violence against the person, continually increasing, particularly domestic violence.
4. Criminal damage increasing.
5. ASB steady/slightly down.

There has been some graffiti reported in the bus shelter.

No vandalism reported on the allotments

Fence on Barton Road. is falling down, this is on Bloor Homes land and should be referred to them.

The Cage:

Work is progressing. Cllr Offer thanked Cllr Willard for his patience when dealing with the contractor and for allowing access to power, Cllrs asked that he invoice the PC for any expenditure incurred. Cllr Willard has planned to be away and was concerned how the contractor will obtain power? Cllrs agreed that Cllr Offer would contact Michael Dales for advice and highlight that an alternative source of power would be required, a generator may be required at a cost of £30 per day, proposed by Cllr Kelly and seconded by Cllr Offer, all agreed.

Traffic signs:

Project on hold until the discussions regarding the Clophill roundabout are complete.

Financial Procedures:

Cllr Kelly and Clerk have been discussing revising the current financial procedures and would like to amend the financial regulations. In the current situation it is proving extremely difficult to obtain three quotations for works in accordance with the financial requirements. It is proposed to change the procedures to enable fewer quotations to be obtained particularly for low value works and providing we can show that the quotations obtained are competitive and value for money we are then able to issue a PO.

Bottle bank:

CBC are seeking an alternative site for the bottle banks to be re sited.

Roles and Responsibilities:

All agreed.

59/22 Consultations and correspondence:

- A consultation has been opened by CBC for works to the Clophill roundabout. Clerk has emailed Sarah Hughes to request information regarding the diversions and to discuss measures for Silsoe in terms of controlling vehicles,

60/22 AOB:

- Cllr Kelly raised whether the PC should arrange a further traffic survey of the village? They should be conducted regularly to have a fuller picture of traffic levels in the village. Each Survey costs approximately £1000. Cllr Kelly will obtain a quote for 2-3 surveys.
- The Silsoe Fun Day is 2/7/22, Cllr Kelly requested help for the day, Cllr Gearey, Cllr Offer and Clerk offered to assist.
- Work is required to some trees on the high st and Forest play area, Clerk will email David Granger and Cllr Mann will attend a meeting with him.
- Jubilee decorations were on the lampposts and a resident has asked to keep one, it was agreed Clerk will put a post out on FB stating that they will be available on a first come, first served basis from the PC stall at the fun day.

61/22 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 13th July 2022.