Present: Parish Councillors M Tomlin (Chair), A Goodyear, S Smith, R Catford, M Mackey, B Fitzsimmons, Clerk M Whiting, CBC Ward Cllrs K Collins & E Perry, 14 members of public

**Public participation:**

CBC have replaced some road signs.

Some tree lights on the green aren’t working. Cllr Tomlin to investigate.

Light column no. 20 on Dunstable Road opposite Mossman Drive has been for several months, despite being reported numerous occasions. Cllr Tomlin to investigate with CBC.

Light on alley between Hawthorn Crescent and Mancroft Road not working. To be reported on Fix My Street.

Christmas light switch on was terrific. Thanks for organising an outstanding event for the village.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received and accepted from Parish Councillors M Russell (work commitments), V Malone (unwell), A Palmer (transport problems), H Palmer (unwell)

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**It was RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2022 were a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. PROGRESS UPDATE FROM LAST MEETING**

Replacement Village Green Footpath installed in time for Christmas light switch on. Feedback received has been very positive.

Caddington Pantry/Pre School have purchased foodbank storage items as agreed last month.

Bus shelter timetable cases will be installed by CBC contractors in January.

Winter planting has been installed.

**5. CADDINGTON WATCH & POLICE**

Clerk circulated Police crime data spreadsheets link to Cllrs. 17 offences reported in November, 9 since the last meeting.

Cllr Fitzsimmons read out full crime statistic report from CaddWatch which had been forwarded to all Councillors. Street Watch are patrolling twice a week. Speed Watch not operating when dark.

**6. CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

Ward Cllr Collins reported the following:

Understands that telephone mast application on the green has been refused, but will check.

Disabled parking bay in Mancroft Road has been approved but can be removed if found not in use.

Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) has still not been resolved but CBC are nearing resolution. Potentially impact on higher developer financial contributions, including Abbey Mill development on Dunstable Road.

Still no date from Planning Inspector on Brick Kiln. MP Hopkins chasing with Secretary of State as been over a year.

Congratulations to all that set up Caddington Warm Spaces at the Club. Will assist financially with a Ward Cllr grant.

Ward Cllr Perry advised that no one attended his surgery at Heathfield this month, despite it being advertised and a sandwich board with details left outside the Co-op during the session. Will also advertise on village Facebook page.

**7. CENTREBUS 231 SERVICE**

Ward Cllr Collins thanked resident Mike Russell for attending and speaking on behalf of residents at CBC meeting on 24th November regarding the 231 service. Chairman didn’t allow Cllr Collins to speak, however points had been well made.

Mike commented that he’d come away disheartened from meeting and felt decision had already been made with the 231 service, despite gathering 1120 signatures on petition.

Cllr Collins advised it was Centrebus that made the decision to withdraw the service due to low user numbers. They had requested an additional £80,000 from CBC which isn’t available.

232 service will continue as is. This is provided by Dial a Ride on a full subsidy from CBC funding. Service will be reviewed last spring/early summer 2023.

230 new timetable had been put out to tender by CASE. Centrebus were the only company to quote and service will start in January. CASE will fund Monday to Friday service with CBC funding a Saturday service. Will run on an hourly loop and has been budgeted by CASE for a year, depending on usage.

Understood Red Eagle service 34 Dunstable/St Albans via Kensworth is commercially run.

**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.

**9. VILLAGE MAGAZINE**

Heathfield Friends have offered to edit and produce new village magazine. Request Parish Council funding towards printing costs and Scouts will arrange delivery. First print run expected to be approx. £395

**AGREED** to fund first edition printing costs of up to £500 and agree in principal to grant up to £5000 for first year publication of 10 issues.

**10. CADDINGTON RECREATION ASSOCIATION**

Cllr Tomlin advised Caddington Sports & Social Club started ‘Warm Space’ last Friday. This has been advertised throughout the village and will be open on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays from 11am to 3pm with free tea, coffee & soup available. Refreshments sponsored by the Co-op and transport to/from available through Caddington Care.

**AGREED** to grant £100 to club to assist with additional heating and staff costs.

Club are gathering revised quotes due to increase in steel prices. CBC are able to provide S106 stage payments for fencing. Car park works are now completely finished.

**11. CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON**

Event went well and positive feedback has been received. Light switch on was brought forward to 5pm due to heavy rain forecast from 5:30pm. Thanks to main organiser Cllr Malone and all Councillors that were able to assist with set up.

Thanks to Scouts for holding a stall and raising £371, donated directly to Keech Hospice & resident on Green for providing electricity. **AGREED** to grant up to £100 to Scouts in order to purchase a Pop Up gazebo for future stalls.

Special thanks to local business Glen Eden for sponsorship.

