

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

Present: Parish Councillors: M Russell (Chair), J Bean, R Catford, B Fitzsimmons, M Tomlin, A Palmer, H Palmer, P Smith, S Smith, Clerk - A Whiting, CBC Cllrs R Stay and K Collins, 11 members of public

**Public participation**

A resident queried if the proposed cost of £5k to move the 30mph sign at Dunstable Rd would have the desired effect. *(To be discussed - agenda item 12)*

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Apologies received and accepted from; Cllr Morland – on leave

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST;** Cllr Russell – Payments item 17

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - It was RESOLVED** minutes meeting of 8th October 2018 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**4. PROGRESS UPDATE FROM 8th OCTOBER MEETING**

**Fly Tipping/Littering** – Clerk and Mike Russell met with Police Rural Crime team to talk about use of digital evidence such as CCTV, Number plate recognition cameras and Dashcam, and placing of strategic signage, leafleting and public awareness (inc. social media) to discourage such behaviour. Since the meeting Clerk has been liaising with CBC Waste Officers re. CBC placing signs at strategic points and also in near future producing a “Tool Kit” to discourage littering/tipping, and other publicity materials and strategies – will update council at next meeting.

**Agenda “Fly Tipping/Littering Group” for next Meeting**

Police Rural Crime team to hold another surgery on a Saturday outside the shops area, Manor Rd

**Christmas Lights** – Lamps and Tubes were unable to meet our deadline for installation but local firm Electrafit were able to supply and fit the lights at £6295 for all 6 trees – installation happening this week

**Play Area update** – quotes had been received to take out old trim trail before installation of new one which council has agreed. Village Garden Services £492, Kompan £3471, Fawns £1750, Sovereign £900. **Agreed VGS quote £492**

**Parking** - Manor Rd near Delfield Close – Clerk has brought to attention CBC the issue highlighted regarding parking on the junction and reducing visibility.

**New Defibrillator** – to be located at the Club. (Agreed at previous meeting) – quote received from Community Heartbeat Trust £1895 total for defib. and cabinet. Club have raised £600 towards this. It was noted for future reference, that there are Solar powered ones, which mean they can be placed in areas not served by a direct electric supply. However, they are more expensive to purchase. It was suggested that the new Community hub at the Caddington Woods site would be another ideal location for one, which the Trustees could explore.

**5. TO RECEIVE CHAIRMAN’S ADDRESS**

I have two items I wish to address this month, in stark contrast to one another. Firstly, as you may be aware following a court hearing last month, one of our councillors appeared in court regarding a civil matter and was ordered to pay costs. This in itself is not of significance or particular interest to the council. However, it has been noted that in court papers and media reports the defendant was repeatedly referred to as a Caddington Parish Councillor. I would therefore take this opportunity to distance the council from the actions of, or any comments made by the defendant and have it on record that we are in no way involved with, or endorse, any personal comments or views expressed.

In contrast, my second item would be to congratulate everyone involved in the weekend’s Remembrance event. With an estimated 300 attendees, Caddington Watch, the uniformed attendees in the form of the Cubs, Scouts, Beavers, Guides, Rainbows, the ladies who knitted over 2500 poppies and provided decoration for the church, Rev Rob O’Neil and the choir, the team of tea and coffee pourers, and my personal favourites the two young girls whose rendition of “Pack Up Your Troubles” saw more than a few brought close to tears, all went together to make it a very special event. Amongst these and those I have forgotten to mention, a special thank you must go to Councillor Morland, who once again organised and MC’d the event flawlessly.

He has now cemented himself in the role of organiser of this event for future years whether he likes it or not. In closing, thank you to everyone involved in making it such a special day befitting of the occasion.

Cllr Morland was not able to attend tonight, but also wanted to send sincere thanks to all individuals and organisations who assisted and participated in the Remembrance Service.

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

Cllr Collins reported they are to meet the Highways Team Leader to assess what can be done to slow traffic on Dunstable Rd after 2 accidents at the sharp bend. It is hoped that a modest speed limit reduction and various measures such as road treatments, and white lines be actioned.

Cllr Fitzsimmons called for clear large signs stating “Sharp Bend” on the approach to the bend. Cllr S Smith suggested ‘rumble strips’. Cllr A Palmer drew attention to that when recent frosty night meant that gritters were used on that road, it was noticed that the bend area was still icy when all the other parts of the road were not, which is a concern. Although hedges in that area were cut to stop this it is still a problem. CBC Cllrs to highlight this to Highways.

