

FLITTON AND GREENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Church Hall, Flitton on Wednesday 16th September 2015

Present: Cllrs N Thompson, N Arthur, J Fisher, M Lowe, G Ellis, P Woodland & T King

Also Present: CBC Cllr J Jamieson and D Lawson (Clerk)

The Chairman welcomed members of the public to the meeting.

He also informed members that Graham Lowe had recently been in hospital but was now at home making a steady recovery from an operation. The Chairman expressed the best wishes of all Councillors and asked that this be passed on to Graham.

2558 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Rick Stokes and Maureen Morey attended the meeting. Maureen mentioned a couple of issues in the Parish

- The amount of litter on the verges had been slightly less recently and in conjunction with the better grass cutting regime, the overall appearance had improved significantly
- The overgrown ditches were getting worse and the amount of litter will not be seen until it dies back. The Chairman explained that this had been recognised and that cutting back was being arranged.
- There is an overhanging wild rose on the wall of a High Street property next to the bus stop, which is preventing access on the path and hindering use of the bus. Cllr M Lowe agreed to raise this informally with the residents concerned.
- The amount of dog mess at the bottom of Mill Lane leading to the Moor is increasing and it may be the same irresponsible dog owner. It was agreed to try to identify the culprit, but at the same time raise the issue in the next Flit'n'More, put a notice on the website and increase the number of notices in the area, with a view to reporting to the Dog Warden service.

2559 APOLOGIES AND SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr D Jobling and S Mason sent their apologies

Declarations of Interest: Cllr M Lowe declared an interest relating to work undertaken for the Parish Council by Graham Lowe. The Clerk declared an interest in any discussion about the Church Hall.

2560 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15 July 2015 were received and it was

RESOLVED: That the Minutes be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

The following matters arising were noted: (other issues are picked up again on the agenda)

- It was noted under the Highway issues that a new Highway contract had now been awarded by CBC to Ringway Jacobs, starting in April 2016, and that more of the commissioning work would be done in house which should see an improvement in service.
- Cllr Ellis commented that he had received the first drawings today for the Flitton Hill scheme and briefly chatted to an officer at Amey. Official consultation will start later this month, but Cllr Ellis will consult informally with the local working group/residents first. He explained what the proposals entailed and these were discussed. It was agreed to ask for
 - any new bollards to be in keeping with the nearby Conservation Area
 - temporary signs when the work is complete to indicate the new road layout
- Cllr Jobling reported that that he had been using the wrong email

GE

<p>address to contact Sue Phillips. He also sent word that the MUGA Committee has recently launched a new website.</p>	
<p>2561 DISTRICT COUNCIL AND POLICE REPORTS</p>	
<p>Cllr Jamieson noted and responded to questions/actions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He had been discussing with Amey, the possibility of reducing the double chicane (near Mill Lane) to a single construction and it had been agreed to pursue this on the cost grounds previously agreed. This should improve the appearance and make it more usable as a crossing point, whilst still acting as a speed reduction measure. Cllr Ellis mentioned a letter he had received from a resident, making the same point. • Amey had agreed to undertake a TRO on the roads between Flitwick Mill/Greenfield and Flitwick/Westoning to reduce the speed limit to 40mph, which was welcome news. This would be dealt with as soon as an opportunity arose and Cllr Ellis mentioned that Flitwick Town Council would also be fully supportive. Cllr Jamieson agreed to pursue timings. It was also noted that the broken drain on the Flitwick Road had been repaired. • With regard to the Playing Field/parking issue at the school other priorities had developed over the summer for the school and Cllr Jamieson would raise this again in due course, but reminded everyone, that the school would need to set the pace on this. • Cllr Jamieson was pleased about ongoing discussion on the Neighbourhood Plan with the suggestions made by Pulloxhill Parish Council. This would be discussed in more detail later as part of the agenda • The potential planning application in Greenfield Road Flitton was mentioned although there had not been any progress. In the meantime the land supply issue in the area was being addressed. The decision to hold off any public meeting until there was more definite information was noted • The Playing Field lease expiry would be dealt with by CBC officers in due course • There was still concern about not being consulted on 'Prior Approval' applications as there had been no consultation on a current application. The Clerk agreed to send details to Cllr Jamieson. • Cllr Jamieson urged members to comment on the CBC 5 year Plan Priorities through the consultation process • He also enquired whether one or two Cllrs would be interested in visiting the new Flitwick Leisure Centre under construction and this was affirmed positively • Following a query about work at Flitwick Mill, he confirmed this had been subject to a planning application and was not a new dwelling • There was also a query about an Aragon housing issue in the Parish and Cllr Jamieson suggested that a formal complaint be made to Aragon Housing Association and he be copied in, so he could act if there was no response. <p>The Police report circulated earlier in the week was noted and the very low level of crime in the Parish was welcomed. It was agreed to ask for future reports to cover the full 2 months between meetings.</p>	<p>JJ/GE</p> <p>JJ</p> <p>JJ</p> <p>DL</p> <p>DL</p>
<p>2562 SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS</p>	
<p>Playing Field Sub Committee</p>	
<p>The following issues had been discussed and agreed by the Playing Field Sub Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no urgent outstanding work following the ROSPA report as the recommendations from the previous year had just been 	

