

FLITTON AND GREENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Church Hall, Flitton on Wednesday 21 January 2015

Present: Councillors N Thompson (Chair), S Phillips (Vice Chair), N Arthur, G Ellis, M Lowe, T King, K Wright, P Woodland and D Jobling

Also Present:

CBC Cllr James Jamieson

D Lawson (Clerk)

The Chairman began the meeting by welcoming everyone and asking those assembled to stand and pay tribute with a minutes silence to Mrs Enid Gibbon who had recently passed away. The minute's silence was duly observed.

2514 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Maureen Morey attended and thanked the Council for the new footpath along the High Street saying it works well and will look nice once the daffodils flower. She asked the Council to consider a paved area to the notice board and whether other areas of open space in the Parish could also be planted with bulbs, trees or wild flowers and the Council agreed to consider this.

Sally and John Smith and Dougie McColm attended the meeting and Dougie thanked Cllr Ellis for all his work so far on the Flitton Hill project, including submitting the LTP proposal. This was backed up with some speeding data which the new Speed Watch group had been able to gather in early January showing how much traffic speeds into and out of the village.

Cllr Ellis said that further areas had been identified to carry out Speed Watch operations and explained the sanctions which can be imposed as a result of the findings. There was a brief discussion about being able to move the flashing speed signs in the village to Flitton Hill and other problem areas and it was agreed that this should be done if finances permit. Cllr Jamieson noted that Pulloxhill Councillors were thinking of investing in movable speed signs with a number of sockets and suggested a discussion is held between the two Councils. He also encouraged the Council to add any future traffic proposals into the TRO's which may be needed for Flitton Hill as this could save money on future applications as they stay in place for some time.

Dougie asked about the no right turn at the A507, but Cllr Jamieson said that Highway representatives would not recommend this as it could cause more problem if motorists turn left and then try to swing around in the road and it probably is not worth pursuing. Cllr Ellis said he had also had discussions with Highways staff about the potential one way system or road closure, but again this would not be supported at the moment due to the high cost of consultation and analysis (potentially about £50k). If residents want to pursue this, Cllr Jamieson suggested that informal consultation in Flit'n' Moor may be useful first to gauge public opinion.

Sally said that she is producing a newsletter for residents, explaining what is happening and it was agreed that this should also be placed on the Council's website and a summary on the notice boards when it is ready.

Cllr Ellis noted that the Speed Watch Group so far has 5 members and Cllr Sparrey had also agreed to be trained, but it was always useful to have more volunteers and anyone interested should contact him, especially in the following 6 sites across village which had been identified for more monitoring

- Sand Road
- Outside the MUGA from Flitton and Greenfield
- Near the Compasses Public House
- Pulloxhill Road
- Flitton Hill
- Silsoe Road

Cllr Thompson added that painting the white lines on the raised table outside the Village

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| <p>Hall had made a big difference so far to slowing traffic down and thanked Cllr Jamieson for helping to resolve this. Finally Cllr Ellis and Jamieson offered feedback from the CBC conference the previous evening where the new CBC Highways contract and arrangements were discussed and more work where possible will be taken back in house by the Council.</p> | |
| <p>2515 APOLOGIES AND SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> | |
| <p>Cllr Julian Sparrey sent apologies</p> | |
| <p>Declarations of Interest: Cllr M Lowe declared an interest relating to work undertaken for the Parish Council by Graham Lowe and she did not participate in the discussion or decision making on any of these matters. The Clerk declared an interest in any discussion about the Church Hall.</p> | |
| <p>2516 MINUTES</p> | |
| <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17th November 2014 were received and it was</p> | |
| <p>RESOLVED:</p> | |
| <p>That the Minutes be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman. The following matters arising were noted:</p> | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zig-zags and H lines outside the school are now done • The Clerk and Cllr Lowe have a meeting scheduled with the new Football Team the following day • The MUGA gatepost is now completed and the locking situation resolved • The Cemetery Sub Committee will shortly be looking at stones to purchase for the Garden of Remembrance • The MUGA surface was discussed and it was noted that the tree work had been done • The 1&1 invoice may still not be correct and needs to be looked at again • Both allotments have had recent approaches and new tenants have been agreed at Flitton • Cllr Ellis agreed to contact Paul Salmon at CBC about the potential move of one of the double barrier chicanes and keep Cllr Jamieson informed • Cllr Jamieson confirmed that the Planning Committee at CBC had considered the Solar Farm application, but that the final decision has to be made by the Secretary of State and this is still awaited. • Other planning issues including in Greenfield were also mentioned and the Clerk agreed to contact CBC about them and copy Cllr Jamieson into the correspondence • Cllr Thompson mentioned that a new approach had been made to the Council, by a Silsoe resident to site a free defibrillator at the Village Hall and organise the training too. The Parish Council was in contact with the Hall again about it and it looked likely to go ahead with the Council possibly picking up the annual insurance cost. • Thanks were expressed to local residents donating wild flower seed | <p>ML/DL</p> <p>TK</p> <p>TK/DL</p> <p>GE</p> <p>NT</p> |
| <p>2517 DISTRICT COUNCIL AND POLICE REPORTS</p> | |
| <p>Cllr Jamieson mentioned the CBC Council Tax leaflets in circulation and urged everyone to complete the survey. He said that the Council was holding the tax level again and only making minimal cuts, one of which was not to print bus timetables any more as these are easily obtained from the website, although they will be left at bus stops. He also covered the Conference on Tuesday and the Police Commissioners current consultation on raising the Police precept by 15.8%, which could ultimately lead to a referendum. The additional funding would cover 100 new officers and CBC</p> | |

