

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 6th July 2022 at the Silsoe village hall.

Present:

Cllr Kelly in the Chair

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

62/22 Apologies and Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:

Apologies: Cllr Kevan and Cllr Mann.

Declaration of Interest:

None

63/22 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

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

64/22 Public participation:

None

65/22 Ward Councillor Cllr Alison Graham:

- CBC have initiated the start of the Local Plan review; it is a condition of the plan that it is reviewed after 6 months. CBC are asking Cllrs for input into this review, Cllr Graham clarified that whilst the review is ongoing the current plan is still valid. The review may not be adopted until 2026. The importance of neighbourhood plans versus local plans is still a grey area according to planning officers, CBC have clarified that if the Neighbourhood plan was to clash with the Local plan, then the Local plan would take precedence.
- Cllr Delgarno was pleased to meet with the PC and that Cllrs are on board with running the pilot scheme to address HGVs in the village.
- The Police and Crime Commissioner is happy to consider Town/Parish Councils having a Special constable. Meppershall, Gravenhurst and Shiilington have grouped together to explore this option. Silsoe would need to advertise for a recruit.
- Cllr raised the recent spate of vandalism at Wrest Park and the speeding issues within the village, Cllr Graham recommended that he contact the Chief Constable.
- Cllr Kelly has forwarded information regarding Bloor to Cllr Graham, who will seek to make an appointment with CBC Chief executive.

- CBC now has a policy on Electric car charging ports for all new residential estates, retrospective fitting can be very expensive. Charging points can be Active or passive, Passive points require a considerable amount of underground work.
- A resident has approached Cllr Graham and Clerk to discuss a possible crossing for school pupils and the dangers of pupils waiting at the bus stops. Clerk has contacted CBC and the schools to enforce road safety for pupils, she will now approach them to discuss a crossing.
- The PC will contact CBC to discuss traffic calming options during the Clophill roundabout works.

66/22 Finances:

OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR JULY:

- David Granger £2,849.66
- Click creative (The cage) £1290.00
- Village hall £66.25
- Harlequin costume hire £30
- Aglian water £42.89 & £12.13
- Sapworth £822
- ROSPA £294.00
- Carlo property maintenance £138.00
- Tottenhoe restoration (The cage) £72 & £8283.24
- Aurora £162
- SSG £2,008.80 & £2008.80
- N Power £36.16
- Jubilee expenses Cllr Mann £54
- MDP Architects (The cage) £547.20
- PD&Co £28.50
- A Muskett £113.40

Account balances:

Current: £

Savings: £200,960.60

Nationwide: £81,698.78

67/22 Planning:

The PC considered the following applications:

CB/22/01685/FULL The Old Vicarage, Silsoe, Creation of a link between existing house and annexe. No objections.

CB/22/02425/FULL 1 Ampthill Rd, proposed two storey side extension and internal alterations. No objections

CB/22/02050/FULL 20 West End rd., demolition of existing single storey rear extension with erection of single storey rear orangery style extension and rebuilding of outbuilding. No objections

Enforcement have visited the shop in the village to assess the building works, permission was granted in 2018 for the current works.

The official response to the Green wood application has been submitted on behalf of the PC.

68/22 Projects:

Summer activities:

The PC took the decision to fund all places on the Children's activities due to the financial pressures on families at this time. Bookings will be reviewed at the end of the week. The remaining invoices for SSG will be agreed at this meeting.

Vandalism and Police:

Clerk contacted the Police regarding a recent increase in ASB and vandalism at Wrest Park. They have increased patrols at Wrest Park, particularly the late shift and they have asked the Special constables to patrol throughout the night. The Police have contacted Wrest Park to reassure them the teams will be regularly visiting the site to assist security. In regard to charges following the Arson, they will seek an update.

The Cage:

Work has now been completed to the Cage, the PC are now just waiting for the door to be refurbished and fitted. The information board will be erected, once completed. The PC applied for and received a £1000 Ward Councillor grant towards the board, the PC thanked Cllr Graham. The PC will need to decide where to store the key.

Traffic signs:

Project was on hold until the discussions regarding the Clophill roundabout are complete, Cllrs have decided to progress with this project anyway.

Financial Procedures and Standing orders:

Clerk reviewed the current financial procedures and Standing orders and emailed copies to all Cllrs to view. All Cllrs agreed to changes.

Play areas/ROSPA inspection:

The PC have received the latest ROSPA inspection, Cllrs have decided to retain the swing frames at the Northern play area for the time being. A meeting will be arranged with CPM to review the report.

Hybrid meetings:

All Cllrs agreed that the PC should continue with Hybrid meetings. Cllr Willard will look at equipment required to ensure this is easy to use, £300-£400 was agreed as a budget. He will carry out research.

Miller Development update:

- The tree that has been causing an issue In Mander Farm rd. will be changed.
- Mainstay would like to increase the planting on the green area near the shops and erect some benches, all Cllrs agreed.
- The works to the sub-station roof and guttering will be carried out shortly.
- The hedges on Mander farm rd. are due to be cut back.
- The damaged fence on Mander farm rd. has been reported on Fix my street.
- CBC Highways are investigating the sign in Lime Grove as it is different to others in the village.

Mander farm rd.:

There are two issues in Mander Farm rd., the parked vehicles and speeding vehicles. Residents are becoming increasingly concerned for safety of both drivers and pedestrians, particularly children. Clerk wrote to all residents in January 2022, parking seemed to improve but has once again deteriorated. There have been posts on FB by concerned residents and they have received considerable likes. I was agreed that Clerk will contact Highways to discuss.

69/22 Consultations and correspondence:

Clophill roundabout, the Pc will arrange a meeting with CBC to discuss further.

Jubilee Beacon lighting, there has been some negative feedback, Cllrs discussed this and agreed the correct decision was made for the safety of residents. Cllrs decided they would like to offer the old beacon to the Silsoe Community group, as they arrange community events for residents, they may be better placed to have the beacon for future events to be organised.

A further letter has been received form Bloor Homes, they have offered a lease arrangement to the PC, PC question who will have the freehold? How long the lease will be for? And who will have responsibility?

A letter to CBC has been prepared and will be sent, Cllr Graham will seek an appointment with the CBC Chief Executive. The PC are still expecting an option to be handed the land as stipulated in the S106 agreement.

Cllr Kelly will also write to Nadine Dorries, NatWest Bank and Cranfield University.

Cllr Kelly will also prepare an update for FB, website and newsletter.

Glasdon flyer

Magpus air ambulance request for donations, £50 was agreed by all Cllrs.

Update on family event at the cricket club, PC thanked the cricket club for the update.

70/22 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.
- Work is required to some trees on the high st and Forest play area, a quote of £2800 has been received. The PC would like to schedule this for autumn, unless the works are urgent?
- The hedges at The Laurels are no longer the responsibility of East Co, Clerk has contacted the new company to request the works.
- New pads have been fitted to the defibrillator at the Star and Garter and the unit dried out again, Cllr Offer will monitor this.
- Streetlight adjacent to the allotments is permanently on, Clerk will report it,
- Clerk will check if the Dentist details are on the website?
- The defibrillator at the sports centre was not used during an incident this week outside the sports centre, whereby a lady fell on the path and possibly broke her hip. The area is owned by Bloor.
- A Bloor contractor is parking on the car park at the sports centre, Cllr Kelly will follow this up.
- A resident has contacted the PC regarding a tree that requires attention on the old tennis court, Clerk will contact D Granger.
- A resident has contacted the PC to see if anything can be done to improve the junction of college chase and Chestnut ave, Clerk will confirm the land is owned by Bloor.

71/22 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th September 2022.