

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

held on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021 in the village hall and via Zoom.

### Present:

#### Cllr Kelly in the Chair

Cllr. L Mann, Cllr McGrory, Cllr Offer, Cllr Kevan and Cllr Gearey Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

Apologies Cllr Tierney and Cllr Willard.

### 84/21 Public participation:

- A Resident attended to discuss the Hornbeam trees by The Grove that need pruning. Cllr Kelly has contacted CBC to arrange a site visit to discuss.
- Residents from Newbury Lane attended to discuss the proposed yellow lines, there has been a site visit and this implied resident had off road parking and not all residents in Newbury Lane do. A Highways officer has suggested limited yellow lines with perhaps time constraints? This will need to go to consultation, but Cllr Graham advised the PC to hold an open meeting to discuss this with the affected residents. It would be helpful if residents who do have off road parking used it so as to limit the number of cars being parked PC will arrange a meeting.
- A resident asked if it would be possible to have wildflowers planted in Park Ave, not only do they look pretty but they help with diversity. The PC will contact Wrest Park Enterprises, who are responsible for the land to discuss this further.
- A resident is concerned with parking in Church Rd, there have been several recent incidents with cars trying to leave their drives and having near misses with oncoming vehicles. Access to driveways is becoming increasingly difficult as are deliveries. The Pc will discuss this with CBC.
- Residents have reported that number 7 Church Rd has been derelict for some time and is falling into disrepair. Clerk has checked the Electoral role and no resident is listed as living there, she will contact CBC.
- A resident requested an update on the Bloor handover, the PC have been discussing the situation with a senior planning officer at CBC and they are currently awaiting a response from Bloor.
- PC Stephen Beer from the Community Cohesion Team attended the meeting to introduce himself and his role. He has been asked to be invited to any village events so that he may build relations with the residents and be available to discuss any

issues they may have. Cllr graham reported that at the recent meeting of the Police and Crime panel, the Police Commissioner confirmed, when asked, that it was his intention to create Special constables who would be embedded in specific locations, Cllr Graham asked for a time frame for this and whether it was conceivable that communities start recruiting now and the answer given was yes. The police will fund the recruitment process and training of the individual, which will take approximately a year. A Special constable has full powers of a Police officer but works voluntarily, a PCSO is for community presence, they have similar rights and powers but cannot arrest.

## **85/21 Confirm the Minutes/ Matter Arising:**

- The Minutes of the meetings held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were agreed.

## **86/21 Declaration of interest/ Request for dispensation:**

None

## **87/21 Report by Central Bedfordshire Councillor:**

- At a site visit in Park Ave, a senior highways officer agreed that double yellow lines should be extended from the already approved stretch, up to the junction with the High St. This will require another consultation period. She confirmed that vehicles parked on grass verges behind double yellows or bollards are liable for fixed penalty notices.
- Rural match funding ceased approximately 18 months ago but will be open again for the next financial year, it was previously a 50:50 split, it will now be 75:25, with the Pc covering the larger cost.
- The archeological test pits on the possible Greenwood's site were a necessary prerequisite to another application. As such, CBC planning department had authorised them. Signs of human habitation on such a large site were found, but to be expected.
- CBC have approved a policy against engine idling, a fixed penalty can be given.
- Greensand trust have contacted Cllr Graham regarding The Cage, she has agreed a £1000 donation from her Ward funding towards the board. Cllr Offer was able to confirm that the second stage of funding has now been approved.
- Central Government have provided £500million for the whole of England to feed people over the winter, CBC have been given a proportion and will be providing food for people with low incomes.
- Cllr Graham is interested to find out what eco friendly structures have been included in the new Hayfield development. Vandalism is causing issues at the Community sports centre; The horticultural centre is busy planting and planning for day visitors in the future and Taymer home are doing well.

- Cllr Gearey raised concerns over the Parking in Mander farm Rd is making it very difficult for vehicles to pass, especially with the blind spots, the plastic water meters are also being broke and the area is dangerous for children crossing to school. An ambulance recently managed to squeeze through, but a fire engine would find it very difficult. PC will get Highways to take a look, will write to residents asking them to please stop parking o the paths, discuss the possibility of double yellow lines and lack of access to emergency vehicles. It was also suggested to contact the fire brigade to see if they would attend and try and gain access?

## 88/21Finances:

Cllr Kevan provided a Financial Report which included.