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| <p>was keen to see the staffing levels increased in the rural areas again, but there had been no commitment to this. The Police had sent apologies and an email giving the latest crime figures for the Parish, which were discussed.</p> | |
| <p>2518 SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS</p> | |
| <p>Playing Field Sub Committee</p> | |
| <p>The Chairman of the Sub Committee ran through the following information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The car park gate and height bar was now completed and the locks fixed • After a conversation with the MUGA Chair, it looks likely that there will need to be a new surface in approx 4-5 years time and although the Committee had some funds in hand, it was not likely to cover the full costs of re-surfacing which could be in the region of £50-60k. The Parish Council should therefore start making provision for this in the annual budget and the Finance Committee had taken this on board • Annual tree pruning around the field would commence in the Spring, although the trees near the MUGA had already been cut back. • The Sub Committee would meet shortly to consider outdoor gym equipment and a possible basket ball net, which is covered in the budget. Frisbee golf was also mentioned as a possibility. | <p>NA</p> |
| <p>Cemetery Sub Committee</p> | |
| <p>The minutes of the recent meeting were considered and the Chairman commented on the actions being taken including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at fees to ensure lifetime maintenance of graves is covered • Issues which are being raised with individual plot holders | <p>TK/DL</p> |
| <p>Communications and Parish Plan</p> | |
| <p>Councillor Phillips said that the current Parish Plan had come to an end apart from the basket ball net as mentioned above and a new one will be produced based on the 2015-16 budget proposals.</p> | <p>SP</p> |
| <p>Allotments</p> | |
| <p>Both Cllr Wright and Ellis had recently been approached about allotment plots and whilst there is now a waiting list at Greenfield, there are new tenants at Flitton Hill, one notably, outside the rabbit netting. The vacant plots at Flitton could be mentioned in the next edition of Flit'n 'Moor</p> | <p>GE/DL</p> |
| <p>Highways/Cycleways/footpaths/Grasscutting</p> | |
| <p>Cllr Ellis had already covered the Flitton Hill project, but noted that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Green Infrastructure bid to create a hard surface all the way along the river walk to along the field to link with the bridleway at Ruxox had sadly been withdrawn due to lack of time. However everyone was hopeful that it may form the basis of a bid next year • There would be a meeting with the cycling officer to discuss cycle hoops and possibly some hard-standing near the new footpath at the Brook Lane junction • It was noted that the daffodils on the verge next to the new footpath had been planted that week | <p>GE</p> |
| <p>2519 FINANCE COMMITTEE</p> | |
| <p>The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 12 January 2015 were received and noted and Cllr Arthur gave an explanation of how the Finance Committee had established the budget for 2015-16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget includes use of reserves to build up funds for the MUGA as discussed above and renewal of fencing in the Playing Field as well as allowing a contingency budget • It also covers the £15k required for the LTP match funding as well as a small contingent which may be used towards other highways issues like moving the Speed sign or one part of the chicane | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Solar Farm Community Benefit (income) was not included in the budget • Cllr Jobling pointed out that there was still no provision for the school traffic issues in Pulloxhill Road, but this may be covered in a future year's budget when there is a plan. • The Council noted that the Clerk is seeking quotes for some benches which may be provided out of S106 funds. • The Council also noted that the Church Hall and Village Hall would be invited to make applications for the S106 funding to be submitted by the Council to CBC <p>Finally Cllr Ellis proposed that the precept be levied at £36,290 and Cllr Phillips seconded this, it was unanimously agreed:</p> | DL |
| RESOLVED | |
| (i) That the precept for 2015/16 be levied at £36,290 which is a 0% change on the previous year | DL |
| 2520 PLANNING ISSUES | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The various planning applications and decisions were noted • The S106 Agreement at the Solar Farm had already been discussed | |
| 2521 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CBC Conference - Cllr Thompson and Ellis outlined some of the issues covered at the CBC Conference the day before, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ £80 FPN for dog fouling which is in operation now ○ Provision for nominations in the forthcoming election and the lack of any possibility at that stage to withdraw • Local Council Award Scheme – this new scheme had just come into operation and more details of how it could affect the Council in future would be provided when available • Friends of Bedfordshire – this new group were trying to establish a Bedfordshire Day and voting on this can be carried out on the Council's website • Council tax Support Grant – a response from the BATPC was noted • Navigas Journal – the refund was noted • Cllr Thompson outlined the request for a litter bin and bus shelter in Greenfield and the Clerk explained the CBC position of not funding any shelters. It was agreed that Cllr Thompson would feedback that the request would not be pursued, although a new litter bin had already been supplied • Highway reports – although there had been notification of a change in reporting, Cllr Ellis said that at the CBC Conference Members were told that this had been delayed | NT |
| 2522 ANY OTHER BUSINESS | |
| <p>Cllr Thompson noted that following a request that day, the Potato Race organisers were asking the Council for their support on the Road Closure Notice which needed to be submitted. The Council agreed that this race forms an important part of village activities and they would be happy to lend support in this way.</p> | NT |
| 2513 DATE OF NEXT MEETING | |
| Wednesday 18 March 2015 19:30h | |

The meeting ended at 21.32h

DATED this 18th day of March 2015

Signed - CHAIRMAN