Present: Parish Councillors M Russell (Chair), M Tomlin, A Goodyear, V Malone, S Smith, R Catford, M Mackey,

A Palmer, H Palmer, B Fitzsimmons, Clerk M Whiting, CBC Ward Cllr K Collins, 35 members of public

**Public participation:**

Goode family present to discuss memorial tree. *Agreed to bring agenda item 14 forward for discussion*.

What is happening with Alley Green issues? *Will be discussed under Highways agenda item.*

Christmas tree on village green isn’t growing. *Cllr Russell to check*

Concerns regarding Mancroft Road disabled parking bay application. *Will be discussed under Highways agenda item.*

Thank you for assistance with installing a dog bin so quickly in Mancroft Road, Alley Green.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received and accepted from Ward Cllr E Perry (holiday)

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Russell declared an interest in payments for authorisation

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**It was RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2022 were a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**14. VILLAGE GREEN TREE**

Gill Goode family members present to request planting a Rowan tree on the village green in her memory with a plaque.

A diseased rowan tree had been removed from section of the green near the Chequers this year and a replacement is required. Majestic Trees supplied a quote for a replacement Rowan tree £408.60 + VAT.

**It was AGREED** to permit family to order and purchase replacement Rowan tree directly with Majestic Trees. Ideally to be located on section of green near Tower House/Meadow Way with plaque on nearby bench. Cllr Russell will meet family to agree exact location.

**4. PROGRESS UPDATE FROM LAST MEETING**

In total, 35 volunteers had offered to assist with the ‘All Things Caddington’ magazine. Editor is currently unable to set up village magazine due to ill health and has emailed all volunteers to advise them. No offers at present to assist with setting up as most wishing to help with delivery. Suggestion made to leaflet village as this would reach those not on social media who may have skill set required to set up magazine. **AGREED** in New Year resident Jane Payton to design leaflet, Parish Council to fund printing, Scouts to deliver.

**5. CADDINGTON WATCH & POLICE**

Clerk circulated Police crime data spreadsheets link to Cllrs. 14 offences reported in October, 24 since the October meeting. Cllr Fitzsimmons read out full crime statistic report from CaddWatch which had been forwarded to all Councillors. StreetWatch & DogWatch continue to patrol at least twice a week. Councillors thanked them for their work.

**6. CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

Ward Cllr Collins reported the following:

Next Beds Police Community Priority setting event for Dunstable & villages is this Thursday.

Beechwoood SAC issue remains unresolved and CBC cannot issue permission for developments. This is particularly frustrating for Abbey Mill development at rear of scout hut.

Officers are chasing Planning Inspectorate for outcome on Brick Kiln. Aware there has been activity at the site recently and any criminal offences must be reported to the police.

Highways department is chaotic at present with staff changes. Visited worse affected flooding sites with Highways custodian Rick Thompson recently, which included Chaul End/Caddington Woods & Luton Road under M1 bridge. Drains have been flushed through but ditches not handling properly. Highways England responsible for drainage issues from M1.

*Can CBC help with financially with setting up a warm space in Caddington?* CBC are using their own resources throughout Central Beds to provide these rather than giving funding, but if it meets terms required for Ward Cllr grant funding, then Ward Cllr Collins will support. Also recommend contacting Angus Brewer for funding. Resident also advised they have contacted Manor Court Manager to see if they can make their lounge available for public use.

**7. CENTREBUS 231 SERVICE**

Ward Cllr Collins advised the 231 service is operated by Centrebus on a commercial basis. The current level of subsidy provided by Central Bedfordshire Council on this route is a significant sum but by no means the full cost of providing the service.  The decision to reduce does therefore lie in the first instance with Centrebus, although they do inform CBC of their decisions. Due to cost pressures facing bus operators with fuel costs rising for the vehicles and utility costs sharply rising at the depot combined with wage expectations against the current rate of inflation, Centrebus made an indicative request for the current subsidy to be doubled just to preserve the service in its current form. The 231 service is not an isolated case with cuts and complete service withdrawals across all areas of Central Bedfordshire.

Completely acknowledge the importance of public transport in all communities but especially in villages that rely on that connection to the wider world and keen to preserve whatever we can for Caddington & Slip End.

Raised issue with the Executive Member for Community Services and had numerous conversations with the Public Transport Manager at CBC.  The reality is that bus services are becoming increasingly expensive to run and the Council has a finite budget (from a combination of its own funds and ring-fenced government grants) to subsidise non-profitable routes.  However, will continue to argue the case that the 231 service deserves to be at the top of the list when allocating Council funds and also that we need to preserve or even enhance the existing budget.

