

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 12th MARCH 2018**

Present: Parish Councillors: M Russell (Chair), M Tomlin, M Morland, L Skelton, A Palmer, H Palmer, R Catford, J Bean, Ward Councillor K Collins, Clerk - A Whiting, 15 members of public

**Public Participation**

* 2 x 40mph signs in Chaul End Rd – visibility obscured by lamp column – Highways.
* St George’s Day group asked if it is possible to have a new public noticeboard opposite the Co-op (as well as the one earmarked for the information shelter). **Agenda for future meeting**.
* Concern re. builder’s vehicles messing up verges. This issue has been highlighted to Highways to take action. Cllr H Palmer suggested that builders should pay for such repairs where damage is caused.
* Request to put fly tipping/rubbish/littering on future agenda. **Agenda for future meeting.**
* Potholes were repaired by information shelter but need doing again- Highways.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Apologies received from Cllrs; B Fitzsimmons, P Smith, CBC Cllr R Stay

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST;** Cllr Russell - Payments 20, & Cllr Morland- Item 10 - Scouts grant application

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - It was RESOLVED** minutes of 5th February 2018 were a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. PROGRESS UPDATE FROM LAST MEETING**

In addition to the generous £4500 grant from ABCF, we had received £10k from Lottery Awards. We also have a bid in from Tesco Bags for Life fund for £4000 but it is expected to take months for that to be considered. We now have sufficient funds for the play equipment at Elm Avenue to be installed this Spring. Clerk to meet contractor, Kompan to arrange. Clerk has reclaimed VAT £5201.

Clerk to attend Data Protection training at end of March at cost of £10. Report outcomes at future meeting.

Spring clean was cancelled due to the snow but will be rescheduled end Spring/Summer. TBC.

Village Sign – **on agenda for April**.

**5. TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS**

Good news re. grants enabling purchase of new parks equipment.

Thanks to villagers Matt Flitton and Ben Brown for helping numerous drivers up the hills during the snow and ice, with their 4 x 4’s, Showing what great community spirit there is here.

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

Heathfield Friends had received an email from the new portfolio holder stating they can continue to use the centre for foreseeable future until it is closed. An agreement is to be drafted.

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

The refuse collection contract is up in Autumn 2019. There are different collection methods in old Mid Beds and South Beds areas which need unifying. Hence the consultation.

Heritage Greenway – Cllr Collins walked the site with the consultant who has drafted a report on action to take – report to future meeting.

**8. RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE CADDINGTON & SLIP END NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Examiner is coming to Caddington on Thursday. Cllr Palmer queried whether affordable homes would be prioritised for Caddington residents. Answer: yes their applications will be looked upon favourably, but they will need to be on housing waiting list and inform Housing they are interested in Caddington Woods.

**9. DISCUSS SITING OF COLLINGS-WELLS MEMORIAL STONE & CEREMONY 27TH MARCH AT 11AM**

It was agreed after some discussion that the most suitable place for the new memorial stone would be in vicinity of the Caddington sign on the Green. Clerk to explore if there are any suitable stands to put it on.

**10. DISCUSS GRANT APPLICATIONS – THE FOLLOWING GRANTS WERE AWARDED;**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Grant for purpose of:** | **Awarded** |
| Caddington Scout Group | Troop tent  |  £635.00  |
| Caddington Pre School | Replacement Storage shed |  To be agreed on receipt of further information  |
| Keech Hospice | Donation toward Palliative care | £500.00 |

Clerk to determine from Pre-School what building they currently use before grant is made. 2 further applications from Caddington Amateur Dramatic Society and Collings Wells Memorial Hall were refused.

It was agreed that from next year (and on appl. Form) all applicants would be required to attend the meeting to answer questions on their application.

**11. DISCUSS CCTV PROPOSALS/QUOTES**

2 quotes from James and Digital CCTV had been received to install recording equipment in the 4 CCTV poles we currently have – meaning that we would not need Broadband connection in future. It was agreed to trial James’ quote for £1270 on one column and then roll out to others if successful.

**12. NOTE NALC PAY AWARD FOR EMPLOYEES AND PAY RATES FOR 2018-19**

Noted Clerks pay rise and minimum wage requirements/legislation will mean Clerk hourly rate will be £16.22, and Groundsman hourly rate rise to £7.94 from April 1st 2018.

**13. DISCUSS COUNCIL TELEPHONE**

Clerk explained problems with having a shared phone line with his wife’s other councils and the internet phone being ineffective / slowing PCs down. **It was agreed** that Clerk order a mobile phone on contract and that also one is acquired for the Groundsman. It is thought that a reasonable one might be got for up to £11.99 per month including calls/texts etc. Noted this could then be passed to future employees and save costs of getting land lines. Cllr A Palmer also stated that there should be hours when it is not reasonable to contact staff and that having a mobile does not mean they should be in contact 24 hours per day and it should be turned off.

