

SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in

Silsoe Village Hall on Wednesday 8th November 2017.

Present: Cllr Jarrard in the Chair

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

Apologies: Cllr Vass.

108/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Two residents attended to discuss the Speed of traffic through the Village, the areas highlighted were Ampthill Rd, Newbury Lane, Vicarage Rd and Fir Tree Rd. Nick Shaw from CBC had arranged for an Automatic Traffic Line survey to be carried out in Ampthill Rd, statistically the survey did not cause a major concern, however it shows that over 700 vehicles still went over the 30mph, the positioning of the line was also at a junction where vehicles will be accelerating/decelerating and therefore not a true reflection of the speed.

The expected Road works within the Village have been delayed and Councillor Graham was able to report that this was due to legal implications with CBC sub-contractors.

Resolved: Cllr Kelly is currently looking into speed cameras as part of the Rural Match Funding. Cllr Jarrard will arrange a meeting with Nick Shaw to discuss the speed and expected Road works within the Village and whether Fir Tree and Vicarage roads are actually part of the 20mph scheme?

The main concerns in Vicarage Rd and Fir Tree Rd are for the safety of pedestrians and children walking to school, if a new 20mph area is introduced the issue remains as to how it would be policed? The paths and Roads are also in a poor state, covered in potholes. Cllr Graham was able to report that a survey had been carried out and the sub-structure was in good condition, it was the top surface that was an issue, **Resolved:** Cllr Graham will follow this up with CBC.

109/17 MINUTES:

Minutes of 11th October 2017 were agreed and signed as correct record of the meeting.

Matters arising: A meeting took place to discuss the prospect of having a health spoke within the Village a further meeting is to be arranged.

The Light which was obstructed by trees is still an issue, the Clerk will write to the resident concerned.

110/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None.

111/17 CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR:

Mr Iain Smith has been observing meetings and would like to join the Parish Council. This was proposed by Cllr McGrory and supported by Cllr Kelly. All Councillors in favour. Mr Smith completed the relevant paperwork for the Clerk and joined the table. The Clerk will contact the Monitoring Officer at CBC.

112/17 REPORT BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

- A6, Gravenhurst turn, the date of appeal is 13th March 2018; all additional work now being carried out is at his own financial risk. Will Holloway is the Enforcement Officer, he has requested any supporting evidence that the Parish Council have should be forwarded to him to strengthen CBC's case. Cllr Kevan suggested historic picture on Google Earth.
- The document Central Government have issued dictating the way in which Local Governments need to address the housing needs in their areas has been objected to by CBC. The Leader of the Council attended Westminster but there has been no movement.
- The meeting to discuss the Spoke was successful, the Minutes have been released today and a further follow up meeting is to be arranged. Under the Sustainable Transformation Plan, the focus is on trying to keep people out of hospital by supporting health and well being.
- Cllr Graham has spoken to the planning officer dealing with the old School site; the planners are not keen on the configuration of the houses. The developers have reported that building Bungalows is not financially viable.
- An enforcement notice has been served on the Mobile Home and Cllr Graham is perusing the problem as there have been suggestions that waste is being buried on site.

113/17 SILSOE COMMUNITY SPORTS HALL-BUILDING DEFECT 16-001:

Cllr Kelly illustrated on the drawing the area where the defect is located, it is at the top of the building, approximately 10.7m up and where the 8 windows are located. Water is condensing on the roof and then dripping on the floor, this is occurring as the room becomes hot when people are exercising. The defect was first reported to Bloor and their contractor Cox and Watson on 19/1/16, they have attempted to fix it twice. The detectors are fitted for CO2 emissions and temperature not humidity, all windows work together which makes the room cool too quickly. Cllr Kelly suggested that a survey should be carried out to identify the defect and possible solutions, all Councillors agreed to this at a cost of £650 per day. Once the defect is identified the Parish Council will attempt to recover the expenditure from Bloor.

114/17 RURAL MATCH FUNDING:

The application is to initiate an assessment of the proposed project before deciding whether to proceed. Cllr Kelly and the Clerk will investigate this further and complete the application.

115/17 SPEEDING:

Discussed under public participation.

116/17 BLOOR HOMES COMMUNITY WOODLAND AREA:

The guidelines for the Inspections have been approved and the Clerk will raise purchase orders for them.

2x £990.72 for the Rospa reports to the Park Area and the Community Woodland.

£1250.00 for the Ecological report.

£395.00 for the football pitches area inspection.

