

FLITTON AND GREENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL	
<p>Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Church Hall, Flitton, on Wednesday 25th January 2017 Present: Councillors N Thompson (Chair), N. Arthur, P Woodland, G. Ellis, T King, M. Lowe, and R Stokes. Also Present: Mark Gates , CBC Councillor J Jamieson, Sandra and Bernard Slack, Paul Chisnall, Sue Cox and D Lawson (Clerk)</p>	
2628 APOLOGIES AND SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
Apologies: Councillor J Fisher and Nigel Mackie	
Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest	
At 19:30h the Chairman adjourned the meeting to allow for public comment to be made	
Local residents addressed the Council about a current planning application which was to be discussed later in the meeting. All noted their opposition and disappointment that this was the fourth application since 2014 and although it started at 22, the last two applications were for 15 dwellings and appeared very similar. Various grounds of objection were discussed and it was noted that there were already 23 objectors (now 29 against plus two comments). The Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance.	
2629 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 th November 2016 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, others are discussed again on the agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairman reminded Cllr Jamieson about the barrier repair in Greenfield and he said he would chase it again • Cllr Stokes reported that he was still trying to make contact with the CBC officer about the water installation, and agreed to try again and let Cllr Jamieson know about the lack of contact • Cllr Arthur noted that there would be three bush sized trees planted on the verge by the MUGA in the Spring • Cllr Ellis thought that the chicane change would be made along with the work at the school although following a comment made by Cllr Jamieson, it could be longer • It was agreed to shelve the defibrillator idea as no champion had come forward • A meeting was being held with the local MP on Friday • The payphone in Greenfield was being recommended for removal 	JJ RS NA NT
2630 CO-OPTION OF MEMBER(S)	
Cllrs welcomed Mark Gates to the meeting and noted apologies from Nigel Mackie. Both were willing to be co-opted to the Council. Cllr Thompson proposed and Cllr Lowe seconded the co-option of Mark Gates Cllr Ellis proposed and Cllr Woodland seconded the co-option of Nigel Mackie.	
RESOLVED: That Mark Gates be duly co-opted as a Member of Flitton and Greenfield Parish Council (Greenfield part) Cllr Gates duly signed the Declaration of Office and was welcomed as a Member of the Council	