### OUTING GOING PAYMENTS FOR OCTOBER:

David Granger £3,056,82

Aurora, website, and social media £162

Eon £61.38

A Muskett £108

Parbery &Co £211.80

All payments agreed.

Approved payments and invoices due for payment in the current year so far total £43,334 (balance last meeting was £33,635). This does include the above.

The bank account balances as of Oct 11th are:

Current a/c	£62,986.34	was £39,326.18
Deposit a/c	£200,950.58	was £200,945.57
Nationwide	£81,475.34	was £81,475.34

Adjusting for the value of unapproved Grangers invoices included and expected to be paid, this leaves a total current PC cash balance of £341,490.66 (balance last meeting was £316,790.62). There is still one old uncleared approved payment of £60 relating to BATPC course fees which clerk is following up on. The small significant increase in cash is due the receipt of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final portion of £35,029 re the 2021/22 financial year precept.

There are two points to highlight with the accounts for the financial year:

- The total cost of grass cutting excluding the MG is now £10,423 (last month £8,563), leaving £2,482 (last month £4,105) in the budget for the balance of the financial year. We are only 6 months into the financial year so whilst we hope the frequency of cuts will drop significantly soon as we now in Autumn, the grass is still growing. It was agreed to allocate another £2,000 of budget to make sure we don't overspend before the next meeting.
- I have included the agreed cost of £4,237 plus VAT for Kompan repair works to the play areas, but have not seen an invoice yet? There is only £956 budget remaining for repairs so again we will need to keep under review whether more budget needs to be allocated.

There are currently reserved balances of:

£15,000	General reserve
£520	Allotment deposits (I need to close with Peter the reconciliation of this with the Allotments Club)
£108,759	Sports Centre
£93,650	Miller Homes Play Areas
£187	Village Hall

This leaves available to the Parish Council funding of £33,445 (unchanged from last month) for future projects (e.g., Park Avenue footpath, Play Area improvements, traffic calming measures) to the end of the next financial year, and any additional budget allocation per my notes above. This does not include yet the contribution we are expecting from the Police towards the Summer Activities already paid for in full (but does include the contribution from Silsoe Recreational Trust of £1,500 which was queried after the last meeting so I can definitely confirm this).

A quote for hedges at the allotments and Millennium green to be cut back has been received for £3390 + vat, this was agreed.

Final reminders for allotment rents have been sent out, the PC are happy for allotment rents to be paid by bank transfer, provided the holder uses their surname.

A budget meeting needs to be arranged 29<sup>th</sup> November was discussed in principal but will be agreed via email.

£500 was agreed towards the Christmas lighting in the village.

Cllr McGrory requested £100 towards prizes for the Advent windows in the village, all agreed.

## **89/21 Planning:**

The PC considered the following applications:

CB/21/04202/FULL 10 BEDFORD AVE, Demolition of existing conservatory, proposed single storey rear extension. No objections.

CB/21/04082/LB THE RED HOUSE, LB amendment to provide 2 double door openings to the existing outbuilding. No objections.

## **Bloor Homes**

The PC have met with the Principal Planning officer, we are awaiting a response, once he has spoken with Bloor.

Cllr Offer will look at the Hayfield footpath to see if there is sufficient lighting, if there isn't he will follow it up.

## **90/21 Projects:**

### **Wildflowers:**

Discussed under Public participation.

## **CERT:**

Clerk attended the CERT training course and whilst they would like the individual Parish to draw up a written emergency plan, they are initially asking us to set up a WhatsApp group. Mark Conway, who is the Emergency Planning Manager at CBC will be Admin alongside clerk and one other, the PC can then add to the list key people that would be able to help in an emergency e.g., a contact for the village hall, contact for the community sports centre, SOS etc. Mark will also add key people e.g., the emergency person for this area within Anglian water, gas company etc. The aim is to make it easy to respond to an emergency and to plan. All Cllrs agreed, Clerk will set up the group and Cllr McGrory will also join.

## **Filing cabinet:**

The PC agreed to purchase a filing cabinet to be placed at the village hall before the pandemic, the PC decided a standard cabinet would suffice, clerk will go ahead and order and make arrangements for delivery to the hall.

## **Platinum Jubilee celebrations:**

Platinum jubilee celebrations, Cllr McGrory has contacted Phil Hammond and he is in agreement that perhaps a sub-committee could take responsibility for arrangements, Cllr McGrory will contact the Millennium Green committee to see if they would be willing to get involved? Cllr Kelly is investigating options for the use of the Beacon including an insert which is gas powered at a cost of £500.