230 service is CASE community trust funded with revisions being made in New Year. Possible solutions are being discussed including running the 230 on a loop, joining 230 & 231 services, and increasing 232 services to run 3-5pm.

Regular bus using residents have heard that Red Eagle may be interested in providing a weekend service and also possibility of Centrebus 230 integrating with 231 services. Centrebus service has been poor recently with 6 passengers abandoned in Luton and old timetable still being displayed in Park Square, Luton which is causing confusion. Clerk to contact Luton Borough Council to advise and request updated.

Petition has now been signed by over a thousand people and resident will present to CBC. Parish Councillors feel residents in attendance are more knowledgeable about bus services in Caddington than they are. Residents are encouraged to register to speak under Public participation at the CBC meeting on 24th November in order to support petition.

**8. HEATHFIELD DEVELOPMENT**

New Vista Homes are holding an engagement session at 3pm on Wednesday 14th December with Ward and Parish Councillors and Heathfield Community Group.

Cllr Catford advised Heathfield trustees had met recently and agreed not to charge the Parish Council for use of Heathfield facilities. Councillors thanked the trustees.

**9. HIGHWAYS**

Cllr M Tomlin met with CBC Highways officer Emma Kines on 21st October and read out the following report:

**Alley Green** Complaints made at last meeting that streetlights are out, overgrown hedges & speed bumps need remarking. Surveyed all streetlights & found 6 not working. All reported on Fix My Street. Speed bumps have painted makings on them and are not in need of refreshing at the moment. Although some of the grass verges and bushes were of some size, none found to be obstructing pavements or road. There were some weeds on a section of pavement which was highlighted and will be removed on the next scheduled maintenance window.

*Residents in attendance advised further issues with overgrown hedges, Will forward exact locations with photos.*

**Ancient Waterway Defibrillator Mancroft Road (opposite Crosslands)** CBC are due to clear out 10ft of drainage channel at the bottom of the waterway that directs rain water down Mancroft Road ditch. To do this the defibrillator may need to be temporarily removed. Asked if Caddington Parish Council could be informed when this is done as we need to make emergency services aware this won’t be operational during the maintenance.

**Parking Laybys in Hyde Road** The new second layby has been installed in Hyde Road for vehicles to park in keeping the carriageway clear for emergency vehicles and smooth traffic flow. It was noticed that some of the parked vehicles were parked quite far across the bay not leaving any room for pedestrians (especially with push chairs or mobility vehicles to pass) Requested highways to raise order to white line parking bay and pavement on both laybys.

**Loose Kerb Stone outside Shops Manor Road** A large granite corner stone has become dislodged on the traffic island outside the shops. Reported on Fix My Street. Highways raised this as a priority fix as it is classed as dangerous.

**Rusted through Give Way sign Jct. Hyde Road and Luton Road** Sign rusted through and reported on 26th Sept 2021 (361889). Post cut off and taped up. Raised again on FMS as an update as it still has not been made good. Highways have raised this and it will be replaced soon. Also requested to ask if a power box could be installed at the same location to provide a main power socked for events on the green. Not a Highways issue but request forwarded to correct department.

**Manor Road Traffic Bollard Missing (by Sports Club)** This was reported in October 2021 and cones were put around the bollard hole while a replacement was ordered. Reported again on FMS 6th Oct 2022 asking for an update. Highways have confirmed a bollard has been ordered and will be fitted shortly.

**Dunstable Road Rumble Strips** These are on the 90 degree bend by Millfield Lane and seem to be delaminating from the road surface. Aware work is due to be done to this corner as a speed change is imminent. Asked if Highways could coordinate with Cllr Collins to make sure these are refreshed when the work is done to the road.

**Dunstable Road speed bump pothole** I reported this on FMS (377124) and highways will be filling this in shortly.

**Sink hole Hawthorn Crescent** Large hole reported by a drain gulley outside No.37. Highways have investigated and found an underground pipe has broken. Advised this has been repaired today.

**Collingswells footpaths** Myself and Highways did a site survey of the footpaths that go through Collingswells and they were found to be quite a poor condition uneven and the surface is breaking up. 4 large patches were marked up for repair and Highways are going to get back to me about the possibility of a future resurface.

**Caddington Sports and Social Club Car Park** Work started a few weeks ago on the refurbishment of the Sports and Social Club main car park and overflow car park giving just over 70 parking spaces. These works have been completed and spaces lined out. End result looks really good.

