

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 8th JANUARY 2018**

Present: Parish Councillors: M Russell (Chair), M Tomlin, P Smith, A Palmer, B Fitzsimmons, R Catford, Ward Councillor K Collins, Clerk - A Whiting, 11 members of public

**Public Questions**

1. question over getting hold of paper copies of CBC consultations. Clerk brings paper copies to meetings when he has them but often they are advertised as being in libraries but are not. Cllr Collins to bring copies to surgeries and leave any surplus at the Post Office.
2. A resident wished all present a Happy New Year. There was a flood in Chaul End Rd over Christmas near Golf Club. Clerk had reported to CBC Highways several times and asked them to also remove the aggregate that had been washed into the road and also check the drain in case it had been blocked by the aggregate.

At this point Cllr Patrick Smith made the following statement;

*“Chair. Mark Russell/Council members/and public*

*Good evening. I have asked to address this meeting due to events that is now in the public domain that has taken place that you all may be aware of.*

*I am also asking for the clerk to please to take minutes for what I am about to say, and a copy of this address will be made available to the clerk and council, and for any member of the public.*

*On the 3rd January 2018 I was arrested because Cllr Richard Stay went and made a complaint to the Bedfordshire police.*

*This complaint he made is, that I have placed a number of articles on the CVNS website as the editor. That I consider is in the public’s interest about him,*

*The charge that I was arrested for, is that I caused Cllr Richard Stay: “Annoyance, Inconvenience, and Anxiety”*

*CONTRARY TO SECTION 127 OF THE COMMUNICATION ACT 2003,*

*I now have to attend Luton magistrate’s court on the 18th January 2018 for the purpose to set a date to stand trial as I will be making a not guilty plea.*

*The purpose of asking to address this meeting is that under my bail conditions (That I refused to sign and accept) is that I have had restrictions put on me by the police, that prevents me from carrying out my civic duties as a member of this council to represent the villagers of Caddington, until I have cleared my name in court.*

*The restriction put on me is:*

*1. I must not communicate with Richard Stay. Directly, Indirectly, via a third party and or via electronic means including via social media. “This is to prevent Interference with witnesses”*

*2. I Must not to go to Manor Road again this is to prevent Interference with Witnesses.*

*This means I cannot attend future council meeting until I have cleared my name in court, but will be remaining as a councillor of this council until then,*

*It is also my understanding that my wife Cllr Christine Smith has asked for her resignation letter to be read out as she has made it quite clear to me that she just cannot sit in the same room as Cllr Richard Stay. I would ask for her letter to be read out as quickly as possible after I sit down, so I can then leave this meeting,*

*I would also like to point out that as this is ongoing it would not be appropriate to discuss or to have any response or questions from the councillors or members of the public at this time as it could compromise these court proceedings.*

*Cllr Patrick Smith*

The Chairman read out Christine Smith’s resignation letter;

*To the clerk and to All Parish Councillors. I am tendering my resignation from the Caddington Parish Council to take immediately effect after this letter has been read out for all the Councillors and the public to hear at the next meeting on the 8th January 2018. I cannot be expected to sit in a meetings opposite one Central Bedfordshire Councillor, that harass and upset my family once too often. I feel I cannot sit in meetings with this Cllr being present. Thank you Cllr Christine Smith.*

*Cllr Patrick Smith left the meeting*

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Apologies received from Cllrs; M Morland, H Palmer, L Skelton, CBC Cllr R Stay

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**Cllr Russell – Payments, item 14. Cllrs: Russell and Tomlin - item 15.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - It was RESOLVED** minutes of 11th December 2017 were a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4.** **PROGRESS UPDATE FROM LAST MEETING**

Tree works – scheduled for after Christmas

Trenches dug across Green in Summer without PC permission - offer of £2500 from Virgin Media.

Cllrs Palmer and Tomlin (in absence of Cllr Russell) to meet Virgin rep. to discuss this and the compensation for damage to Christmas Lights cables by the works there.

Virgin trenches in Elm Avenue that were marked by them for repair as they had sunk – paint had now worn away and there are trips up to inch deep.

Waste Bins –Clerk and Cllr Russell to consult on best ones to get for Village Garden Services to fit.

A new replacement **noticeboard** for the old worn out one by the Hairdressers has been manufactured by Cowboy Carpentry for £350.

Clerk chasing CBC Highways for new street light in Folly Lane (works to be scheduled soon) and for Traffic Calming in Aley Green (work to be scheduled soon). It was noted we have already paid for both schemes.

Highways have yet to reply to emails from PC regarding their reasons for wanting us to remove the old brick shelter, which has been earmarked as an Information Centre.