The ponds have now been sectioned off for safety and a pipe has been fitted between the ponds to help with drainage, one pond has decreased in depth.

Cllr Kelly is obtaining quotes for the Cricket Pitch, which will take approximately one year to lay.

A follow up meeting with Howard Hughes is to be planned to discuss the play areas.

Cllr Kelly has produced a document which was circulated to all Councillors for possible CIL projects; it has also been submitted to CBC.

117/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Siobhan Vincent and John Ballon continue to assist with the plan.

There will be an exhibition planned for January 2018.

The team are working alongside Clophill on the cycle route and money is available through CBC for this.

Warren Wood will be attached to the Clophill Plan.

Buckle Grove is in our area and the Committee will look to have this identified as Green space.

Simpson Hill Plantation is too big for Green space but the team are looking at other options.

Woodland Walk and Cricket pitch is showing as a deficit, we need to get more people using it.

Silsoe springs will be designated Green space.

The team are trying to get the Orchards listed as traditional Orchards.

No evidence of flooding has been found yet.

Cllr Flack is in discussions with Historic England with regards to Alderley End.

The transport sub-committee are looking at the cycle route from Flitwick to Silsoe.

Cllr Jarrard reported that he has spoken to David Taylor at Wrest Park with regards to the grass cutting between the Church and the Gatehouse. English Heritage and Wrest Park claim it is not their responsibility; Clerk will contact highways at CBC.

118/17 FINANCE:

Cllr Kevan gave an update of the finances.

Bank balances: Current acc £77,448.87 Dep £130,455.67

Payments this month:

GRANGERS £211.12

Clerk fees £465.34

H Flack £50 (Neighbourhood Plan) This cheque was issued last meeting a should have been directly to the Village Hall, a new cheque was issued.

BDO £480

Greensand Trust £2,298.00

Silsoe Village Hall £55

Silsoe Community Society £500, the cheque from last month has not been cashed, the Clerk will discuss this with Cllr Flack

Credits:

£40 Sale of Silsoe books.

£3,625.68 HMRC

The Treasurer of the Silsoe news reports that they are currently running at slight loss and therefore may need the support of the PC in the region of £250 during the next financial year.

Cllr Webb raised the security issue of the PC money should the bank default? Cllr Kevan will look into this.

A Budget meeting is to be arranged to set next year's budget.

119/17 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT:

Cllr Kelly raised some concerns; the alterations will be made by the Clerk prior to the next meeting ready for them to be signed.

120 /17 PLANNING:

PLANNING APPLICATION CB/17/04986/FULL Roundabout at the junction of College Chase and Mender Farm rd, closing date 30/11/17. This application will be discussed at a planning meeting on 15/11/17

PLANNING APPLICATION CB/17/04812/FULL Land to the rear of 16 to 36 Newbury Lane, closing date 29/11/17. This will also be discussed at the planning meeting on 15/11/17.

The Following appeals will be up for Public enquiry on 13th March 2018:

APP/P0240/C/17/3174466 Laying Hardcore, installing septic tank, siting steel container, 2 mobile homes and alterations to existing building.

APP/P0240/C/17/03183599 Enforcement notice for creation of a Bund.

APP/P0240/C/17/3183598 Enforcement notice change of barn to residential.

A Legal Development application has been submitted for Willow Cottage, Bedford Ave, to be discussed at planning meeting.

A resident has requested that an Asbestos report be carried out on the old School site; there is a stipulation that additional protection and washing facilities will be required when dealing with one part of the building.

121/17 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

None

122/17 AOB:

- A resident has raised concerns over the Millennium Green trees blocking light. Cllr McGrory will pass it onto Cllr Vass.
- Fireworks were set off on the Cricket Pitch area of the Bloor site; Cllr McGrory will advise the resident to report it to Bloor who owns the land.
- Gladman appeal 23rd January 2018, Cllr Flack is unable to attend, Cllr Jarrard will attend instead.
- Enforcement notice on Cllr Flack's house has been lifted.
- Fir Trees are overgrown at the end of Holly Walk, Cllr Kevan will report this to Cllr Vass.
- Silsoe SOS have reported a surplus of money, the PC advise them to keep this as part of the Emergency Plan.
- Silsoe will be one of the official Beacons to be lit on 11/11/18 to commemorate the end of the War. Fireworks will be set off, Church bells will ring and the Beacon will be lit at 7pm.
- The May 2018 meeting will be changed from Wednesday 9th May to Thursday 10th May.

123/17 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th December 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.