

## FLITTON AND GREENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held at Flitton Church Hall  
On Monday 16th September 2013

**Present:** Councillor N.K. Thompson (Chairman)  
Councillors N. Arthur, G. Ellis, M. Lowe, S. Phillips, K. Wright  
and P. Woodland  
CBC Councillor James Jamieson

**Also Present:**  
PCSO Craig Setterfield – Beds Police  
D Lawson: Clerk to the Council

### 2393 APOLOGIES AND SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**Apologies:** Councillor T. King sent apologies for late arrival.

**Declarations of Interest:** There was one specific declaration of interest by Margaret Lowe relating to an item on the Clerk's report and she did not participate in the decision making on this matter.

### 2394 RESIGNATION

The Council noted the resignation of Councillor J Burnett, which had been received earlier in the day. The process of advertising this and the other Council vacancy would now be instigated.

### 2395 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2013 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 considered:

- The situation of the hedge at Wardhedges was noted
- The Cemetery parking notices were discussed and it was noted that all six were still in position including two Police signs
- Quotes for repair or replacement to notice-boards at Flitton and Greenfield were discussed and agreed to report back to the next meeting
- Councillor K Wright noted that all the Greenfield allotments have been taken and the ploughing can take place at any time. Councillor G Ellis reported on work at the Flitton site which was progressing well
- Councillor G Ellis said that he had consulted residents about the 'H' road lines in Pulloxhill Road but there was no feedback yet and he will follow it up
- Councillor G Ellis expressed some concern about Amey's lack of response to his complaint about obscured traffic signs in the Parish and it was agreed he would remind them about this and copy Councillor Jamieson into the correspondence. It was noted that this is a good principle where there are serious complaints about the Highway contractor

- A complaint had also been received about the state of the pavements and overhanging vegetation at Mill Lane and this was discussed. Councillor J Jamieson noted that Mill Lane was unlikely to be brought forward in the scheme of footway improvement works. Additionally with overhanging vegetation, he felt that sometimes, rather than a complaint to CBC, a softer approach by the Parish Council was more effective. The Chairman asked for details of the problem so that he could visit or the Clerk send a letter
- Most of the cycle racks were installed earlier in the day, apart from the White Hart location, where the ground was not suitable. Two spare racks were being retained for the Playing Field location. It was agreed that the Landlord at the White Hart be asked in writing if a proper concrete base could be inserted

## 2396 REPORTS

A written report was received from the Local Policing Team giving details of burglaries in the Parish and reports of anti-social behaviour. The matter of speeding motorcycles on the new cycle way and vans' using the track next to Fitzroy Cottages was discussed and the PCSO agreed to enter a task for this.

CBC Councillor J Jamieson reported on a number of outstanding matters in the Parish including the barrier at the cycleway, land at Wardhedges, the traffic consultation and resurfacing work in Flitton. He also mentioned the importance of responding to the Local policing consultation. There was a discussion about working with Pulloxhill Parish Council to establish a safe footway between the villages. Thanks were expressed for his help in these matters

## 2397 ALLOTMENT SUB COMMITTEE

A new allotment agreement has been drawn up and Councillor Ellis agreed to review it ready for use. He had been approached by a tenant wanting to keep chickens on his Flitton allotment and the original agreement implied this is acceptable. There was a long discussion about keeping any livestock on the plots and it was acknowledged that this would not be suitable at Joes Close. It was also noted that the views of other tenants should be sought and that any permission to do so should be at the Councils discretion and would be written into the new agreement. Councillor Ellis agreed to do some more research on the subject and bring it back to the next meeting.

### **Agreed**

Councillor G Ellis will review the new allotment agreement and consult on the livestock (chicken) application and report back to the next meeting

## 2398 CEMETERY SUB COMMITTEE

Councillor T King arrived at the meeting and reported that there is a Cemetery Sub Committee meeting later in the week to consider issues relating to boundaries at the cemetery. She outlined quotes which had been obtained for some hedging work and the Council agreed to accept the one being recommended.

A quote for the work on the Memorial Garden was also accepted and work will start on this shortly, although Councillors wished to clarify the colour of the stone being used first.

The first application for a Memorial headstone had been received and would be discussed on Friday, when a process for any future applications would be agreed.

The Cemetery parking situation had been discussed already and the improved state of two graves was noted. There had not been any response to the recent advert for a plot owner where the headstone had toppled and the meeting later in the week would consider the next action.

**Agreed:**

Quotes for the work on the boundary hedge and the Memorial Garden be accepted

## 2399 COMMUNICATIONS

The Webmasters decision to give up the role was noted and thanks expressed for all the work undertaken. The Communications Sub Committee was now updating the website and looking to review some of the pages. Councillors were asked to send any comments or new copy to the Clerk for inclusion.

## 2400 HIGHWAY/CYCLEWAY/FOOTPATH/GRASS CUTTING

Councillor G Ellis reported on the Highway consultation following an earlier discussion in the meeting with CBC Councillor J Jamieson. All agreed that the new raised crossing in Greenfield would be better in the same red brick style of the Maulden crossing (as described by Councillor Jamieson), and although it would cost more, it was agreed to push for this.

The reduction in speed limit on Flitton Hill however had caused some consternation amongst residents with a counter proposal to vary the start and location of the speed limits. The Parish Council agreed that this could offer a better solution. However it was unclear as to whether Amey was opposed to this on a technical issue or another reason and Councillor Ellis agreed to write to express the Parish view and ask that the plans be changed.

