

OSILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in

Silsoe Village Hall on Wednesday 13th September 2017.

Present: Cllr Jarrard in the Chair

Cllrs. L Mann, H Flack, P Kevan, J McGrory, I Kelly, A Webb and Central Bedfordshire Councillor Alison Graham.

Apologies: Cllr Vass

83/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

84/17 MINUTES:

Minutes of 26TH July 2017 were agreed and signed as correct record of the meeting.

Cllr Jarrard welcomed everyone back and gave a particular welcome to Cllr Kelly who has been unwell. He also passed on the thoughts of the Parish Council to Cllr Kevan for his recent loss.

The Chairman has received a letter from Cllr Foolkes. Unfortunately due to increased work commitments Cllr Foolkes has made the decision to resign from the Parish Council, he stated that he has enjoyed being a Councillor and perhaps may do so again on retiring. Cllr Jarrard thanked him for his hard work and dedication to the Council and wished him well. **Resolved:** The Clerk will notify the monitoring officer at CBC and will write a personal letter to Cllr Foolkes on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Foolkes was responsible for trees, rights of way, risk assessment and emergency plan, Cllr Jarrard asked all Councillors to consider taking on these roles in future months.

85/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None.

86/17 REPORT BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

- Update on the A6/Gravenhurst Rd issue- CBC have sent out three enforcement notices to remove the bunds and restore the barn to its original state. Cllrs reported that the bunds are increasing in size and work was carried out there the previous weekend. There looks to be 6 residences and numerous cars on the site. Cllr Graham requested photographs of the site which she can in turn pass on to the enforcement team. Cllr Jarrard informed her that images are available on Google earth.
- The George- condition 11, which stated that the ground floor must be complete prior to the accommodation above, being sold/let, has been adapted. The owner argued that without knowing who the tenant of the ground floor was going to be it was impossible to complete the fittings. Donna Lavender is the planning officer assigned to the case and reported that

the request was reasonable and that the final fittings could wait until the tenant was established. Cllr Kelly questioned whether it would be legal to have no lift and queried the position of the bathrooms in terms of disability access **Resolved:** Cllr Kelly will discuss this with Donna Lavender. Appeals have gone to Cllr Young and the Chairman of the Development Management Committee and their response has supported Donna Lavender.

- The Cycle path south to Barton has now been cleared.
- Highways Rural Match funding will again be available this autumn, maybe worth looking at the speed on Ampthill Rd?
- Cllr Graham has had a recent meeting with highways and reported that there will be a new on-line reporting system available from December, it is much better and demonstrations will be available.
- Cllr Kelly has written to Nick Shaw concerning the start date for the road changes to Silsoe.
- The 'lady in the caravan' has been reported to CBC by Cllr Jarrard.
- Cllr Flack reported to Cllr Graham that there is lots of talk surrounding Shepherd's cottages.
- CB/16/03497/PAAD The Pc has take advice from Roger Shrimplin on this matter and he has recommended that further action should be taken on the matter. It was felt that CBC should inform the PC when such cases arise but unfortunately they are not legally obliged to do so.
- The A6 site has changed it's name to Silsoe Farm.
- The Gladman public appeal has been confirmed for 19th January 2018, the Parish Council will request an opportunity to speak. The documents have all been re-submitted by Cllr Flack.

87/17 BLOOR HOMES COMMUNITY WOODLAND AREA:

Cllr Kelly provided an update on the key points:

- The area is split into three parts, namely Village Green, Woodland area and Village park. The Pc is currently in discussions as to which pieces of land to take on responsibility for. It is in the Parish Council's interests to take on as much as possible so as to avoid further development within the village; however the PC needs to be in a position where they are able to maintain the land.
- The village green drainage issues are still being dealt with by Anglian water.
- There is a big issue over the drainage of the site and the four ponds. There was originally meant to be three ponds but there is actually four. These ponds have very steep sides which are a danger to children and they are above the 1metre depth that was agreed. It was suggested by Bloor that a 200mm pipe be put in place to assist with the drainage, however the drainage officer at CBC was not keen on the idea. The discussion and suggestion at the moment is to have a swale around the perimeter with a bridge leading over it. It has also been suggested that the four ponds are linked by pipes which will lead to the end of the swale. This will control the level of water in the ponds.
- A meeting is to be arranged by Cllr Kelly with Bloor Homes to take this all forward. Legal advice will also be required prior to taking on the responsibility of the areas.
- Cllr Kelly is arranging an Ecological survey of the area for further information and suggestions with regards to maintenance.
- ROSPA, a safety survey is also to be arranged. Cllr Kelly is also in the process of preparing calculations for the maintenance of the play areas.

