

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 15th July 2021 via Zoom.

Present:

Cllr Kelly in the Chair

Cllr. L Mann, Cllr McGrory, Cllr Kevan.

Apologies Cllr Offer, Cllr Tierney, Cllr Willard Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

Due to Covid-19 isolations and the safety of all attending the decision was taken to move the meeting to Zoom, Clerk endeavoured to ensure residents were notified

64/21 Public participation:

- A Resident attended to discuss the bottle bank, the new bottle bank insulated containers have been delivered and there is no change to the amount of noise, or the extreme times people are using them. It appears that a significant number of the visitors using the bottle bank do not live in the village. After some discussion it was agreed to explore the idea of having the bottle banks removed, proposed Cllr Mann proposed and seconded by Cllr McGrory, all Cllrs agreed.
- It was noted that if the Bottle Bank at Warren Lane is removed, the Bottle Bank at the Silsoe Community Sports Centre will easily be overloaded and as a result would probably have to be closed also. The implications of this may be that to avoid the dumping of glass and bottles the existing waste enclosure will have to be replaced with a roofed enclosure.
- The Clerk confirmed that she has already contacted CBC for advice on whether there is any consultation or process should be followed? She is awaiting a response.
- Young people are sitting on the wall next to the Co-op and disturbing the neighbouring Residents, a Resident has asked if he could be permitted to erect a fence to act as a screen and provide privacy. Cllr Kelly has been seeking legal advice on this and will update the resident when he receives the relevant information.
- A Resident raised concerns over the amount of litter being dropped outside the Co-op and Young's Chip Shop as there is no litter cleaning scheme in place by CBC or the Landlord. The Resident undertook to contact the pollution dept at CBC. The owner of Young's chip shop has approached the PC offering to engage with young people to pick up litter to clear the rubbish on a regular basis in exchange for some chips and a drink. The PC are happy for her to proceed with this, providing permission is granted by the parents/guardians.
- Children and playing football on the grass at Cherry Blossom Close. A Resident has spoken to Mainstay regarding providing 'no ball games' signage. The ball games involving older children are causing a disturbance to Residents. Mainstay did contact the PC and the PC are happy for the Residents near be consulted regarding this.

65/21 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:

- The Minutes of the meetings held on 10th June 2021 were agreed.

66/21 Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:

None

67/21 Co-option of a new Cllr:

Mr Geary attended the last meeting and would like to be considered for the position of Councillor; the PC has a vacancy. Cllr Kelly proposed Mr Geary, he was seconded by Cllr McGrory and joined the meeting as a Councillor. Clerk will contact him tomorrow with the relevant documents and Declaration of Interest to complete.

68/21 Finances:

Cllr Kevan provided a Financial Report which included.

OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR JULY:

David Granger, Ground's maintenance £3018.42
Aurora, website, and social media £162
A Muskett, lighting £108.00
L Baines, Internal auditor £275
ROSPA, playground inspections £400.20
Michael Dales, works to The Cage £1,218.00
Mick Bunning, works to the Cage £600
Anglian Water £16.68 & £12.02
All payments agreed.

Account balances on 14th July 2021

Current a/c £30,786.30	£40,007.31
Deposit a/c £200,940.56	£200,940.57
Nationwide £81,257.39	£81,475.34
Uncleared transactions	£4,495.73
Total balance	£317,932.49

The major change to the finances is due to the grass cutting costs and payment for the Children's summer activities, Sports trust have agreed a donation of £1,500 and the Police funding contribution is yet to be received.

The flagpole has recently been refurbished.

The Defibrillators may need new cupboards, Cllr Offer to arrange a meeting to inspect.

69/21 Planning:

The PC considered the following applications:

CB/21/02490/DOC 24 High Street. No Objections

CB/21/02708/FULL 9 Vicarage Rd, Single storey side extension. No objections.