CBC Local Plan – Examiner awaiting consultation with various groups. Hearings expected possibly late Spring.

Planning – The Gypsy and Traveller Focus Group are meeting with CBC soon. There are concerns over various traveller sites including at Eversholt Beeches, on A5 in Caddington Parish. It is a proposal to put 2 or 3 temporary traveller sites in the county to stop illegal encampments. Once the sites are established Police will be able to move illegal encamped travellers to these sites (for which they will be charged for each night’s stay) or eject from the area.

The Free Bus Service from Caddington Woods to Caddington, Slip End and Luton Parkway station has been a success and will run until Christmas, after which we will look at extending the service for the future.

Cllr Stay stated he is tabling a motion at CBC to stimulate a debate on Police resources, as the Beds Police force is far too small to effectively patrol the entire county, especially as Luton itself requires such high police resources.

There had a been a huge wood fire set by a resident of Woodside last Friday that burnt for at least 48 hours. Fire Brigade was called. Large amounts of smoke affected large areas of Aley Green, Woodside and beyond.

**7. POLICE REPORT – Crime figures for October 2018**

Interference with a motor vehicle 4

Theft from a motor vehicle 3

Burglary - Residential - Dwelling 3

Assault occasioning actual bodily harm (ABH) 2

Possessing shotgun or imitation firearm with intent to cause fear of violence (Indictable) 1

Assault without Injury - Common assault and battery 1

Sexual 1

Burglary - Residential - Non-Dwelling 1

Other criminal damage, other (Under £5,000) 1

Dangerous Driving 1

Sec 4 POA Fear or provocation of violence 1

Theft if not classified elsewhere 1

Burglary - Business And Community 1

Attempted Burglary - Residential - Dwelling 1

Other criminal damage to a building other than a dwelling > £5,000 1

Harassment - without violence (course of conduct) 1

**Grand Total 24**

John Waller, who collates Police statistics, reported that vehicle crime is down and that the burglar who is thought to be responsible for several burglaries has been caught. Cllr Russell supplied Police with our CCTV footage of the 2 men and car suspected in being involved in the vehicle crimes recently. Cllr Palmer expressed concern that we do not get to know how many crimes are solved. Sadly, collating this information would take valuable police time.

*Cllrs Stay and Collins left the meeting.*

**8. RECEIVE REPORT FROM CADDINGTON WATCH**

Caddington Watch supported the Caddington Village School Fireworks Display, and helped with traffic on Remembrance Day. Will support Santa's Sleigh on 17 and 18th December.

Awaiting endorsement from Police Traffic Management for low-cost hand held speed indicator devices.

Looking to grow the Street Watch team.

**9. FOLLY LANE LIGHT UPDATE**

Cllr Bean reported that negotiations have come to a halt as resident whose property the electric cable would have crossed has refused to allow it. Respectfully he thanked everyone who had fought hard for this, and for the support of the parish council but proposed we draw a line under the issue and do not pursue it further. Agreed

**Agenda for next meeting, how to reallocate £2000 earmarked for this project.**

**10. CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON EVENT 2ND DECEMBER**

Rita Tims had offered to do refreshments again for the event. Clerk to organise signs and publicity. Ask Town and Country for signs. Villager of the Year usually switches on the lights – invite to Wendy Soper. Clerk to ask Electrafit when the lights are all installed if Cllrs can attend a pre-switch on test.

**11. HIGHWAYS REPORT**

Cllr Tomlin reported there had been 2 accidents at the sharp bend on Dunstable Rd. He had asked continually for the speed limit to be reduced there but Highways had refused as they “saw no evidence of speeding there” and despite evidence of actual accidents occurring. A formal complaint was made to Highways.

Potholes had been repaired in Chaul End Rd.
A Farm Trailer hit bus stop o/s Cricketers.

Bollards are being repaired in Fairgreen after damage when the resurfacing took place there.

Cllr Morland had requested bollards on a junction at Five Oaks to prevent parking there but Highways have reported they have run out of monies for this year, so it will not be done in current financial year.

**12. DISCUSS POTENTIAL HIGHWAYS PROJECTS FOR MATCH FUNDING**

Cllr Tomlin suggested we concentrate on the speeding issue and moving the 30mph limit on Dunstable Rd to make it happen. He suggested also that speeding near Manor Court (at the junction of Hyde Rd, Luton Rd by the mini roundabout) could benefit from a raised table there.

Cllr P Smith stated that we are still waiting for the disabled bays at the shops which Highways promised years ago.