**12. VILLAGE GREEN TREE**

Previous suggested location of green near Tower House/Meadow Way has a large mature tree and therefore unsuitable.

Gill Goode family agree to replace removed rowan tree from section of the green near the Chequers

**AGREED** to permit Goode family to order and purchase replacement Rowan tree directly with Majestic Trees for planting on green near the Chequers, replacing previously removed Rowan. Also agreed to permit family to install a plaque on a plastic stake in the ground: Measures 17cm. The plate is made from outdoor gold metal and measures 150mm x 75mm *“This Rowan tree was planted in loving memory of Gillian Amy Goode (Mrs Mudford)The kindest Mum, Nanna, wife, sister, Aunty & Teacher. Always in our hearts”*

Parish Council take no responsibility for the plaque and request family to adhere to advice and instructions from Majestic.

**13. RUSHMORE LEASE**

Solicitor gained lease extension to 24th December to allow for removal of equipment.

Caddington Village School are unable to fund erection or play surfacing for the MUGA and have therefore declined offer.

Three quotes were sought from Caddington contractors for the removal of Rushmore Park Equipment.

Works required include removal and disposal of MUGA & surfacing, swings and concrete pads. Wooden equipment and CCTV pole to be reinstated at Edgecote Park. Topsoil over all surfaces removed.

Mini One Plant Hire £9740 + VAT (potential £1000 to be refunded to PC in MUGA scrap value)

Ben Foster Construction £23500 + VAT (turfing additional £4600)

S&S Building £28,760 + VAT (incl new grass)

CCTV contractor James Macpherson quoted £500 to reconnect CCTV equipment at Edgecote Park. New power supply will be required. Clerk in contact with CBC street lighting for assistance and costs.

**AGREED** to request Mini One Plant Hire to remove all equipment as per specification by 24th December.

**14. 2023/24 BUDGET & PRECEPT**

Detailed Budgets, Bank Reconciliation & Precept information had been sent to Councillors prior to the meeting. Paper copies were distributed and discussed by Councillors present.

Councillors recognise the cost of living crisis, however demands on parish council funding with costs and requests for financial assistance have also risen. Current inflation level is running at 11% and likely to increase. In real terms, any precept increase below 11% is a reduction, however additional house building has off set this. Cuts in budgets result in a reduction of services and amenities to residents. In addition, the parish council are building funds to assist with potential Heathfield Centre development costs. 2022/23 Band D precept was £81.80 & for comparison, parishes of a similar band D property size are Toddington £93.45 & Barton £99.55. An £8 increase (from £81.80 to £89.80, 9.8%) per Band D household per annum would equate to additional payment of 67p a month.

**AGREED** 2023/24 budget of £175,033.14 with £120,000 earmarked funds.

**AGREED** to increase 2023/24 Band D to £88.80, precept request £166,938.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2022/23 |  30.11.22  | Year End | 2023/24 |
| Budget |  Actual Spend  | Predict | Budget |
| £135,495.00  |  £ 81,894.49  |  £144,751.89  |  £175,033.14  |
| Audited Bank Balance at 31.03.22 |  £ 271,438.36  |  Predicted Balance 31.03.23  |  £282,230.47  |
| Plus Precept 2022.23 |  £ 147,894.00  |  Plus Precept 2023.24  |  £166,938.00  |
| Plus approx. other income |  £ 7,650.00  |  Plus other income  |  £ 13,000.00  |
| Total |  £ 426,982.36  |  Total  |  £462,168.47  |
| Less Budget 22/23 predict spend |  £ 144,751.89  |  Less Budget 23/24 spend  |  £175,033.14  |
| Balance left in bank  |  £ 282,230.47  |  Balance left in bank  |  £287,135.33  |
| Less Earmarked funds |  £ 120,000.00  |  Less Earmarked funds  |  £120,000.00  |
| Estimated Reserves at year end |  £ 162,230.47  |  Reserves  |  £167,135.33  |

**15. PLANNING** [CB/22/04569/FULL](http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=631773) 111 Chaul End Road, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4AS
Proposed Single & Two Storey Rear Extensions, Two Storey Side Extension, Garage Conversion & Replacing Roof

We are aware that numerous large bungalow conversions have taken place in Chaul End Rd. in the past but they have all been subject to the green belt policy of over development. Does this application meet the policy that we know as 60% expansion in the green belt? If it falls within guidelines, then no objection.

 [CB/22/04559/FULL](http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=631763) 13 Hawthorn Crescent, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4EQ
Construction of single detached bungalow, garage and ancillary access road and landscaping

**STRONGLY OBJECT**. Caddington parish council planning committee have always had a policy of challenging rear garden developments. In this case we feel that it is overdevelopment and its location on the plot is very close to the boundary of properties in Crosslands. By way of its size and where it is situated on the plot, in our opinion, it would cause an issue with the bordering neighbours of Crosslands of a visual issue, a noise nuisance and pollution from vehicle fumes which they don’t have now.

