

SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in

Silsoe Village Hall on Wednesday 8th June 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, Cllr Owen, J Foolkes

Apologies: Central Bedfordshire Councillor, Councillor A Graham.

202/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Two residents that are part of the save The George campaign attended the meeting and thanked the Parish Council for the support so far. They have currently raised over £100,000. The organisers of the campaign would like the Parish Council to be more vocal in their support for the project. In response the Chairman reiterated that the Parish Council supports anything that benefits the community, however it does not have the power to give views on investment or business plans and therefore cannot immerse itself in the project. In principal it supports the work of the campaign and will continue to.

The Chairman questioned whether the campaign has sought to extend the ACV?

Resolved: The Clerk will approach Central Bedfordshire Council to seek an extension.

A resident approached the Parish Council with regards to a neighbour dispute that has been ongoing for several years. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council is unable to get involved with neighbour disputes or with private land, she advised the resident to contact Aragon Housing or the Housing Dept at Central Bedfordshire Council. The Clerk will also forward the information to Central Bedfordshire Councillor, Councillor A. Graham.

203/16 POLICE MATTERS:

Chief Officer for the Special Constabulary attended the meeting to discuss a new operation. Operation Salcoats is a nationwide campaign aimed at increasing police presence, raising the awareness of neighbourhood watch and street watch and implementing speed watch in areas across the country. Part of the operations future plans is to have a mobile police office which will visit different areas to offer support within communities.

RESOLVED: Parish Councillors to make themselves available to support Salcoats as and when is necessary.

The Parish Council questions whether there would be a police presence at the Wrest Park Country Fayre?

RESOLVED: The Chief Officer will look into this.

204/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Central Bedfordshire Councillor, Councillor A. Graham.

205/16 MINUTES:

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2016 were agreed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

206/16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Councillors questioned whether they should declare an interest if they had pledged money to The George?

RESOLVED: The Clerk will look into this.

207/16 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR:

Cllr Kevan voted Cllr Kelly to take on the position of Vice-Chair; it was seconded by Cllr Foolkes. All Councillors agreed.

208/16 REPORTS BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR:

The A6 problem is still ongoing; the owner is still trying to access the site.

A site visit was carried out with John Chandler in West End Rd to look at traffic and the water filled ditch. He will look for a Dead End road sign; he doesn't feel that major changes are necessary as the heavy vehicles will stop when the builders complete their works at the end of the year. Martin Freeman confirmed this. Cllr Graham contacted Veena Lilley to update her, however she is going to organise a petition as she does not agree. In terms of the ditch he is costing a low link style fence along that section that belongs to highways. The project will go to highways then Ringway Jacobs so the timescale is not available.

Central Bedfordshire Council has closed its call for sites, for a new local plan. There is a need for 4-6% uptake on sites; all information is available on the CBC website. The sites will be assessed by the CBC criteria.

Cllr Flack requested the help of the other Councillors with the preparation work for the Gladman preparation. The report needs to be submitted on 24th June and prior to this Cllr Flack would like feedback from the Councillors on the report. The report will need to be agreed by the Parish Council prior to it being submitted. Cllr Kelly distributed the Housing Needs survey which will form part of the report.

209/16 High Street Plans:

A meeting took place with Nick Shaw at Priory House to discuss the High Street Plans for Silsoe. Cllr Jarrard, Cllr Owen, Cllr Graham and the Clerk attended. Nick Shaw presented his recommendations on the basis of the Public Consultation that took place and he will be reporting these proposals back to full Council in due course. It will then go to Public Consultation again.

210/16 Hedges:

Work needs to be carried out on the edge of the Millennium Green and football green.

RESOLVED: Cllr Foolkes will arrange with Cllr Mann and John Robinson to assess the work and share the costs between the Parish Council and the Millennium Green Trust.

211/16 PLANNING:

Planning meetings will now take place on 4th Wednesday of the month. Cllr Jarrard will be the Chairman of the sub-committee and will act as the administrator organising and advertising the meetings as well as booking the hall.

CB/16/01972/FULL The Parish Council has objected to this application on a previous occasion and would like to object again on the same grounds.

212/16 FINANCE:

The issues over the Bank Mandate have not yet been solved. Barclays have sent back the application forms to Deryck, Deryck will forward them to Cllr Jarrard who will arrange for them to be completed and re-submitted to Barclays.

RESOLVED: Councillor Jarrard will re-submit the application forms to the bank concerning the Mandate.

Deryck still has the Audit information, which will need to be collected and agreed by the Parish Council prior to being sent to the Internal Auditor.

RESOLVED: Councillor Jarrard will collect the information to Deryck and present it to full Council.

Outgoing payments:

Grangers £1237.21

Stevenage Leisure £12,354.44

Community trust expenses- P Kevan £321.27

Sports Centre opening day J Jarrard £161.64

Maudesport £6,322.48

Dalrod £117.60

The forecast and bank balance were distributed in advance of the meeting and are attached to the Minutes.

213/16 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

None

214/16 COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES UPDATE:

Community Sports Centre:

The School is opening in September as per the original number of classrooms planned and work will continue on site. The school will be discussing use of facilities and parking with the sports centre.

Higher fencing will soon be installed and other equipment is still arriving, discussions are taking place with regards to air conditioning in the dance studio.

A catering manager has been appointed for July and one of the responsibilities will be to organise the group of volunteers for running the coffee shop.

There is a community function taking place this Saturday in order to celebrate the Queen's birthday and the first England game.

300+ people are now registered with the centre and a new timetable of classes has been published to cater for the needs of the members. Holiday activities will also be running over the summer for children. Financial reports from Stevenage Leisure should be available in the coming weeks.

215/16 AOB:

Cllr Owen has been in contact with Tracey Routledge concerning the future of the current school, he has requested a meeting to discuss this further.

After the loss of a big tree within Silsoe, it was suggested that as a Council we look at whether Tree Preservation Orders can be applied to any other trees within the village.

RESOLVED: Cllr Foolkes will look at this.

Cllr Vass had requested the Clerk look into a new dog waste bin being installed on the new estate. Unfortunately until the estate is adopted by Central Bedfordshire Council it is up to the builders to provide and empty such bins. We will speak to Cllr Graham at the next meeting for further advice.

Cllr Flack requested a copy of the old parish Council logo as she will be looking into new designs alongside Cllr McGrory and the Clerk.

Cllr Webb commented on the trees on the corner of the roundabout near the nursing home, they need cutting back.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will report this.

Cllr Mann reported there is still a problem with Hawthorn way and the concrete in the bus shelter.

RESOLVED: Cllr Jarrard will enquire about this.

Cllr Kelly volunteered to look at recent Rural Vulnerability emails and report back.

Cllr Kelly and the Clerk attended a meeting with Groundworks to discuss possible projects within the Village. Groundworks have requested another meeting.

RESOLVED: Cllr Kelly will provide the Clerk dates to organise a follow up meeting.

Contact has been made with Paul Salmon over the traffic in the Village.

RESOLVED: Cllr Kelly will update the Clerk as to what next step needs to be taken.

201/16 NEXT MEETING

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