<p>That Nigel Mackie be co-opted as a Member of Flitton and Greenfield Parish Council (Greenfield part) but subject to him meeting the Chairman and the Clerk to sign the Declaration of Office</p>	<p>DL/NT</p>
<p>2631 DISTRICT COUNCIL AND POLICE REPORTS</p>	
<p>Cllr Jamieson updated Members on the progress of the Local Plan and the imminent publication of the Housing White Paper, which should mean that work can resume shortly He also commented on the number of small Highway jobs which were still outstanding by the Contractor Ringway Jacobs and that these were being followed up, including work in the Parish. However he was pleased to report that work had been started on the culvert outside the Village Hall. Other work in rural areas included a programme of sign cleaning, and thoughts about introducing an ongoing drain programme. Cllr Woodland asked about traffic signs being left behind after contractors had left site and Cllr Jamieson asked that this be reported when it happens. She also mentioned littering along The Avenue between Flitton and Silsoe (in Silsoe Parish) and Cllr Jamieson said this should also be reported. Cllr Lowe said she was having problems getting new food waste bags and Cllr Jamieson said these could be collected from any council office Work may soon be underway on the Solar Farm and Cllr Jamieson had reminded the Planning officers to update him when completed so that he could keep in contact with those Parish Councils which would benefit from the Community Benefit payments. The Police now send a link to the on line mapped crime statistics, which had been circulated to Cllrs before the meeting.</p>	<p>PW DL JJ</p>
<p>2632 SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS</p>	
<p>Allotments:</p>	
<p>Cllr Stokes said that there was one new tenant at Greenfield. Cllr Ellis and Stokes had met and undertaken a site visit and a meeting will be arranged with the Clerk to talk about the future of the Flitton site. In the meantime unless tenants wanted to move voluntarily, no notice would be given this year. It was also suggested that there be discussion with Pulloxhill Parish Council about their allotments</p>	<p>RS/DL</p>
<p>Planning Sub Committee</p>	
<p>Cllr Arthur updated members about the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan as there had been a meeting last week where the Vision Statement, Aims and Policies were being put in place. There had also been a presentation on the results of the Housing Needs Survey which contained valuable information for the Plan and the Council. Cllr Ellis commented that it identified a need for at least 9 more low cost houses in the Parish with conditions to restrict for local people (possible exception site) and that this would be incorporated into the Plan. Cllr Arthur asked about the ownership of the Pulloxhill Industrial Estate with a view to seeing if there could ever be any change of use. The Clerk would try to confirm ownership with CBC The first draft of the Plan should be available in the summer</p>	<p>NA DL</p>
<p>The following current Planning Applications were considered and the responses agreed</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Mill Lane, Greenfield, Bedford, MK45 5DF Demolition of existing garage, double storey side extension and single storey rear extension <p>AGREED</p> <p>That although regrettable, the hard standing all over the front garden was understandable because of the parking problems in Mill Lane. However a drainage condition be requested as there was concern about the surface water and possible flooding</p>	DL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 Flitton Road, Greenfield, Bedford, MK45 5DJ planning application for the residential development of up 15 dwellings <p>AGREED</p> <p>That this application be strongly opposed, based on the discussion earlier in the meeting and the previous comments which had been submitted for the earlier applications</p>	DL
<p>The Planning Appeals at Sand Road, Flitton, Thriftwood, Silsoe and three houses at Land to the rear of 50 Flitton Road, Greenfield, Bedford were noted</p> <p>The Chairman and Cllr Ellis also confirmed that they would address the CBC planning Committee the following week on two applications which the Parish Council had opposed.</p>	NT/GE
<p>Playing Field Sub Committee</p>	
<p>Cllr Arthur mentioned a proposal to relocate the pedestrian access gate to the Playing Field and explained the thinking behind it. There was a brief discussion and the possible replacement of the high fence was also mentioned as was the access from the MUGA car park to the Playing Field. There was no funding to specifically available to carry out this work, but it was agreed that this may be a suitable project for any Community Benefit from the Solar Farm, when it becomes available.</p> <p>Cllr Arthur also mentioned that the Accessible Play equipment consortium were arranging a meeting to discuss the funding at Marston Forest Centre and we had been invited to attend (although there was no date yet)</p> <p>It was agreed to consider this again when the date is known</p>	NA
<p>Cemetery Sub Committee</p>	
<p>Cllr King referred to the notes of the Sub Committee meeting held on 6 January to highlight the following and recommend approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fees and Charges had been revised as they had been left at the same level since 2014 (a copy was circulated) The opportunity had been taken to amend the Rules and Regulations to include the risk assessment work necessary (wobbly headstones) and the way this would be handled (a copy is available on request) The revision would also highlight other restrictions like wooden crosses and already includes conditions about the expected behaviour of children and adults whilst in the cemetery <p>She also outlined the process being followed to ensure that any headstones presenting a possible risk, are rectified by the plot owners or the Parish Council</p>	
<p>AGREED</p> <p>The recommendations be approved by the council and the new charges and Rules and Regulation document come into effect immediately</p>	TK/DL
<p>Highways/Cycleways/footpaths/Grasscutting</p>	
<p>There had been a Highways Sub Committee on 30 November when the options for the LTP match funding was discussed and Silsoe Road Wardhedges had been highlighted as the most potential bid area... Local</p>	

