

SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in

Silsoe Village Hall on Wednesday 13th December 2017.

Present: Cllr Jarrard in the Chair

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

Apologies:

124/17 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

125/17 MINUTES:

Minutes of 8th November 2017 were agreed and signed as correct record of the meeting.

Matters arising: The verge area by the church in Park Ave is owned by Wrest Park, the Land Registry has confirmed.

126/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None.

127/17 REPORT BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL:

- A6, Gravenhurst turn, the date of appeal is 13th March 2018. Will Holloway is the Enforcement Officer, he has requested any supporting evidence that the Parish Council have should be forwarded to him, and he has received some since the last meeting.
- Councillor Graham has requested updates on Newbury Lane and Mander Farm Rd from D Walker, who is currently on leave.
- Clophill Rd/Silsoe Rd, a petition has been put forward by residents in Clophill, they wish to extend the 40mph zone up to Silsoe Rd. This land actually falls under Silsoe Parish Council so should be considered by the Parish Councillors. The case will be heard by the Traffic Management Committee on 20th December 2017. Any comments should be made to Paul Mason, who is the officer assigned to the case.
- Silsoe Rd Scrap site, still under observation for buried waste.
- Old School site. A meeting took place with the Architects and the outcome was very positive, Cllr Graham has emailed Lisa Newlands, the officer assigned to the case.
- Local Plan: If Central Bedfordshire Council can submit the Local Plan by 31st March 2018 then they will be able to stay with the current target of 1600 houses and not implement the new government strategy which will see an increase of 60% of houses per year. This has meant bringing the plan submission date by six months. The new Public Consultation dates will commence on 3rd January 2018, allocations will be on the website. All comments will be sent to the inspector alongside the plan.
- Cllr Graham reported on the Medium Finance Plan. By 2020 it is planned that Central Government will not provide any funding to Local Councils. The Local Authority will instead

keep 100% of the business rates. For Bedfordshire this should work out fairly even. However because of Brexit the legislation has yet to be put in place. Central Bedfordshire Council do have reserves in place.

128/17 HIGH STREET AMMENDMENTS:

A meeting took place on 4th December 2017 with Nick Shaw from Highways at CBC. He had the official drawings and outlined the final plans which are due to go ahead.

- 20mph by the old School through to Park Ave. 2 speed tables.
- Change to curb design at Park Ave
- 20 mph to Wrest Park and Mander Farm Rd.
- 20mph in Fir Tree, Vicarage Rd and at the end of Ampthill Rd.
- Double yellow lines outside the cottages opposite Ampthill Rd.
- Parallel lined parking outside the church.
- Bollards at the south of the village still need to be repaired. Cllr Jarrard will speak to CBC.
- Possible speed table at the south side of the Village, Cllr Kelly to confirm.

The plans have now gone to the traffic Committee, it is hoped that work will commence April/May 2018.

The possibility of traffic speed cameras and a speed table in Ampthill Rd were discussed. Nick Shaw felt that the cameras were not a viable option due to financial outlay and policing of the cameras. We will apply for Rural Match funding to look at the options available to address the speed in Ampthill Rd.

129/17 ROAD SAFETY-RECENT INCIDENT:

A post appeared on Face book, providing details of an incident between a vehicle and a child on 30th November 2017.

The Clerk has contacted the child's school for further information and to request if a report was made to the school following the incident, also she has asked the school to contact the parents outlining that the Parish Council would like to speak to them about the incident. The Clerk has also requested that the school talk to the children to re-iterate the importance of road safety.

The Clerk has also prepared a statement on behalf of the Parish Council for the Face book page and the monthly newsletter.

130/17 RURAL MATCH FUNDING:

The application will be submitted to address the speed in Ampthill Road and it was agreed that a second application for a footpath from Park Ave down to Wrest Park will be submitted.

131/17 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS:

The switching on of the lights was very well attended and people seemed to enjoy themselves. All Councillors agreed that the lights looked very festive and pretty. Cllr Jarrard will write a letter of appreciation to Phil.

132/17 PARK AVENUE:

The Land Registry has confirmed the verge in Park Avenue is owned by Wrest Park.

133/17 CRIME REPORT:

Cllr Vass attended the Priority meeting and the main focus is on burglaries.

134/17 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Cllr Flack has sent through the draft plan and village design statement to all Councillors and would like some feedback. She will re-send it.

Jesse Honey has confirmed that the three plots the committee were concerned about are largely undevelopable.

Cllr Kelly, Cllr Flack, Cllr Jarrard, Cllr Graham and Roger Shrimplin will meet prior to 20th January 2018 to discuss the Gladman appeal.

135/17 BLOOR HANDOVER:

Cllr Kelly reported that the discussion should not be in the public domain and therefore a discussion would take place after the meeting.

136/17 FINANCE AND BUDGET:

Cllr Kevan gave an update of the finances.

Bank balances: Current acc £75,020.61 Dep £130,478.54

Payments this month:

GRANGERS £103.20

Clerk fees £465.34

Greensand Trust £1566.00

Eon £8

Cpm Playgrounds £144

R O'Dell £1800.00

The Budget for the Financial Year 2018/2019 was agreed with an increase of 7.7% in the precept. This increase is due to the decrease last year. This will be explained on the website and in the newsletter.

Cllr Mann requested some works be carried out to the trees in the play area as there is money in the budget, all agreed.

The land registry certificate for the sports centre has not yet been received.

Cllr Kevan looked at the possibility of moving money into another account for security purposes in case the bank should default; it was felt by all Councillors that it was best to split the risk. Councillor Kevan and the Clerk will make arrangements for an account at Nationwide to be opened and money to be transferred.

137/17 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT:

The documents were agreed and signed by all Councillors.

138 /17 PLANNING:

A number of tree works applications have been received:

CB/TRE/17/00524

CB/TCA/17/00513

CB/TRE/17/00534

CB/TCA/17/00494

CB/TCA/17/00496

Councillor Vass inspected all applications and was in agreement for the works to go ahead.

Planning application CB/17/05769/FULL & CB/17/05770/LB

Bowling Green House, Wrest Park, Silsoe. Stripping and re-roofing of the clay plain tiled roofs, recovering of lead work like for like. No Objections.

OLD SCHOOL SITE:

Councillor Kelly had a plan of the suggested revised plan for the development following the meeting with the Architects. The plans show a 16-23m distance from The Oaks boundary. The previous application is to be withdrawn and a new application submitted.

RETAIL UNITS:

A number of issues were highlighted by Councillors:

- Decreased parking
- No provision for visiting vehicles
- Retail ventilation required.
- Noise from refrigeration units
- Waste bins, access and fire exits may be an issue?
- Lack of lighting/security lighting
- Conservation area in close proximity
- Lack of washing line space which is a requirement

Councillor Kelly has reported the objections to CBC.

GLADMAN:

A subsequent meeting will be arranged to discuss the appeal in January 2018.

NEWBURY LANE:

Unacceptable proposal, parking on the plans is 38m from the housing. Cllr Graham and Cllr Kelly are in discussions with CBC over this application.

139/17 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter from Badger Scouts requesting a donation for works required on the Scout hut, all Councillors agreed to a donation of £200.

Renewal letter from CPRE, membership for next year is £36. All Councillors agreed.

140/17 AOB:

- Lots of lovely photographs of Silsoe in the snow on Face book.
- There are overgrown trees in Holly Walk and on the path down to West End Road; Cllr Vass will take a look.

141/17 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 10th January 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.