Where in the past back garden developments have been granted permission and developments in the same crescent of removing bungalows and replacing with other dwellings have also been granted, but now our neighbourhood plan and local plan are now in force and do not cover this form of back garden development. So with these two documents there is a good case for refusal. In 2010 the government at the time made it clear that they were no longer in favour of this form of development and said that it was down to local authorities to look at every application on its merits, so as the representatives of the residents of Caddington we feel that it should be refused. Environmentally the proposal is filling in another green space in Caddington, the lungs of our village. By allowing every green space big enough for a dwelling to be developed we are slowly urbanising the footprint of the village. We feel the new access road is inadequate and if they cannot get in and out they will park on the road. As the exit from the properties is on a narrow road and a sharp bend, negotiating this area can be difficult now without the additional traffic. Please also note that the access driveway has already been laid!

 [**CB/22/04543/OUT**](http://plantech.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=631747) Land off Chaul End Road and south of Brick Kiln Farm, Chaul End Road, Caddington

Outline Application: for up to 9 dwellings with all matters reserved, except for access

The site lies within the zone of influence for the Chilterns Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (the SAC). Increasing residential development in the surrounding area is expected to result in further recreational pressure from people using it. Central Bedfordshire Council is presently working to develop a strategic solution that will deliver mitigation for the effects of residential development within the zone of influence.

**16. CORRESPONDENCE**

CBC Parking Standards for New Developments feedback – 08/12 fwd Cllrs

CBC Community Energy Pathways online events – 1/12 fwd Cllrs

Inspired Villages Millfield Lane road closures -1/12 fwd Cllrs

CBC Town & Parish Council Bulletin Dec/Jan edition – 30/11 fwd Cllrs

CBC Cost of Living information hub – 29/11 fwd Cllrs, poster on board & website

CBC update to Council’s Register of Interest for Cllrs – 23/11 fwd Cllrs

CBC Parking Standards for New Developments virtual mtg 5/12 invitation – 23/11 fwd Cllrs

**17. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payment** | **Payable to:** | **Payment Details** |  **Total**  |
|  | SO | Staff Costs | Salaries, PAYE, Pension | £4,278.00 |
| 01/12/2022 | SO | Village Garden Services | Ground maintenance  |  £ 801.74  |
| 01/12/2022 | DD | EDF Energy | Rushmore Park Electricity  |  £ 13.00  |
| 01/12/2022 | DD | Castle Water | Allotment  |  £ 60.63  |
| 01/12/2022 | SO | John Dudley | Allotment management  |  £ 45.00  |
| 23/11/2022 | Transfer | Matthew Tomlin | Reimburse accessories for xmas switch on event |  £ 56.93  |
| 12/12/2022 | Transfer | Andrew Shaw Computer Services | Windows 365 & Virus checker monthly sub |  £ 19.26  |
| 12/12/2022 | Transfer | Heathfield Centre | outstanding meeting room hire balance owed |  £ 20.00  |
| 12/12/2022 | Transfer | Electrafit | New Christmas lighting, old maintenance & repairs |  £ 5,176.01  |
| 12/12/2022 | Transfer | Caddington Leisure Gardens | Reimburse replacement allotment padlocks x 7 |  £ 194.95  |
| 12/12/2022 | Transfer | Society of Local Council Clerks | Membership fee 2023 |  £ 279.00  |
| 12/12/2022 | Transfer | Caddington Pre-School | Caddington Pantry storage items |  £ 281.00  |
| 12/12/2022 | Transfer | Village Garden Services | 10 winter planted baskets & 3 planters |  £ 468.00  |
| 12/12/2022 | Transfer | Village Garden Services | Caddington Woods Christmas Tree |  £ 230.40  |
| 12/12/2022 | Transfer | Village Garden Services | Parish Warden Cover November |  £ 1,258.00  |
| 12/12/2022 | Transfer | Green Valley Construction | New village green footpath |  £10,785.00  |
| 27/12/2022 | SO | James Macpherson | CCTV service contract |  £ 200.00  |
| 27/12/2022 | DD | O2 | Clerk & Warden phones |  £ 61.24  |

**Public participation:**

Understand 46 bus service from Hemel to Luton diversion through Caddington not viable due to 4 minute turn around.

Residents will set up a Focus Group to discuss Caddington public transport needs.

Resident requested additional bus stops in Caddington Woods development to raise bus awareness. Ward Cllr Collins agreed good idea.

Christmas Tree on village green isn’t growing. Majestic Trees aware and requested to inspect

*Meeting Closed at 8:45pm*