

SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in

Silsoe Village Hall on Wednesday 20th April 2016.

Present: Cllr J M Jarrard- in the chair.

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

173/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident started the discussion by raising concerns over the Gladman proposal. The Chairman gave a brief synopsis of how the Parish Council were dealing with the proposal, outlining that a meeting between Gladman and the Parish Council had been organised. He also outlined that Gladman are also looking at approximately 150 other sites across England as potential sites for development. The Chairman thanked Cllr Flack for her hard work on this proposal and for keeping the residents updated via the webpage.

A resident commented on the potential impact the new development would have on the school and notified the Parish Council that the Head teacher is happy to discuss this further if required.

Information leaflets for residents with regards to the Gladman proposal and the Saving The George campaign are due to be distributed throughout the village, both leaflets will be distributed together and the work shared by both groups.

Resolved: Cllr Flack and Cllr Kelly to arrange the distribution of the leaflets.

174/16 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

175/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Nothing declared.

176/16 REPORTS BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Graham announced that an Enforcement Notice has been served at the junction of Gravenhurst Rd and the A6, for the removal of a container and two mobile homes. The owners of the land are responsible for the Enforcement; however there is currently a dispute over the Ownership of the land.

There is no further news on 2 Ampthill Rd.

There have been talks about an Entrance change to the Newbury development, in order to make this change they will need to re-submit the application, although they have a short time scale to adhere to.

Gladman do not tend to approach Councils for pre application discussions, so Central Bedfordshire have not been made aware or entered into discussions about the proposal yet.

A case had been opened with regards to the trees at The George, no damage has been done to the trees and therefore the case has been closed. Cllr Graham will follow up concerns over damage to the building.

Cllr graham reported that builders are delaying the building of their houses so as to allow the prices to increase within the planning time they have. The average starter home in Central Bedfordshire now costs £234,000, the Council are looking at alternative methods of building to try and offer more

An Enforcement notice has been issued for 29A Holly walk, Silsoe.

Resolved: Cllr Graham will look into this further.

Builders waste has been dumped on the outskirts of the Village towards Barton and household rubbish is being dumped by the bottle banks.

Resolved: Chairman will report this.

Cllr Flack reported that she is still awaiting information with regards to the culvert. She also reported that a lamppost has recently been erected on the new development which will restrict access for emergency services.

Resolved: Cllr Graham will investigate this further.

177/16 GLADMAN PROPOSAL:

Cllr Flack updated the Parish Council with regards to the work carried out so far. There are now 400 signatures on the petition on Silsoe Network and residents are encouraged to write to their MPs. Arrangements are being made for the distribution of leaflets and there have been offers of help for looking into the impact on the utilities, highways, historical impact etc. Cllr Kelly is investigating the impact with Anglian Water.

Dr Darren Price is available for help and the Parish Council may utilise him on a fee basis further down the line. Until we have a Planning Application Number we cannot start to encourage people to file their objections. An interim meeting is to be organised prior to the Gladman meeting, to be organised by Cllr Flack.

178/16 HIGHWAYS:

Money has been ring-fenced for alterations on the High Street, the Exhibition took place within the Village and is currently being considered by Central Bedfordshire Council, but there has been no feedback as yet.

Resolved: Cllr Graham will follow this up with Central Bedfordshire Council.

179/16 PLANNING:

2 planning applications in respect of trees in Wrest Park.

Resolved: Cllr Jarrard will speak to Cllr Foolkes who will inspect the trees concerned.

CB/16/01510/FULL Application for a triple garage with accommodation over.

Resolved: The Planning sub-committee will meet to discuss this application.

Planning application for a one bedroom development in the old Post Office building.

Resolved: Cllr Kelly will look into this further before passing it to the Planning sub-committee.

180/16 COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE:

Stevenage Leisure is happy with the running of the centre so far and has approximately 180 members. S106 Funding of £31,000 earmarked for Youth Improvements has been applied for, we are just awaiting approval. There are concerns over the height of the fence which is being looked into and a resident suggested applying for funding for a higher quality surface in the muga, making it more appropriate for football.

Resolved: The Councillors all agreed that the surface needs to be suitable for a range of sports.

The official opening of the centre is 15th May 2016 and Cllr Jarred and Cllr Kelly visited the National Badminton Centre last week to see if they could assist in providing a badminton player to carry out the official opening.

181/16 FINANCE:

Progress is being made on the Bank Mandate update; we are currently awaiting confirmation from the bank.

Cllr Kevan gave an update on the financial situation as we enter the new financial year; a number of cheques still haven't cleared from the account. The unallocated money for projects still remains at £33,340 and it was agreed that £2,000 should be earmarked for professional services with regards to the Glad man proposal.

Invoices agreed:

BATPC £544

DATA AND MAILING SOLUTIONS £24

GRANGERS £301.12

HARROLD SIGNS £355.00

CAMPTON PC £125 (SHARED CLERK COURSE FEES)

182/16 POLICE/COMMUNITY POLICE MATTERS:

Cllr Owen has contacted Bedfordshire Police with regards to Community Police Officers and will now make an appointment to discuss further the views of the Chief Constable and Commissioner on Police Specials.

Cllr Owen enquired if anyone on the Parish Council was aware of a Silsoe Neighbourhood watch?

Resolved: Cllr Flack and Cllr Owen will look into this further.

183/16 PLAY AREAS

Adjustments to the Play area at the north end of the village have taken place and the new equipment has been installed. The play areas are all being inspected on a weekly basis and there are currently no problems.

184/16 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Ageing well festival, 8th June 10-3pm at the Bedford Corn Exchange.
- Link a Ride Community transport requesting a donation. It was agreed a £50 donation would be made.
- Parish Council Magazine.

185/16 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS:

It has been requested by Cllr Owen and editors of the Silsoe News that meetings be moved to the 2nd Wednesday of the month in order that an up to date article can appear in the newsletter.

Suggested dates:

- 18th May
- 8th June
- 13th July
- 14th September
- 12th October
- 9th November
- 14th December

The Clerk will check the bookings with the Village Hall and confirm the dates.

186/16 AOB:

The Beacon will be lit on Thursday 21st April 2016 at 7.30pm. Boundary ropes have been organised and Barton Rotary Club will marshal the event. The Millennium Green Trust will be serving refreshments and the Silsoe Singers will be performing.

The Housing Needs Survey has been distributed and so far 262 have been returned and 26 completed on line.

Cllr Owen is due to go into hospital on 9th May and requested help with the article for the Silsoe News.

Cllr Flack informed the Council that the Share offers for The George were launched yesterday. Any outstanding fundraising money at the end of the campaign will be put towards a Community event on 9th July at the Millennium Green.

Reminder to organise street Parties for the Queen's birthday celebrations, it's up to individuals to organise.

172/16 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 18th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.