**Mancroft Road Disabled Parking Bay request.** This application will be decided by CBC Traffic Management meeting on 29th November. Concerns raised by residents with location. Demand for parking in this area is high and limited and this request would remove a space available for all.

**10. VILLAGE GREEN FOOTPATH**

The footpath across the Village Green has become cracked and uneven with 2 very bad sections that are a possible trip hazard. Cracks have been marked up by Chairman Mark Russell to make more visible and alert users. Cllr Tomlin checked with CBC Highways officer on 21st October and agreed path is in need of quite a lot of attention. Photos taken of the footpath in July this year show damage has escalated over recent months, possibly due to record high temperatures this summer and impact this has had on trees and roots.

CBC highways records show path is owned by Parish Council so we are responsible for its repair or replacement. Highways originally offered to repair 2 large sections of the path which are worst tripping hazards, however order for works was withdrawn due to footpath not being CBC responsibility . Highways provided a specification for the full 100m length of path to be relayed, including timber edging (not concrete due to movement from tree roots). Clerk & Cllr Tomlin contacted 5 contractors in total requesting quotes based on highways specification. Below 3 received (all of which are CBC highways approved contractors):

Green Valley Construction £8987.50 + VAT

Ringways Jacobs £9309.59 + VAT

Herts Groundworks £9868.75 + VAT

**It was AGREED** works need to be completed by Saturday 26th November Christmas light switch on event. Order to be placed with whichever contractor can guarantee works to be completed by then.

**11. CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON 26TH NOVEMBER**

Working group met on 10th November to discuss arrangements. Risk assessment has been completed and Public Liability documents received. Event will start. 4:30pm with light switch on at 5:30pm. Request help from all Councillors with 2:30pm set up and take down.

**It was AGREED** Cllr Tomlin to order additional lights for marquee costing £59.98

**12. CADDINGTON PANTRY**

Caddington Pantry is an initiative set up by a resident following a request on the village Facebook page asking where the nearest foodbank was to Caddington. Residents who are able to are encouraged to assist those struggling by donating food to drop off locations at Caddington Pre-School and Cutting Crew hairdressers. Heathfield are also in discussions on how to help. Food is stored at Caddington Pre-School and available from there for those that need it. A trolley in order to stack and wheel out food on (costing £156) and a lock up storage unit (£125) to store trolley in would be very beneficial.

**It was AGREED** to purchase both items at a total cost of £281 to assist this worthy cause and help residents in need.

**13. REMEMBRANCE DAY**

Remembrance Service went well and was well attended. There was an issue with the PA system which needs investigating. Comment also made that Sunday event was poorly advertised and asked who is responsible for organising event on 11th at 11am? Chairman will discuss with Rev’d O’Neil.

**15. ALLOTMENT DITCH**

George Sayers has completed all works to drainage survey specifications and invoice of £700 + VAT for approval.

**16. POND**

George Sayers has completed all works and invoice of £3250 + VAT for approval.

Cherryfield ecology report advised the pond currently lacks any macrophyte vegetation and this will be down to the heavy shading from the surrounding trees. Removing, pollarding or coppicing these trees will allow light to reach the water surface and allow vegetation to establish itself within the pond.

**It was AGREED** to draw up a landscape and planting scheme and to obtain quotes for tree works and additional ROSPA maintenance required. Suggested also asking for volunteer to assist with planting and a tidy up of area.

**17. BUS SHELTERS**

Dave Streeton, CBC Senior Public Transport Officer noticed whilst updating Caddington shelters recently that the timetables are a distance from the shelters. Requested permission from the Parish Council to allow CBCto fit a timetable case in both the wooden and brick bus shelters and maybe attach a flag to the roof too.

**It was AGREED** to grant permission for above improvements.

**18. RUSHMORE LEASE**

**It was AGREED** not to renew lease and solicitor to request extension under our current terms of lease to allow for removal of equipment. Clerk to seek quotes for 1. Removal & relocation of the MUGA to Caddington Village School & 2. Remove & dispose/relocate to Edgecote all other equipment. Also to contact CCTV contractor James Macpherson for quote to relocate equipment to Edgecote Park.

**19. CADDINGTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

Association thank the Parish Council for their support and assistance with the new car park surfacing.

CBC have granted permission for high fencing and association are now applying to CBC for S106 funding. In order to process order, contractor requires 75% payment (£45,000) in advance. Exploring provision with CBC for staging payments, but if this is requested, would Parish Council be able to assist with a bridging loan?

