

SILSOE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in

Silsoe Village Hall on Wednesday 14th December 2016.

Present: Cllr Jarrard in the Chair

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

Apologies: Cllr Flack.

274/16 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

275/16 MINUTES:

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2016 were signed as a correct record of the meeting.

276/16 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None.

277/16 HEDGES:

Cllr Foolkes is in the process of obtaining quotes for the works that need carrying out; Cllr Kelly will forward him additional company details.

Cllr Mann put forward a suggestion on behalf of the Millennium Green trustees, would the Parish council take on the whole contract in return for reducing the grant usually paid by the Parish Council. The Parish Council will look at the quotes and the differential between the two and decide at the next meeting.

278/16 REPORT BY CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Councillor A Graham was able to provide the Parish Council with the following updates:

- Cllr Graham recently walked the area with a steward and the BT box is legitimately placed and highways are happy with it.
- With regards to Mander Farm Rd, the corner which has been discussed on various occasions has not yet been adopted. CBC are however happy that the road has been fitted in accordance with current regulations and it is intended to slow vehicles and encourage considerate driving. If residents still wish to pursue the idea of adjusting the road layout then they need to approach Miller Homes. Chris Huckle has requested support from residents in taking this further.
- Nick Shaw has confirmed that the school pathway will be completed as a temporary measure prior to Christmas and then it will be formalised once the school is open.
- The meeting regarding the old school site went well, there is no option for a medical centre, but they were able to prove that there is not sufficient sheltered housing/elderly housing in Silsoe.

- Ownership of the old school site is still in question, the Parish Council have submitted a letter to CBC. We are awaiting confirmation that the site was sold to the education dept.
- The George. Cllr Graham has spoken to Donna Lavender and is trying to extend the deadline and have it called to committee. It is a registered village asset as a hotel. The Parish Council have submitted their views to the Planning dept.
- A6 Illegal traveller's site. It is still waiting to go to court; Cllr McGrory suggested speaking to the Courts. **Resolved:** Cllr Jarrard will notify the Enforcement Officer.

279/16 PLANNING CONSENT FOR BUNGALOW ON SILSOE RD:

Cllr Kelly in conjunction with David Swain have compiled a letter which has now been sent to CBC questioning the change of use from an Agricultural building when legally it was specifically excluded from being an Agricultural building in the first place. Cllr Kelly will forward the letter to Cllr Graham and keep her updated.

280/16 REVIEW OF TRAFFIC CALMING PROPOSALS:

Clerk has distributed the plans prior to the meeting for all Councillors to view; the proposals include a 20mph speed limit, raised ramps at either end of the village and several yellow lines. Questions were raised over the raised island on Barton Rd and Cllr Jarrard confirmed he has spoken with Nick Shaw and it will be taken out. There will be no further public consultation, the plans will be re drawn and then finally agreed by the Parish Council.

281/16 BUDGET AND PRECEPT:

Members of the Parish Council met last week to discuss next year's budget and precept, the information from this meeting was circulated prior to the meeting. The budget for next year amounted to £57,265; a 3% increase in the precept will amount to £55,456. For the residents this will mean an increase from £43.25 to £44.72. The Clerk circulated a comparison of precepts which she managed to get from CBC. Villages in the area of a similar size have a range of precepts ranging from £14 to £112, putting Silsoe in the lower half of the comparables. All Councillors agreed to the increase, the Clerk will submit the forms.

A gate will be fitted to access the community woodlands near the sports centre to avoid travellers entering the site.

282/16 SILSOE SHOPS AND HANGING BASKET:

Cllr Jarrard declared an interest.

There is an ongoing dispute between the two shop owners and the police have been involved, the Parish Council have confirmed that they are unable to be involved in neighbourly disputes and therefore are not in a position to comment. With regards to the hanging basket, the lamppost which the owner wishes to attach the basket to is actually owned by CBC, and therefore permission will need to be obtained from them. **Resolved:** Clerk will notify the shop owner.

283/16 PLANNING:

CB/TCA/16/00496 Trees, Cllr Foolkes will look into this.

CB/16/05486/LDCE 57A NEWBURY LANE No objections.

2 Ampthill Rd, An appeal has been lodged.

West End Lane, views of the planning committee has been filed.

284/16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

The Committee have had another meeting; Cllrs Vass, McGrory, Flack and Webb are on the committee alongside four other residents. The committee will encourage more residents to get involved. Siobhan Vincent from CBC has been involved and currently they are looking at forming a template for the plan. Each committee member will be then focusing on a topic each and reaching out to the community for more involvement. Next meeting will be in January, when a Chairman will be appointed. Cllr Graham clarified the differences between the Local Plan, Neighbourhood plan and 'light' Parish Plan.

285/16 FINANCE:

Current account balance £31,321.53

Deposit account balance £130,455.67

£24,000 has been committed to expenditure.

The Clerk has submitted the Playdale S106 documents; a further application is still to be submitted.

The Millennium Green grass cutting and post office hall fees have yet to be invoiced.

Outgoing payments:

Greenbarnes Notice board £2,350.04

Eon £18.43

Anglian Water £71.59

Clerk Fees £526.00

Clerk fuel expenses £79

Hard drive, paper, ink £123.97

Printer ink £10.99

Stamps £13.20

The Cage will need to be looked at in the spring.

Grangers have sent an invoice of outstanding payments for £6,363.02; the Clerk will look into this.

286/16 CONSULTATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE:

- Beauty and the beast poster

- Anglian Water service cover letter
- Reynolds landscaping leaflet
- CAB thank you letter for grant given at last meeting

287/16 AOB

- Cllr Foolkes checked whether planning permission was required for the bus shelter, he will go ahead and order as it is not.
- The sports centre is looking very nice; Cllr Vass heard that a resident was very pleased with a party recently held there.
- Work on the play area is due to start 15th December.
- On the drive up to the Horticultural centre a resident has moved their fence and the miller homes fence and replaced it with a new fence where the original miller homes fence was, incorporating the land into their own rear garden. Cllr Jarrard will look into it and arrange an enforcement letter.
- Cllr Foolkes has agreed to look into an emergency plan for the village.
- Cllr Kelly and the Clerk met with Groundwork's for managing the community woodlands, they will meet again after Christmas.
- A hall divider has been fitted between the two badminton pitches.
- The defective surface in the Muga is in the process of being repaired and will be completed by 9th January 2017.
- A sound survey will be carried out in the main hall of the sports centre.
- Arrangements have been made for the Christmas celebration at the sports centre including Santa and stalls.
- Cllr Kelly is in talks with Lisa white concerning the new play areas.

288 /16 NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Wednesday 11TH January 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.