<p>completed. Some work had been identified and this would be undertaken in due course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new picnic table did not require a concrete base and it had been pleasing to see how well used it was. Cllr Arthur agreed to look at where the plaque should be positioned and let Cllr Lowe know <p>In addition the troublesome installation of the outdoor exercise equipment was discussed and it was noted that the excess soil had not been spread where instructed on site. Cllr Arthur would investigate plus look at the possible need to re-site the goal posts. If this is required, it would be discussed initially with Graham Lowe but another contractor may be necessary in the short term. Cllr Lowe agreed to liaise with the Clerk. Cllr Lowe also reported that the Gala 2015 had been a success although one dog had been seen on site. There had appeared to be an excessive amount of litter in the bins and blown towards the fence, but this had now been cleared by the Good Neighbour team.</p> <p>Finally it was noted that the nettles were overgrowing in the ditch outside the Village Hall but in line with routine maintenance an order would be placed for them to be cleared back after the leaves had fallen.</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>ML/NA</p> <p>DL</p>
<p>Cemetery Sub Committee</p>	
<p>There had not been a meeting of the Sub Committee, but several issues were ongoing which members had been discussing. These related to a proposed memorial which did not meet the current Rules and Regulations, but members were in agreement that these should be strictly adhered to. Letters were also being drafted to other grave owners where plots were not in compliance.</p>	<p>DL/TK</p>
<p>Communications and Parish Plan</p>	
<p>There were no matters to report, although it was felt that there should be another drive to get local residents to register on the website</p>	<p>DL/TK</p>
<p>Allotments</p>	
<p>The Chairman noted that he and the Clerk had continued to be heavily involved in the Greenfield Allotments along with Patsy Kean. The Clerk updated on the current vacancy situation at both sites and the request for a new plot which was discussed. She also said that she was in contact with the Wildlife Trust about the possibility of taking a spur off their water supply to Flitwick Moor. It was hoped that more detailed negotiation on this would take place at the end of the month, when there may be some firm information to share with tenants. The quote from Anglian Water to install new mains pipes had been considered prohibitive in cost. Cllr Ellis also confirmed that out of all the Flitton Hill plots only a few were being used productively. A quote for maintaining the vacant plots had also been excessive compared to the total cost of the site and had not been accepted, so some areas were getting overgrown. At the same time some tenants were not using their plots for straightforward allotment purposes and a couple of large plots were let to farmers for storage or cultivation. Cllr Ellis referred to new Guidance (2014) which clarified the process for taking allotments out of use, but the meeting queried whether this process was relevant if plots were already outside the defined use. Cllr Ellis said he would look into it in more detail. In the absence of any other forum to discuss these issues the Council briefly considered the future of both sites but agreed to hold more discussions with the plot holders once there was more information about the water issue. If an Allotment Sub Committee or Steering group could be set up, then this would be the place for discussion, but none of the Cllrs present felt able to add to their current responsibilities. In the meanwhile Cllrs did agree to continue the gesture to help new tenants make a start on an overgrown plot by paying a maximum of £50 for clearance. However in the light of a recent experience it was felt that an</p>	<p>DL</p> <p>GE</p>

agreement needed to accompany this so that new tenants pay back this amount if they vacate the plot with a three year period. Cllr Ellis reported there had been no progress on the community orchard.	DL
Highways/Cycleways/footpaths/Grasscutting	
Most of the current matters had already been discussed whilst Cllr Jamieson was in attendance. Cllr Ellis noted that he was attempting to arrange a meeting with the local Amey representative to look at a number of issues in the Parish. The Clerk reminded the meeting that the grass cutting contract would expire this year and needed to be tendered before the start of the next season.	
2563 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (NP)	
The Chairman suggested that at least one Cllr from the Parish should attend the CBC Conference the following week, in view of Cllr Prest (Pulloxhill attendance) and Cllr Arthur agreed to do so. The Clerk had circulated a draft set of Terms of Reference for the NP and these had been agreed by Pulloxhill Council subject to slight amendment(s) which had now been made. The questions of splitting the cost between the two Parishes on a per capita basis, representative numbers and the need for the Steering Committee were discussed and it was broadly agreed that the suggestions made so far were acceptable. The meeting re-affirmed the previous decision on the NP boundary and were happy for any grant applications to be made. In order to progress matters, it was agreed that Cllr Neil Arthur as Chair of the Planning Sub Committee in consultation with the Chairman of the Council should be given delegated authority to reach any agreement with Pulloxhill Parish on these issues. The meaning of a Sustainability Appraisal/Process was discussed and clarified following a question Cllr Ellis and Fisher both confirmed that they were also happy to be the Councils representatives on a Steering group	
RESOLVED That <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Arthur in consultation with the Chairman be given delegated authority to progress the Parish Plan with Pulloxhill representatives • The Clerk submit the boundary area application 	DL
2564 PLANNING ISSUES	
There were a couple of queries following circulation of the latest Planning update from CBC and these were addressed.	
2565 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Arthur to attend the Planning Conference on 23 September • The name of the new Waste Services Officer contact was noted • Sub Committee Chairs agreed to consider their budgets for 2016/17 before the budgetary process starts. 	
2566 ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Fisher asked Members to think about becoming a Dementia Friendly Parish and agreed to bring information to a future meeting • The Clerk mentioned a letter from the CAB manager thanking the Council for the recent grant. 	
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
18 th November 2015 at 19:30h in the Church Hall	

The meeting ended at 21.35h

DATED this 16th day of November 2015
Signed - CHAIRMAN