**It was AGREED** to assist the club if possible. Clerk to gain advice from auditor on feasibility and process.

**20. ALLOTMENTS**

Cllr Alan Goodyear attended recent Leisure Gardens management committee as Parish Councillor representative.

Committee have agreed to increase rent to £25/full plot in order to generate approximately £350-£400 additional funds for maintenance under committee expenditure.

**21. WINTER PLANTING**

**It was** **AGREED** to order winter planting for all 20 village centre planters due to compliments from summer planting.

**22. 2023/24 BUDGET REQUIREMENTS**

2022/23 it was agreed to increase Band D charge by 2% (from £80.19 to £81.80, increase £1.61pa) increasing precept to £147,894. Caddington tax base has increased from 1808 to 1859, therefore not increasing the current Band D charge of £81.80 will still mean an increase in precept from £147,894 to £152,066 (additional £4,172)

Increasing Band D charge by 2% from £81.80 to £83.44, increase £1.64pa, increasing precept to £155,115 (£7,221)

Councillors recognise the cost of living crisis, however demands on parish council funding and request for assistance have also risen.

**It was AGREED** to calculate 2023/24 budget based on increasing Band D and to formally discuss and agree at December meeting.

**23. PLANNING**

[CB/22/04045/FULL](http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=631249) 33 Crosslands, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4EP
Extensions and alterations to the front porch

No objection

[CB/22/04207/FULL](http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=631411) 147 Manor Road, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4HJ

Residential development to provide 1no. adjoining property with rear extension to existing dwelling

No objection

[CB/22/03954/TD](http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=631158) Grass verge, Hyde Road, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4HA
Prior Notification of Telecommunications Development. The installation of a 17metre high slim-line monopole, supporting 6 no. antennas with 1 no. wraparound equipment cabinet at the base, 2 no. equipment cabinets, 1 no. electric meter cabinet, and ancillary development thereto, including the installation of a GPS module.

**Strong objection**.  The proposed 17mtre high pole  is on the corner of Meadow Way Caddington and would be in Coddington’s conservation area abutting the village green. It will be an outstanding eyesore and cause a visual obstruction to road users. It will also damage tree roots and maybe trees and should not be permitted. Maybe a more suitable site could be on Heathfield old school ground.

[CB/22/03949/RM](http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=631153) Land at Mancroft Road, Caddington, Bedfordshire, LU1 4EL
Reserved Matters: following Outline Application CB/19/00469/OUT (Erection of 19 dwellings). Reserved matters for 18 dwellings including siting, layout, appearance, landscaping and scale.

**Object**. In the past months in the media, a great deal has been made about housing development planning applications being put on hold because of organic phosphate discharge from sewerage treatment plants such as Thames waters treatment plant at East Hyde which discharges into the river Lea. What are their discharge phosphate levels and do they meet clean water targets? The UN secretary general at the recent COP 27 meeting stated it is now or never to do something about climate change or it is too late. Please put this development on hold to make sure that its phosphate levels are not destroying the river Lea.

We objected very strongly in the outline planning stage and still feel that a number of our objections are still relevant today such as:

Foul water discharge. Although Thames water and the developer have gone to great lengths to put in new sewerage system from the site of 19 new dwellings and including the 200 new care village units to the rear of the site in Millfield Lane are all linked to the same system. This joins the original sewerage system in Mancroft rd. at Heron Farm ,is the new system a containment system which will discharge at non-peak times? There are already more than one slow release sewerage systems linked to the mains in the centre of Mancroft Rd. so if this is the same and they all release at the same time there could be overflow for the people in Aley Green where there are already sewage problems. This is another reason to put the development on hold.

Surface water drainage discharging into the ditch system along Mancroft Rd.

4.2 and 4.3 of the drainage document states that this is where the surface water runoff is going to be piped to. The ditch system is at capacity now and has been for some time. We reached the once in a hundred year scenario five years ago when Dunstable Rd, Mancroft and Aley Green flooded and properties were flooded with surface water and sewerage because the system couldn't cope. Our ward officer is aware of this. There will be 46 new houses on land off Dunstable Rd. "My Folly" where thousands of cubic metres of surface rain water now drains away will be channelled to the Mancroft Rd. ditch system so how will your surface water be released into a full system? We have had the two driest years that Caddington has ever known so the flood experts have not seen it at its normal or definitely not seen Mancroft or Aley Green in a raging flood. Another reason to hold this application because if the ditches and the flood  alleviation scheme are full where is their water going to go? We also agree with Natural England’s objection.