**14. DISCUSS AND AGREE ACTION IN RESPECT OF VIRGIN MEDIA – RE. WORKS ON GREEN**

Cllr Palmer explained that as a council we had been deceived and also lied to by staff of Virgin Media, and that he amount of boxes and cabling installed on the Green was far in excess of what Virgin first stated. Much of the work was done illegally, without our permission which all present agreed was unacceptable. He drafted a letter stating our case and detailing all the trenches and boxes installed and asking for suitable compensation for all works. **Agreed that Clerk send letter to Virgin Media**.

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

Caddington Oaks site was objected to due to much water standing on site and proposed drainage issues leading from any development there. Also, an application to expand Caddington Park mobile home site received. Committee had asked that any developments should also include significant improvements to the current site and for the living conditions of current residents.

Cllr Palmer wanted to ask Full Council their opinion of the Neighbourhood Plan – **agenda May meeting**

**16. POLICE** **REPORT** - **CRIME STATISTICS** - Total 22 crimes

DOMESTIC DISPUTE/INCIDENT 4

ASSAULT OCCASIONING ACTUAL BODILY HARM 4

BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL - DWELLING 4

VICTIMLESS CRIME - AWAITING UPDATE 3

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY - BUSINESS & COMMUNITY 1

THEFT OF PEDAL CYCLES 1

ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY 1

BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL 1

DISTRACTION BURGLARY RESIDENTIAL - DWELLING 1

CRIMINAL DAMAGE - OTHER PROPERTY (NOT BUILDINGS) 1

CRIMINAL DAMAGE - THREAT TO COMMIT 1

There was concern that apart from a few instances the police presence in the village has lessened. **Agreed to** **Invite PCC to Annual Meeting on 16th April.**

1. **RECEIVE REPORT FROM CADDINGTON WATCH**

Neighbourhood Watch- Noticeable spike in residential burglaries-On average, just over one per week. It appears that the elderly and vulnerable were targeted.

Street Watch continues and separate groups go out in the mornings and evenings. We will increase our attendance at the Village School as poor parking behaviour has returned. Working with our Ward Councillors to address the situation. Speed Watch - No activity in February because of adverse weather.

1. **RECEIVE A HIGHWAYS REPORT**

Tingdene’s fence in Chaul End Rd was leaning over and had been reported to Highways. There were potholes in Adstone Rd and a number of pother locations since the bad weather.

Mid April the planned Traffic calming s being undertaken in Mancroft Rd, Aley Green. Council to ask engineers if there will associated work to alleviate the drainage issues on that road.

Kerbs have been installed in Chaul end Rd where the hedge had been removed but an entrance to the field had been formed. Clerk to query with Highways/Planning why this is the case as a recently passed planning application stated the entrance to be in a different location (where there is currently an access point to the houses already there).

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

*CBC - Consultation – refuse and recycling – leaflets to be delivered. Cllr Bean chasing up CBC.*

*Invite to Parish Council to Collings-Wells memorial stone unveiling 27th March 11am (10am in Markyate)*

*BATPC – New councillor training 22nd May (Renhold, Bedford) and 19th July (Streatley)*

1. **AUTHORISE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT – AGREED** - two authorised bank signatories signed cheques

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque** | **Payable to:** | **Payment Details** |  **Grand total**  |
| STO | A Whiting | Clerk salary Mar 18 |  £1,219.97  |
| STO | John Dudley | Allotment secretary payment |  £45.00  |
| STO | ASK Accounting Services | Payroll service |  £19.75  |
| STO | Darren Hunter | Parish Warden Salary |  £523.03  |
| 105973 | PPE solutions | Hi-vis wear for Groundsman |  £5.18  |
| 105974 | Cartridge save | Ink for printer |  £20.93  |
| 105975 | A Whiting | Data Protection course fee |  £10.00  |
| 105976 | A Whiting | 5 packs print paper |  £15.00  |
| 105977 | A Whiting | Office allowance, phone, internet, & mileage |  £118.95  |
| 105978 | Beds Pension Fund | Pension Mar18 |  £412.32  |
| 105979 | HMRC | PAYE/NI Mar18 |  £299.67  |
| 105980 | Village Garden Services | Gritting  |  £517.15  |
| 105981 | Village Garden Services | Grounds Maint. Feb18 |  £608.62  |
| 105982 | Village Garden Services | Warden cover half term |  £216.00  |
|  |  | **Page Total** |  **£4,031.57**  |

**Public Participation**:

Noted that despite being reported 4 times to CBC Highways the hedges were still over the carriageway in Chaul end Rd. *Report to Highways again*.

Dunstable Rd near sharp bend the signs are obscured by hedges – *report to Highways to cut back*.

Chaul end by Caddington Woods sharp bend – chevrons still missing. *Report again to Highways.*

Noted that drainage work has been done by Highways today.

Keep left bollard – Chaul end Rd at junction Luton Rd has been knocked down – *report to Highways*

*Meeting Closed at 9.45pm*

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