**5. TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS**

Chairman Russell wished everyone Happy New Year.

Cllr Russell wanted the meeting to note that there were police and court proceedings taking place, beyond the council’s powers and remit, and stated that the councillors do not discuss or comment. He requested that no councilors speak to press or say anything that may prejudice any court case or legal actions.

1. **RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING HEATHFIELD CENTRE**

A meeting of Heathfield Friends had taken place but they had no news. Cllr Collins had spoken with the portfolio holder, there is support for a replacement facility on site, but as yet details are yet to be finalised, but he will keep us informed.

1. **RECEIVE A REPORT FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

Cllr Collins stated there is to be daytime closure of the road A1081 (Harpenden Rd for resurfacing this week).

CBC Budget consultation is happening until the end of the month.

Fly tipping – there had been a couple of prosecutions this month, with fines issued and a vehicle crushed.

Community Trust (Caddington Woods) are pleased to say that the first of the rented affordable homes have been occupied there. Plans for a community centre – due to start build in 2018.

Local Plan papers produced and out for consultation this week, should it be approved. There is one site earmarked for housing in the parish of Caddington (between Hatters Way and busway). Plan has removed Option 5 land west of Luton from list of sites, but be aware that it remains an option for development and may be revisited in the future. Noted that Luton are currently intending to expand the airport which may impact on where housing can or cannot be put if close to or under flight path.

**9. RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The site behind Slip end school has been dropped from the Local Plan – this site was also in the Neighbourhood Plan. The section re. Travellers commits to a number of pitches but not to where they are allocated.

1. **RECEIVE A REPORT FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr A Palmer expressed concern that Option 5 (Land West of Luton) could still be on the table. Committee have a meeting on 16th January to discuss the application re. Caddington Oaks and expressed concern that apparently some neighbours have not been consulted by CBC.

1. **REPORT FROM BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE**

02/12/2017 17:40 - HARASSMENT UNDISCLOSED

02/12/2017 18:40 - BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL - DWELLING LUTON ROAD

04/12/2017 15:10 - COMMON ASSAULT DUNSTABLE ROAD

08/12/2017 01:44 - VICTIMLESS CRIME - AWAITING UPDATE UNDISCLOSED

08/12/2017 10:00 - PUBLIC ORDER - INTENTIONAL HARASSMENT DUNSTABLE ROAD

11/12/2017 15:00 - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE LUTON ROAD

14/12/2017 19:15 - BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL - DWELLING CHAUL END ROAD

18/12/2017 08:00 - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE LUTON ROAD

18/12/2017 08:20 - THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE ELM AVENUE

18/12/2017 09:50 - COMMON ASSAULT THE CRESCENT

19/12/2017 22:49 - ATTEMPT ROBBERY PERSONAL THE CRESCENT

20/12/2017 08:15 - HATE INCIDENT – RACIAL UNDISCLOSED

27/12/2017 22:56 - CRIMINAL DAMAGE - OTHER PROPERTY (NOT BUILDINGS) MILLFIELD LANE

30/12/2017 20:50 - ATTEMPT BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL - DWELLING LUTON ROAD

Please note the following - The December reporting period is for 32 days - 30th November to 31st December, inclusive. The previous November reporting period was 28 days

Average number of recorded crimes per day in November was 50

Average number of recorded crimes per day in December is 45.3 (-9.4%)

1. **RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CADDINGTON WATCH**

Speed Watch concentrating on the Dunstable Road, in light of the proposed Caddington Oaks development. Two sessions this week. Matthew has organised a meeting with the residents of Caddington Woods after a spike in burglaries. Street Watch sessions continue, as well as helping to monitor parking at the Village School.

1. **RECEIVE A HIGHWAYS REPORT**

Highways stated that because they have earmarked Dunstable Rd (heading out of village) for safety measures following accidents there that rural match funding is not required as works will all be paid fro by CBC.

Clerk reported CBC gritting route is just bus routes (excluding Mancroft Rd).

Street light is out in the Elm Avenue park (Fairgreen Rd end)

1. **RECEIVE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE – *FOR INFORMATION ONLY***

Clerk reported we have to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) due to new Government legislation which has to be someone not associated with the council. Clerk is also working on Data Protection policy– **agenda Feb 2018**

**Agreed** Clerk to ask CBC if they intend to appoint a DPO who can also cover parishes as it is yet another burden on taxpayers.

Cllr Fitzsimmons thanked Jack and Keith for delivering calendars to Collings Wood residents and Sarah Fitzsimmons for helping deliver the bulk of the calendars. Council thanked Bob Fitzsimmons for organising it all and delivering many calendars, when others could not due to health issues.