<p>residents were being encouraged to get involved in this and the results of targeted Speed Watch sessions were producing evidence. Cllr Ellis would speak to CBC to make sure this would meet their criteria before the bid, initially for feasibility and design, is submitted.</p> <p>There had been an interesting discussion on alternative traffic calming measures including more extensive use of enforced 20mph speed limits, closing busy school roads at peak times and considering the use of more flexible speed indication devices which Cllr Fisher was investigating. This work would continue</p>	<p>GE</p>
<p>AGREED That Cllr Ellis submit a LTP application for 2017-18 based on a feasibility study for Silsoe Road and Wardhedges, subject to discussion first with CBC officers</p>	<p>GE</p>
<p>2633 FINANCIAL MATTERS</p>	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 January 2017 were received and the actions noted.</p> <p>The quarterly accounts showed an overspend for the Highway Verge budget and this would be picked up later on the agenda</p> <p>Cllr Arthur gave an explanation of how the Finance Committee had established the budget for 2017-18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget includes use of reserves to build up funds for the MUGA resurfacing, work in the Playing Field and the matching of the LTP application as well as allowing a contingency budget • These ongoing accumulated funds had been projected forward over the following year to show that if there was no further increase in the precept and spending continued at the current level, the contingency budget would be severely diminished by 2018/19. There was a discussion about the need for contingency, and whether this could be picked up again during the next (2018-19) budget setting process • Cllr Ellis noted that the LTP work cost could only be an estimate at this stage • The current budget proposal would mean a 7.5% increase on a Band D property (slightly less than £5 a year) and Members felt this was reasonable <p>Cllr Woodland proposed and Cllr Ellis seconded that the budget be agreed and a precept be levied at £43,122 which is 7.5% increase, on a Band D property and it was unanimously agreed and</p>	
<p>RESOLVED That the precept for 2017/18 be levied at £43,122.</p>	
<p>Cllr Arthur also proposed that the completed risk assessments including the corporate risk assessment be adopted by the Council. The Allotment and Highways risk assessments were still being finalised and would be presented to the next meeting</p> <p>It was unanimously agreed and</p>	<p>GE/RS</p>
<p>RESOLVED That the risk assessments, including the corporate risk assessment be adopted by the Council</p>	
<p>Cllr Arthur also mentioned the discussion about organised and/or commercial use of the Playing Field and the proposals for post April 2017 and it was</p> <p>AGREED that organised and/or commercial use of the Playing Field from April be considered in the same way as the Football use</p>	<p>DL</p>
<p>The Clerk explained that a funding request for CAB outreach work in the rural areas had been received just after the last Finance Committee and Members discussed the request and the use which is made of this service by local people and it was</p>	

RESOLVED That the CAB Outreach scheme be awarded grant funding of £200	DL
2634 CHAIRMANS REPORT BACK FROM CBC CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 2016	
The Chairman reported back from a recent CBC Conference where Emergency Planning had been discussed following the gas pipe fracture in the area. The Council had been invited to a further Conference to look at this in more detail on February 22 nd and Cllr Lowe agreed to attend	ML
2635 CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ditches and Hedgerows There was a detailed discussion about the reasons why the Council was voluntarily clearing ditches for the litter picking work and the fact that this budget had overspent this year. Members agreed that the work had improved the appearance of the Parish, and allowed the litter pickers to remove litter in the deep areas, but the cost factor now outweighed the advantage. There were some key areas of the Parish where the appearance should be maintained, but in the deep ditches it was proving to be too costly to maintain ditches and remove all the trimmings and branches where hedges had been cut. It was felt that of the few landowners maintaining their hedges, if the ditches became blocked, they would feel the consequence of this through possible flooding and the need for regular ditch maintenance themselves. The Highway Sub Committee was asked to consider this issue at their next meeting, before any work commences in the Spring. • The Great British Spring Clean 3-5 March 2017 The council agreed to take part in this event and the Clerk would inform CBC. Cllr Gates agreed to lead the day • Photographs of Councillors for the website Councillors agreed that photographs on the website would be a good idea and that an electronic copy would be sent to the Clerk • Defibrillator This had been discussed elsewhere in the agenda. 	<p>GE</p> <p>MG</p> <p>All Cllrs</p>
2636 ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairman mentioned the National Planning petition and urged everyone to sign it • The Clerk noted that she had been invited to a meeting with Flitwick Town Council to talk about the linking of foot and bridleways between the two Council areas and the creation of a new walk along the River Flit and Members were supportive of both initiatives, especially if Phase 2 Green Infrastructure Funding could be sought • Cllr Arthur mentioned the difficulty of using a footpath in the field next to the Playing Field because it had been ploughed across and the Clerk agreed to talk to the Rights of Way Team at CBC about this and another similar path near Mill Lane. 	
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
The dates of future meetings were noted along with the next meeting on Wednesday 15th March 2017 19:30h at the Church hall Flitton	
The meeting ended at 22.00h	
DATED this 15th day of March 2017	
Signed - Chairman	

Flitton and Greenfield Parish Council,

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