- Residents of the Bloor development are required to pay a maintenance charge; however there does not seem to be any consistency in the amounts residents are paying.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY:

Cllr Kelly has spoken to CBC with regards to funding for projects within Silsoe should money become available. He has produced a document which was circulated to all Councillors and has requested that any further suggestions be passed to him a sap.

VILLAGE GROUNDS MAINTENANCE: The Parish Council instructed someone to carry out a survey which has now been completed and we will start to monitor the grass cutting.

88/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

The feedback from the survey has been very positive.

Meetings have taken place with HCA concerning the land behind the Beeches, it is currently registered and it is unlikely that this will be removed as it was originally part of Wrest Park.

Sub-committee meetings continue to discuss particular areas. An exhibition is planned for November and perhaps a survey prior to that.

Jeff has been working hard alongside an Interim Strategic Manager at CBC to look at the cycle route running Clophill-Silsoe-Flitton Flitwick. The Committee have been working alongside the other Parishes to complete this. Cllr Kelly suggested they talk to Flitwick PC as Flitwick is due to be regenerated and funding may be available to help with this.

Further people are required for the steering group; Cllr Flack will add a notice to the newsletter.

89/17 FINANCE:

Cllr Kevan gave an update of the finances.

Bank balances: Current acc £87,663.01 Dep £130,455.67

August Payments:

Leena Baines £300

Anglian Water £23.41 and £34.51

Grangers £1590.36

Bishops sport and leisure £8.54

Tumbl Trax £399.22

Clerk fees £465.34

Payments this month:

GRANGERS £1084.90

Eon £22.41

Bishops sport and leisure £3633.00

A Muskett £143.22

Playsafety Ltd £285.60

Clerk fees £465.34

H Flack £398.59 (Neighbourhood Plan)

The total amount paid for the previous Clerk's wife was £8702.08

A cheque for £408.00 was provided for the new village hall cooler.

Credited to the account:

July £200 reimbursement from the football club.

September £340 from the village hall.

Cllr Flack will forward the Clerk the invoice for the Christmas lights.

Cllr Webb suggested that the PC look at an alternative bank account, there is a lot of money with one bank, should there be an issue with the bank. **Resolved:** Cllr Kevan will look into this.

The Village Hall requested a donation for work to be carried out to the foyer. The PC discussed it and agreed that the £2000 donation earmarked for the hall along with £2000 for the post office to use the hall could be provided for this. **Resolved:** Cllr Jarrard will take this suggestion back to the Village Hall Committee.

The Internal Auditor provided a quote of £250 for the next 2 years, all agreed. Clerk will confirm this.

The Clerk has prepared a vat return, all Councillors were happy for it to be submitted.

90/17 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT:

Deferred to next meeting, Clerk will attach the documents to the Agenda and requests that everyone reads it prior to the meeting.

91 /17 PLANNING:

CB/17/03418/FULL 12 YEW TREE CLOSE, Two storey side extensions, No Objections.

92/17 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Country side voice magazine.

93/17 AOB:

- From 26th September 2017 the post office will be open 12.30-2.30 Tuesday and Thursday.
- Feedback from the Police setting meeting. Speeding is the priority over the next three months. The Police are happy to offer advice on speeding through the village.
- The speed sign which illuminates on entering the village is covered by a tree. **Resolved:** Cllr Jarrard will look at this.
- Middle light on the pathway between Elm Drive and Ampthill Rd is currently blocked by a tree. **Resolved:** Cllr Kelly will look into this.
- 2 lights are out at the entrance to the village, they have been reported.
- Streetlights have been changed within the village by CBC and do not match with the PC owned ones. Should the PC replace them? **Resolved:** The Clerk will try and get Andy Musckett in to talk to the Council.
- Association have their AGM on 19th October in Henlow, Clerk has further details.
- Future meetings were agreed as: 11th October 2017, 8th November 2017, 13th December 2017, 10th January 2018, 21st February 2018, 14th March 2018, 11th April 2018 and 9th May 2018.

94/17 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 11th October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.