**It was agreed we concentrate on the two issues;**

1. **a raised table Hyde Rd and Luton Rd, and**
2. **moving 30mph limit on Dunstable Rd around the sharp bend.**

**13. PLANNING REPORT**

Cllr Palmer spoke of recent applications dealt with by Committee. Minutes placed on website when approved.

He stated that he had been receiving a number of calls from public about a proposed Care Village. No plans were in for this development yet and so we have no information.

**14. AGREE POLICY FOR MEETING WITH DEVELOPERS**

Following a request to meet with the representatives of a developer the council felt it required a formal written policy so that all parties were fully informed. The Chair had acquired a similar policy from another parish, which had been modified for councils use and already been before Planning Committee who approved it.

**Policy was agreed to come into immediate effect and will be posted on the parish website once ratified by BATPC legal advisor.**

**15. AGREE MEMBERSHIP OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE & NOTE PROCESS TO RECRUIT CLERK**

It was agreed that Cllrs M Russell, M Tomlin, S Smith and H Palmer form the new personnel committee.

Following the Clerks resignation the post is being advertised through BATPC and on our website and noticeboard. Applications required by 7th December

**16. RECEIVE GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

i) CBC Highways – *road closure for surface dressing – Luton Rd, from Green to edge of village 27th to 28th Nov. 0900 hours to 1530hours. Noted.*

*ii) Caddington Watch - Request to remove tree, which is visibility hazard, at corner of Mancroft Rd and Dunstable Rd.*

***It was agreed*** *to write to the owner via Town and Country lettings, to remove the offending tree.*

**17.TO AUTHORISE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT AND INSTRUCT TWO AUTHORISED BANK SIGNATORIES TO SIGN CHEQUES –** the following accounts approved and cheques were duly signed

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque** | **Payable to:** | **Payment Details** | **Total** |
| SO | ASK Accounting Services | Payroll service |  £25.56  |
| STO | John Dudley | Allotment secretary payment Nov18 |  £45.00  |
| STO | A Whiting | Clerk salary Oct 2018 |  £1,267.78  |
| STO | Darren Hunter | Parish Warden Salary Nov 18 |  £549.12  |
| 106051 | HMRC | Tax/NI Nov 18 |  £315.71  |
| 106052 | Beds Pension Fund | Pension Nov 18 |  £444.98  |
| 106053 | Village Garden Services | Grounds Maint Oct 18, warden cover, fill potholes on track on Green |  £944.04  |
| 106054 | Currys/PC world | Printer, ink, paper - Planning committee | £196.68  |
| 106055 | A Whiting | Off. allow, mileage. Internet |  £119.00  |
| 106056 | Amazon | Replacement work gloves - Groundsman |  £10.49  |
| dd | O2 | PC phone |  £26.40  |
| 106057 | Sports Direct | Replacement protective workshoes, Groundsman |  £27.99  |
| 106058 | Affordable Companies | Remembrance wreath centre prints |  £45.00  |
| 106059 | EDF Energy Customers | Rushmore electric Apr-July |  £174.11  |
| 106060 | Royal British Legion | Wreaths |  £93.00  |
| dd | Affinty Water | Water - Alottments Oct 18 - March 19 |  £377.02  |
| 106061 | ASDA  | Printer ink and envelopes | £48.50 |
| dd | Information Commisioner | Data Protection fee |  £40.00  |
|  |  | **Total** |  **£4752.38**  |

***Public participation***

1. Consultation re. rumble strips in Chaul End Rd near Caddington Woods – the Planning Committee had discussed this and thought that more effective measures such as increasing visibility and a raised table would be better at slowing traffic there. Cllr Russell to reiterate the works to the banks either side of the junction to the Trustees.
2. Will the policy re. Developers be made public.

A: Yes – will be on website and minutes of any meetings will be in public domain.

1. Concern that the Neighbourhood Plan took 7+ years to do and that there are 3 major issues within it (new Medical Centre, replacement for Heathfield Centre and Heritage Greenway) that need to be monitored – can this be kept on the PC agenda so that these issues are not ‘lost’ and that we receive feedback on what is being proposed? **Agreed to keep “Progress on Neighbourhood Plan” on agenda**.
2. There is a meeting on 18th December at CBC to discuss the brick shelter. It was noted that at the previous hearing the petitioner from the Lodge was not in attendance and the petition was presented by one of our ward councillors. Resident urged public and councillors to attend the next meeting so that their voices are heard. **Cllrs; A Palmer, H Palmer, and M Tomlin will attend.**

*Meeting Closed at 9.30pm*

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