

SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in
Silsoe Village Hall on Wednesday 18th April 2016.

Present: Cllr J M Jarrard- in the chair.

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

Apologies: Cllr Owen.

187/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident raised concerns over the Lorries and trucks turning at the end of Vicarage Rd and West
End Rd. Damage has already been caused and the resident has great concerns that they are actually
going to hit her wall.

Resolved: Cllr Jarrard and the Clerk are due to attend a meeting with Highways at Central
Bedfordshire Council on Tuesday and will raise this issue. Cllr Graham will arrange for a site visit to
assess the danger.

188/16 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN:

Cllr Kelly nominated Cllr Jarrard and this was seconded by Cllr Foolkes, all Councillors were in favour.
Councillor Jarrard agreed to continue as Chairman.

189/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr Owen.

190/16 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record of
the meeting.

191/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Cllr Foolkes declared an interest for item 8 on the Agenda- Planning.

192/16 REPORTS BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS:

Cllr Graham thanked the Parish Council for her invitation to the Opening of the Community Sports
Centre and commented that it was a great success.

An update was given on the planning application at 2 Ampthill Rd. The Environmental Officer and
Planning Officer are looking into the application.

A6 Gravenhurst junction- squatters are still on site and an enforcement notice has been served,
however there have been issues with enforcing the notice, the Police are involved.

Questions were raised with regards to The George and the rear of the building should be open to the elements. Cllr Graham reported there is no record of it being in this condition. Enforcement has had a case open against The George for trees, none have been damaged and there is a TPO on one tree.

A meeting at Central Bedfordshire Council has been arranged for Tuesday to discuss the High Street Plans.

There's a new PCC, Katherine Holloway, who is promising Local Neighbourhood teams, more information to follow.

193/16 ELECTION OF TRUSTEE TO THE COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL TRUST:

Cllr Jarrard stated that the Parish Council was required to appoint a Trustee as its representative on the Silsoe Community Recreational Trust. Cllr Webb proposed Cllr Kelly; this was seconded by Cllr Jarrard. All Councillors in favour, Cllr Kevan abstained from the voting as he is currently a trustee.

Resolved: Cllr Kelly will now take up the post of trustee with immediate effect.

194/16 PLANNING:

CB/16/01721/FULL- No objection, the Clerk will contact Clophill Parish Council to insure they have been notified of this application.

CB/TCA/16/00130- Strongly object. The Yew is in good health and is mature. The trunk and bark is sound and free from disease. New spring growth is evident all over. There is some die back on a couple of minor boughs which were until recently swamped by other nearby growth. The lack of light caused the die back and this tree would benefit from light and removal of the holly. There are also no details given of a replacement tree.

CB/16/01616/FULL- No objections.

CB/16/01602/FULL- No objections.

CB/16/01855/OUT The Parish Council asked for an extension to the Planning date to allow further discussions within the Community. The Clerk will request an 8-12 wk delay from the Planning Dept.

Cllr Flack has been working on the Gladman application and requested that the Parish Council start considering what enhancements they would like to see in the village? and what they would like S106 money to go towards if the application is successful?

Members of the Planning Committee will visit the site prior to making a decision and the Parish Council will have 3 minutes to put forward their opinions, Cllr Graham will be able to comment as a Central Bedfordshire ward member at the meeting.

Now that the Planning number has been issued we can look at the aspects of sustainability, with special regards to Anglian water and the NHS. Cllr Flack asked for help in producing the material required.

Resolved: Cllr Webb will investigate the history of the site and format a Heritage statement.

Cllr Kelly investigates the effect this will have on Anglian Water.

Cllr McGrory will support the Social Media and statements to the community.

Cllr Vass will investigate how much longer the current builders plan to be in Silsoe.

Cllr Flack will work with Cllr Owen on looking into road surveys, car counts and speed watch data from the Police.

As a Parish Council we need to encourage all residents to put forward their views to the planning department.

195/16 FINANCE:

The issues over the Bank Mandate have not yet been solved.

Resolved: Councillor Jarrard will speak to the bank concerning the Mandate.

Outgoing payments:

Grangers £578.66

Village Hall £312.50

CBC £5352.12

Playdale £7063.98

Community trust expenses £529

Sports Centre opening day £117.78

Opening day catering costs £190.85 (All Councillors agreed to this payment)

Clerk's fees £884.30

196/16 POLICE/COMMUNITY POLICE MATTERS:

Wayne Humberstone, Chief Officer for Special Constables will attend a Parish council meeting to discuss community policing in Silsoe. The discussion will look at the possibility of increasing police presence in the area for a few days at a time.

5 Reported incidents:

1. Burglary Juniper Close
2. Criminal damage and arson Cherry Blossom Close
3. Forgery, Purjury and miscellaneous crime in West End Rd
4. Anti-social behaviour in Bedford Rd
5. Violence and sexual offences Wrest Park

197/16 CONSULTATIONS/CORRESPONDENCE:

- Thank you letter for Link-a-ride grant.
- Insurance newsletter.
- Centenary fields programme.
- Girlguiding newsletter.

198/16 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:

See attached sheet.

199/16 STANDING ORDERS AND REGULATIONS:

The Parish Council agreed to adopt the NALC code of conduct and standing orders, copies were distributed to all Councillors via email.

In line with this it was agreed that the Planning Committee would in future hold open meetings at approximately monthly intervals two weeks after each Parish Council meeting. The dates of these meetings will be published to Councillors, notices displayed on the notice boards, on the website and on social media. In the event that there is nothing to be discussed the meetings will be cancelled.

Appointment of a Chairman of the Planning Committee (Cllr Jarrard) who will in co-ordination with the Clerk jointly be responsible for administration of planning applications and bookings for the meetings in the Village Hall.

200/16 AOB

Questions were raised over a possible ACV on the cage, Cllr Foolkes will investigate this.

Cllr Webb will look into Assets of value within the community.

The Village hall committee thanked the Parish Council for its recent grant and reported that the Post Office is working well.

A number of issues are apparent on the Playgrounds, the bins are not being emptied and the roundabout is broken. Cllr Mann will explore this further. Cllr Mann will also look into the annual inspection for the Playground.

Cllr Flack requested photographs and a brief personal statement from all councillors for the webpage.

Donations for The George are coming in well, a mortgage has been agreed with the bank, and the deadline is currently 16th June 2016.

A tree has been removed from outside the Bloor development, Cllr Vass will look into this. A request has been put into Central Bedfordshire Council for an additional dog bin in Ash Tree Culvert.

Cllr Foolkes will investigate hedges backing onto 17-19 The Grove and Grove Rd trees.

Cllr Webb suggested signs directing people to the new Sports Centre be put up, the badminton players commented at the opening day that there were no signs.

Resolved: The trustees are talking to Stevenage Leisure about this.

Cllr Mann reported the Hawthorn way needs resurfacing.

Resolved: Cllr Mann will contact highways.

A large piece of concrete has been placed in the bus shelter.

Resolved: Cllr Jarrard will contact highways.

Cllr Kevan commented that the bushes on Holly Walk will need to be assessed.

The Clerk has spoken to Andy Muskett who has previously had the street lighting contract with Silsoe Parish Council. He has not sent renewal information for this year as despite contacting the Parish Council many times; he has not been paid for the previous year. The Clerk asked if the contract had been assigned to another company.

Resolved: No one has been given the new contract and therefore the Clerk will approach Mr Muskett to make payment and obtain a quote for next year.

201/16 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 8th June at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.