CB/21/02982/LDCP 18 College chase, loft conversion. No objections

CB/21/03065/FULL 1 Birch Grove, two storey rear extension. No objections

Airport Consultation

An update on the recent consultation has been received. The Clerk stated that she has contacted the Resident that assisted us, and he has agreed to draft up a straightforward explanation that we can share with residents.

GPS Estates

GPS Estates have contacted the PC asking to meet regarding a planning application, Clerk will arrange this.

Bloor Homes

A meeting took place between SPC Legal Adviser and with the Bloor Homes Legal dept. Bloor Homes have concerns about their agreements with Residents. The PC propose to continue to proceed with the Adoption of the Amenity Areas as defined in the original S106.

Greenwood proposal:

Clerk has emailed around the submission made by English Heritage, there is a publicity video that has been made, Clerk will email the link to Cllrs.

70/21 Projects:

Park Avenue Footpath:

- David Taylor at WPE is following this up.

Footpath - Newbury Lane to A6

- A meeting has been requested to discuss the Newbury Lane – A6 path, Cllr Kelly will decline this as neither the landowner nor CBC are willing to commit funds.

Website:

- A meeting has been arranged with Aurora for 9am 16th July 2021 to discuss this further and view the new site as it stands.

Summer activities 2021

The sessions for Under 11's are almost fully booked (95%) , with only 16 places available. Bookings for the Under 16's has not been as successful. It was agreed that additional actions will be taken to target and improve the situation:-

- Four of the Under 16's sessions will be switched to Under 11's.
- Target all secondary school children living in Silsoe rather than identified children,
- A targeted leaflet drops to be planned for the village,
- The PC would interact with the shops and businesses for additional advertising
- New leaflets would be designed outlining the timetable of events to be delivered and advertised on FB and the website.
- The PC will also contact the Community Safety team to see what they can offer
- SLL have sent out a revised leaflet, it was suggested that perhaps more specific information be added to the leaflet, more explanation of the activities, Clerk will speak to Gemma.
- Barton Rotary may donate depending on how many of the Children fall into the under privileged category.
- Representatives of the PC will attend several the sessions, to assess value for money, how well they are run and how successful they are, Clerk and Cllr McGrory will do this, Clerk also suggested a third party, not on the Council be involved, Clerk will follow this up.

Co-op Litter:

Discussed under 64/21

Bottle banks:

Discussed under 64/21

The Cage:

Cllr Offer has confirmed with the funding source that funding should be agreed by end of July 2021, he is trying to get it all approved. The Village sign needs removing, Cllr McGrory will arrange this.

71/21 Consultations and correspondence:

- Magpas letter, thanking the PC for the donation.
- Eon meter changes, Cllr Offer investigated this before and it was not appropriate for the allotments.
- A funding request from Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust offering support to elderly and vulnerable residents and victims of domestic abuse to ensure their safety. The PC agreed a donation of £250 but would like to follow up information regarding how many residents utilise the service, to quantify and justify any future funding.

72/21 AOB:

- **The Village Fun Day** - was a success, it was well attended and enjoyed by all. The Clerk to issue a letter of thanks to the Silsoe Community Trust thanking them for their efforts
- **Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday 2nd June 2022** - Cllr McGrory will speak to the village Community group regarding celebration plans and the lighting of the Beacon.
- **Repairs** are required to the two witches' hats on the play areas, Clerk is requesting quotes. Cllr Mann and Clerk will go through the ROSPA reports and discuss requirements.
- **The Bus Shelter** has been damaged, young people have smashed the glass, Cllr Kelly will obtain a quote for some toughened glass or metal to replace it.
- **Silsoe Community Sports Centre** - Cllr Kelly has requested 3 quotes for the replacement of the Silsoe Community Sports Centre sign.

- **English Heritage** - Wrest Park will have filming taking place 26th-28th July 2021. There will be significant security day and night.

73/21 Date of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 8th September 2021 in the Village Hall, the meeting will be face-to-face, but residents and Cllrs can attend via Zoom if necessary.