

SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in

Silsoe Village Hall on Wednesday 10th May 2017.

Present: Cllr Jarrard in the Chair

Cllrs. P Kevan, L Mann, H Flack, J Foolkes, J McGrory, R Vass, Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

Apologies: Cllr I Kelly and Cllr A Webb.

44/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Two residents attended to discuss the Bloor open space and concerns over the pathways and the drainage. The Parish Council have published updates on this on social media and at the moment are reluctant to take on responsibility of the land until the issues are addressed. The Parish Council advised the residents to write to Peter Burke at Bloor outlining their concerns and copy in the Clerk. The concerns over safety on the site have been put in writing to Sarah Hughes at CBC and Cllr Kelly has reported them directly to Bloor. The Councillors requested a copy of the letter **Resolved:** Clerk will email out a copy.

Further concerns were raised over the traffic within the village, the traffic calming measures in Silsoe will be completed later in the year, and however a significant amount of the traffic is due to people visiting or working at Wrest Park. Wrest Park Ltd and English Heritage are reluctant to contribute to costs which may mitigate the effect on the village.

The enforcement team seem satisfied by the garage doors on the case in West End Lane. Cllr Kevan highlighted that one of the doors is actually not a working door; Cllr Graham will take this information back to the enforcement officers.

45/17 MINUTES:

Minutes of 27th April 2017 were agreed and signed as correct record of the meeting.

46/17 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN:

Cllr Jarrard requested nominations for Chairman and advised the Council that he was willing to remain as Chairman if the Council agreed. Cllr Flack nominated Cllr Jarrard, Cllr McGrory seconded this. All Councillors agreed.

Cllr Jarrard requested nominations for Vice Chairman and in his absence stated that Cllr Kelly would be happy to remain as Vice Chairman if the Council agreed. Cllr Jarrard nominated Cllr Kelly and this was seconded by Cllr Kevan. All Councillors agreed.

47/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None.

48/17 REPORT BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR:

Cllr Graham explored the idea of possible Charities that may be able to assist the Parish Council in the restoration of the Cage, Robin Uff, the Conservation Officer at CBC has advised that the Parish Council approach English Heritage as they have a list of Charities that maybe able to help. **Resolved:** Cllr Jarrard will follow this up. Cllr Jarrard has also approach the company that are restoring a wall opposite the Star and Garter, the director is going to come out and assess the Cage and the wall by the entrance to Wrest Park and offer a quote. Cllr Jarrard has also approached a wood company in Wrest Park for a quote for the door to the Cage.

There is to be an appeal against the enforcement notice for the A6 case. The grounds for the appeal are not yet known. Cllr Graham advised the Parish Council to gather information and evidence as to whether the building was ever used as a barn in preparation. The Cllrs all agreed to instruct Roger Shrimplin once further information is available.

The 5year deliverable housing supply has now been met by CBC. Gladman will be appealing their case and Cllr Flack has registered the Parish Council as an interested party. The original applications were rejected by the Planning Officer and did not go to Committee. Cllr Graham advised the council to look at the planning criteria in particular when a community is deemed to have sufficient housing it should be relieved from having more, now that the 5year target has been met this is more applicable and is a reasonable argument. All Cllrs agreed that it may be appropriate to instruct Roger Shrimplin on this.

Julie Ogle at CBC is still looking at Hubs and spokes. Cllr Graham reported that at a primary level the aim is to try and keep people out of hospital. Cllr Graham will arrange a meeting between Cllr Jarrard and Patricia Coka to discuss this further.

49/17 CODE OF CONDUCT, STANDING ORDERS AND REGUALTIONS:

The Clerk requested does not have copies of these from the previous Clerk and neither do the Councillors. **Resolved:** The Clerk will aim to arrange them for the next meeting.

50/17 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:

All Councillors agreed the responsibilities for the forthcoming year, copy of which is attached. The current vacancy for a Councillor will need to be advertised. **Resolved:** Cllr McGrory will place an advertisement on social media and an advertisement will go in the Parish Pump.

51/17 BLOOR OPEN SPACES:

J Robinson has had a conversation with Bloor concerning the drainage of the open space and he stated that they seem reluctant to do too much until the ownership issue is resolved. **Resolved:** Cllr Kelly is following this up.

There is confusion over whether the road with no name has been adopted by CBC and whether the verges have also been adopted on the new estate? Mainstay facilities have issued an email stating that the verges re now the responsibility of the Council **Resolved:** Cllr Graham will find out. Some residents seem to pay a maintenance charge whilst others don't? The Parish Council advise residents to write to the developer for further advice.

52/17 BOTTLEBANK:

Numerous conversations have taken place as to whether the bottle bank should be removed or remain? There are two issues, firstly the tidiness and the fly tipping and secondly the noise when bottles are deposited late in the evening or early in the morning. **Resolved:** The Clerk will speak to CBC to see if it is possible to relocate it to either the lay-by by junction of the A6 or Silsoe Road?

Yellow lines were put in outside the school then Bloor put down the tarmac, Cllr Kevan asked if the lines would be replaced? **Resolved:** Cllr Graham will follow this up.

53/17 FINANCE:

Cllr Kevan gave an update of the finances. The Millennium Green requested the remainder of their grant, all Cllrs agreed.

Bank balances: Current acc £54,463.12 Dep £130,455.67

Payments this month:

Millennium Green £380

£14.02 EON

Payments have now been set up through Bedford Borough Council for the Clerk as an employee.

The Clerk and Cllr Kevan met to finalise the Audit which has now been completed, however there is an issue with the closing balance last year and the opening balance this year, the Clerk continues to try and resolve the problem with BDO. The Clerk has queried the asset value which can now be agreed including depreciation.

A vat return has been completed by the Clerk for £21,218.19 it has been submitted to HMRC.

An old cheque for War Stocks was found in some of the retrieved paperwork from the previously Clerk dated March 2015. The Clerk has chased this up and a new cheque has been provided for the value of £108.03

The Clerk is trying to arrange a meeting hopefully for the week beginning 15th May 2017 to discuss the grass cutting schedule with the contractor.

The £500 contribution to the Christmas lights will be added to the forecast.

Cllr Jarrard thanked Cllr Kevan for all of his hard work with the finances.

54/17 PLANNING:

Planning application CB/TCA/17/00164 for tree works will be considered by Cllr Foolkes.

55/17 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- EON change of meter notification, an appointment has now been made.
- Harlington Upper School invitation to School awards evening. Cllr Flack will attend.
- Email from Raj Toora with regards to a food business in Silsoe, he has been advised to attend a meeting to discuss this further.

56/17 AOB:

- Neighbourhood Plan update. All the surveys have now been sent out and some replies have been received. There will be an exhibition to display the results in the Village Hall on 29th June 2017. Banners will be printed to advertise this. All Cllrs agreed to banners being placed by Obelisk way, outside the Village Hall and by the Millennium Green.
- The new seat has been fitted outside the George and residents have now requested one at the other end of the village. Cllr Jarrard will look into this and the Clerk will put it on next month's Agenda.

57/17 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 14th June 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.