Noted that Caddington, Slip End and Markyate all now jointly own Aley Green cemetery.

CBC Local Plan out for consultation until 22/02/18

CBC Budget consultation – until 22/01/18

NALC – Buckingham Palace Garden Party invite for Chairman – Cllr Russell to attend.

Allotments committee have requested another bonfire on Saturday 24th Feb. A representative is invited to next meeting to discuss arrangements and also discuss possible schedule of bonfires for the forthcoming year.

1. **Authorise accounts for payment with two authorised bank signatories to sign cheques –** the following payments were agreed and cheques signed by two authorised signatories;

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| **Cheque** | **Payable to:** | **Payment Details** | **Grand total** |
| STO | ASK Accounting Services | Payroll service | £23.70 |
| STO | John Dudley | Allotment secretary allowance Jan18 | £45.00 |
| 105953 | Bidwells LLP | Rushmore Park Rent Diocesan | £100.00 |
| STO | A Whiting | salary | £1,219.97 |
| 105954 | A Whiting | Monthly Office allow. Mileage, phone etc | £73.45 |
| 105955 | Village Garden Services | Grounds Maintenance Dec 17 | £608.62 |
| 105956 | Village Garden Services | Warden cover, stain plant boxes, attach villager plaques | £769.20 |
| 105957 | Village Garden Services | Gritting 9 occasions | £1,163.59 |
| 105958 | HMRC | Tax/NI Dec 17 | £299.67 |
| STO | Darren Hunter | Parish Warden Salary Dec 17 | £523.03 |
| 105959 | Beds Pension fund | Pension contributions | £412.32 |
| 105960 | Treedom | Emergency work - yew tree churchyard | £175.00 |
| 105962 | M Russell | Stamps, gift (chair allowance) | £13.96 |
| 105961 | Cowboy Carpenters | Replacement noticeboard | £350.00 |
|  |  | **Page Total** | **£5,777.51** |

1. **Discuss budget and agree precept for 2018-19**

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| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Budget | Expenditure to month 10 | Predicted spend. |  | |  |  |  | Year End |  | | Staff Costs | £28,800.00 | £25,640.26 | £31,000.00 |  | | Administration | £7,700.00 | £7,621.14 | £8,000.00 |  | | Allotments | £1,250.00 | £1,211.26 | £1,300.00 |  | | Security | £4,600.00 | £3,959.50 | £4,600.00 |  | | Highways & Amenities | £30,000.00 | £17,581.45 | £24,000.00 |  | | Neighbourhood Plan | £3,000.00 | £0.00 | £- |  | | Section 137 Grants | £4,060.00 | £1,810.33 | £1,810.33 |  | | Parks | £3,650.00 | £3,251.77 | £12,000.00 | | Projects | £1,500.00 | £8,484.46 | £10,000.00 | | GRAND TOTAL | £84,560.00 | £69,560.17 | £92,710.33 |  | | *Plus 2% contingency fund* | *£1,691.20* | £- | £- |  | |  | £86,251.20 | £69,560.17 | £92,710.33 |  | | VAT | £5,000.00 | £5,000.00 | £6,000.00 |  | |  | £91,251.20 | £74,560.17 | £98,710.33 |  | | Precept 2017-18 | £95,370 |  |  |  | | Precept minus predicted end year | £2,659.67 |  |  |  | |  |  |

It was noted that we may have a small surplus at the end of this financial year. Also, there will be more houses and therefore more tax raised by the building and occupation of the dwellings in Caddington Woods. It was also noted that we have made commitments to improve various areas around the village and have several potential projects and issues that may need further funding, such as; New Xmas lights, Data Protection Officer (and other DP costs), CCTV renewal, Parks equipment, Heathfield replacement facility, Information centre, new Grounds Maintenance Contract, etc.

After considerable discussion, due to the number of possibly expensive projects we want to make happen next year, it was agreed that we raise the precept by £6.40 per year for a band D property for 2018-19. This equates to approximately a 10% rise.

**Public Participation**:

A Caddington Watch rep. offered their services to help distribute calendars next year.

Noted that if data is lost by an organisation they are liable for large fines, so important that laws are followed.

Highways – Collings Wells close is breaking up (the part which leads to Vicarage). Clerk to report to Highways.

Noted that we get aircraft noise only if wind direction is Easterly. The predominant wind direction here is Westerly.

Public present were in agreement to raise precept for essential projects.

Tree light up event needs advertising widely next year.

o/s entrance to Manor Court, Luton Rd – large pothole in road – Clerk to report to Highways

Meeting Closed at 9.00pm

Signed…………………………………………………………….Dated: ……………………………….