## **Remembrance Day:**

Clerk has arranged a road closure for Remembrance Sunday so that the Scouts, Cubs and Beavers can parade, Tom woodhouse at Wrest Park has said he will arrange some cones, the PC just need a few volunteers to put out the cones to close the roads and to ensure no vehicles pass through. It was suggested that clerk ask for Police support with this as previously drivers have been agitated at the road being closed and have tried to drive through the cones, Clerk will look into this. Clerk has also arranged for one of the Lord Lieutenant's deputies to attend and it is tradition for them to lay the first wreath, they will also be happy to do a reading if we would like them too? Cllr Kelly has organised a wreath for the PC. The Church will be holding a service outside from 10.45-11 and then a small service inside after. Cllr Kelly is still looking for a trumpeter or Bugler.

## **Summer activities 2021:**

The Summer activities have now finished, Clerk has completed the evaluation reports for it, submitted the financial evaluation and have today received the remittance advice for £3155 from the Police. Clerk has arranged for Aurora to do a FB poll asking for feedback from parents on how happy they were with the sessions, if they would like activities to be running next summer and what they would consider paying for these activities? Once this information is collected it will be fed back to Cllrs.

## **Traffic survey:**

## **Website:**

The new website is up and running, all Cllrs were asked to look at it and feedback their comments at the next meeting.

## **Vandalism:**

A meeting with the Police took place on 8<sup>th</sup> September to discuss the on-going problems. They agreed to visit the young people at home and speak to their parents and if necessary, contact the landlord of their properties for breach of tenancy.

Clerk attended the Community settings meeting last week and discussed the young people in the village, the PCSO and PC were able to confirm that they have increased the Police presence within the village and due to an incident last week they think they may have identified the older group that have been causing issues, this will mean they have names for most of those involved. Anti-social behaviour was the biggest issue raised amongst the villages represented at the meeting and this will be the key area that the community policing teams will be focusing on over the next 3 months.

Clerk also attended the PCC meeting, and this highlighted the issue of ASB again and they reiterated that this will be a target area. The Crime Commissioner intends to visit all schools across the area in the next two years. He also intends to step up the Police presence on social media, making information more accessible. In view of recent publicity, if anyone is unsure if a member of the Policing team is acting correctly or is legitimate anyone can call the control room for confirmation and reassurance.

## **Village sign:**

The Village sign needs removing, Clerk and Cllr Kelly are looking at a company that may carry the work out on site.

## **91/21 Consultations and correspondence:**

- CBC are offering a bike recycling service.
- CPRE Magazine.
- Salt bags are available from CBC.
- A resident has suggested a 'one way' High St to solve parking issues.

## **92/21 AOB:**

- The Cllrs have been alerted to overgrown gardens at 19 Holly walk, if the family is, okay?
- Hayfields- there should be approximately £30,000 in S106 money for play equipment, Cllr Offer will follow this up.
- Cllr Kelly will contact CBC re the tree on The Oaks being removed, how they plan to do it? And possible road closures?
- The Community woodland has had some cutting carried out but there is still work to be completed.
- Trees in Obelisk way are touching the houses and branches are low, Cllr Gearey has a meeting with First point on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2021.
- The Cage funding has been approved now looking to arrange a date for the work to be carried out.
- There is a cone and sign on Ampthill Rd, past Newbury Lane, which is a hazard. PC will report it on Fix my street. There is a large breakdown vehicle on Fir Tree Rd which is obstructing the

junction regularly and making it difficult in terms of visibility when exiting the junction, Clerk will follow this up.

- Grand Union have agreed to cut back the hedges by The Grove, it could take up to 8 weeks for them to attend.
- The Garages in Holly walk, Cranfield University have agreed to carry out work to the forecourt and hedges, a time is to be confirmed. 4 of the residents have agreed to carry out works to their garages. Clerk will email all concerned for some deadlines.
- The Conifers have a courtyard which is full of rubbish, the housing association do not seem to be taking action, Cllr Kelly will contact CBC housing team.
- There will be filming taking place at Wrest Park at the end of October and there will be Halloween activities and spooky walks during half term. From 1<sup>st</sup> November they will be open weekend hours through to the Christmas Period, when they will be open from Boxing Day through to New Year. They are looking to demolish the tractor shed in due course

### **93/21 Date of next meeting:**

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021 in the Village Hall, the meeting will be face-to-face, but residents and Cllrs can attend via Zoom if necessary.