[CB/22/04143/DOC](http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=631347) Hilltop, Pipers Lane, Aley Green, Luton, LU1 4DS

Discharge of Conditions 3,4,6,14,18,19,22 against planning ref: CB/20/04566/Full Removal of redundant commercial buildings and erection of two x 3 bed detached chalet bungalows - Covering Letter, Condition 3 Method Statement with Appendix, Conditions 4 and 6 Landscape Planting Scheme with Appendix, conds 14 19 and 22 Statement with Appendix

**Object** to lifting of conditions. Why were all these conditions imposed in the first place? If the conditions are for certain things to be achieved, such as landscaping, drainage to do with the two dwellings already erected then we can understand lifting some of them, but if they are there to protect then no. It also says, once again, two more dwellings. Are these the two already erected or two new dwellings? If they are new dwellings then we strongly object because these will be built in the green belt and that will be a breach of green belt policy where there are no extenuating circumstances for two new dwellings. This will also be a breach of Caddington and Slip End neighbourhood plan and its green belt policy to protect against unwanted development, which this would be.

**24. CORRESPONDENCE**

NHS BLMK digital strategy survey – 20/10 fwd Cllrs & added to news section on website

CBC Town & Parish Councils virtual session on tree planting 24/10 – 11/10 fwd Cllrs

CBC draft parking standards for new development consultation – 7/11 fwd Cllrs & added to news section on website

Local Government Association 2022/23 pay awards – 3/11 fwd to Cllrs & Payroll.

CBC Streetworks Proposed Temporary Dunstable Road Closure 5th to 9th January – 9/11 fwd Cllrs

Jospeh Baun, Inspired Villages, Millfield Green development update – 14/11 fwd Cllrs

**25. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS**

**It was RESOLVED** by full councilto authorise the following accounts for online payment.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payment** | **Payable to:** | **Payment Details** |  **Total**  |
| 01/11/2022 | SO | Village Garden Services | Ground maintenance  |  £ 801.74  |
| 01/11/2022 | DD | EDF Energy | Rushmore Park Electricity  |  £ 13.00  |
| 01/11/2022 | DD | Castle Water | Allotment  |  £ 60.63  |
| 01/11/2022 | SO | John Dudley | Allotment management  |  £ 45.00  |
| 02/11/2022 | DD | ICO | Data Protection Registration |  £ 40.00  |
| 11/10/2022 | Transfer | RBLI | Pair of Unknown women in war statues |  £ 350.00  |
| 11/10/2022 | Transfer | Royal British Legion | 3 Poppy wreaths and 30 crosses (Remembrance) |  £ 216.75  |
| 14/11/2022 | Transfer | A Shaw Computer Services | Windows 365 & Virus checker monthly sub |  £ 22.14  |
| 14/11/2022 | Transfer | Village Garden Services | Parish Warden Cover October |  £ 1,152.00  |
| 14/11/2022 | Transfer | Mini One Plant Hire | Dredging of Little Green Lane Pond |  £ 3,900.00  |
| 14/11/2022 | Transfer | Mini One Plant Hire | Maintenance and improvements allotment ditch |  £ 840.00  |
| 14/11/2022 | Transfer | Electrafit | New village green sign additional lighting |  £ 537.50  |
| 14/11/2022 | Transfer | James Macpherson | CCTV parts & repairs Hyde Road camera |  £ 260.00  |
| 14/11/2022 | Transfer | Mark Russell | Reimburse postage for remembrance day wreaths |  £ 52.39  |
| 14/11/2022 | Transfer | M Tomlin | Chair Allowance: Reimburse Highways mtg expenses |  £ 70.60  |
| 14/11/2022 | Transfer | C J Slade | Trench digging for additional Christmas lights |  £ 1,500.00  |
| 14/11/2022 | Transfer | Matthew Tomlin | Reimburse Lights for marquee xmas switch on event |  £ 59.98  |
| 27/11/2022 | SO | James Macpherson | CCTV service contract |  £ 200.00  |
| 27/11/2022 | DD | O2 | Clerk & Warden phones |  £ 61.24  |
|   |  |  | **Total** |  **£16,037.70**  |

**Public participation:**

Increasing precept request is justified, especially in order to help with Heathfield development

Island on pond is a mess. *Assured this will be looked at as part of Pond maintenance.*

Parish Councillors need to put in more input on bus services.

Request additional street lighting at far end of Folly Lane. *Advised this is Tingdene responsibility.*

*Meeting Closed at 9:50pm*