Nearing the end of the grass cutting contract it was agreed that a 'wash-up' meeting be arranged with the contractor and in future the Council will be more specific about its requirements.

The drainage ditch at the Village Hall was also raised at this point as it is overgrown with weeds and is normally cut by the Parish Council once a year. As the verges are now the Councils responsibility it was agreed that this should continue and a quote for the work will be sought from the Contractor.

The ongoing work on the cycleway and the staggered barriers was noted. These should be erected shortly.

**Agreed**

- (i) Councillor G Ellis will respond to the Highways consultation on behalf of the Parish Council and copy in Councillor Jamieson
- (ii) The Clerk will arrange an end of season meeting with the Grass cutting Contractor and speak to the Contractor about the work on the ditch at the village hall

## 2401 PARISH PLAN

Councillor Phillips noted that the volunteers had almost finished painting the village entrance gates. She also agreed to send a copy of the Plan to the Clerk for the website.

Winter gritting stations in the Parish were also discussed and it was agreed that Councillor S Phillips would speak to the Good Neighbour Scheme to find out if they were willing to be involved in this.

## 2402 PLAYING FIELD

The litter collection by the Good Neighbour scheme was discussed and the Clerk clarified that recycling containers were not possible at the site. It was agreed that the Village Hall containers would continue to be used and Councillor M Lowe would ask about the possibility of them installing recycling containers.

It was noted that a quote for the outstanding work to install safety surfaces and prepare the ground for a new piece of equipment at the Playing Field had just been received and would be considered in due course.

The clearing of the rubble heap was also discussed and it was agreed that the earlier quote should be accepted to allow for a wild flower garden to be cultivated. It was also suggested that following an initial cut of the Playing Field grass next year, swathes of wild grassland could be left around the edges of the field and this could be written into the new specification.

### **Agreed**

The Clerk to look out the quote and ask the Contractor to carry out the rubble clearance

## 2403 PLANNING ISSUES

There were no outstanding planning issues to discuss.

## 2404 TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

### 1. Consultation on the Draft Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Clerk noted that the report already covered historic areas of flooding in the Parish, and it was agreed that the new strategy be welcomed

**Agreed:** The Clerk respond to Central Bedfordshire Council

### 2. No Cold Calling notices (NCCZ)

The Council discussed the cost of replacing a lost NCCZ sign and agreed not to replace the sign for the time being.

### 3. Charity Event Saturday 19 April 2014

The Council had received a letter seeking permission to hold an event at the Playing Field and use the car park. It was agreed that consent should be granted, subject to a reasonable end time, and the Council would help with advertisement on the Website. An event itinerary was also requested. Notice of the event would also be given to the Football Clubs. It was not agreed to support the event financially as the Charities to benefit were outside the remit of the Parish Council grant scheme.

**Agreed:** The Clerk conveys the Council decision to the event organiser, requests an itinerary for the evening, and informs the Football Clubs

**NB. Now to be held on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

4. Health Watch Central Bedfordshire event

Due to the imminent date of this event no one was available to attend.

5. Correspondence relating to Joes Close Greenfield

There was a discussion about the issues which had been raised and it was noted that anti dog fouling stickers had been displayed in the area by Councillor S Phillips. It was also agreed that the Wildlife Trust be notified about the parking issues which were being attributed to walkers using their new access, directly opposite the bridge into the Moor. The Clerk also agreed to follow up the cow warning signs.

**Agreed:** The Clerk write to the Wildlife Trust as above and let the complainant know about the actions taken

6. Cemetery

The burial re-openings and burial of ashes were noted.

7. Land at Wardhedges

There was overall agreement to progress the lease (with the new Break Clause) and the cost of employing a Solicitor to just undertake the Compulsory Land Registration. The Clerk was asked to finalise the agreement with the Council and instruct a Solicitor to act on the Council's behalf

**Agreed:** The Clerk write to Central Bedfordshire Council to execute the Lease and instruct a Solicitor just to make the land registration

8. Outdoor Strategy

It was noted that a local Graduate has been appointed to produce an Outdoor Strategy for the Council at an approximate cost of £250.

9. Litter picking and village gate painting

The Council expressed its appreciation to the Good Neighbour Scheme for litter picking at the Playing Field, and painting the village gate signs and agreed to send a donation of £100 for this work and a letter of thanks.

**Agreed:** The Clerk notify the Good Neighbour Scheme accordingly

10. Parish Path clearance

The Council expressed its appreciation to the Friends of Flitton Moor for their work on local footpaths in the area and in recognition of their work agreed that a donation of £100 be made and a letter of thanks be sent.

**Agreed:** The Clerk notify the Friends of Flitton Moor accordingly

11. Church Hall post box

It was noted that the post box is now in position at the Church hall.

12. Harlington School Awards evening

It was noted that, following consultation with the Chairman of the Council, a donation of £25 was sent to Harlington School and the invitation declined.

13. Age UK Beds AGM and Listening Event Thursday 5th December 2013

It was agreed that Councillor Pat Woodland would attend the event.

**Agreed:** The Clerk notify Age UK Bedfordshire accordingly

14 Planning applications

The recent planning decision/applications were noted.

15 New cycle way- motorbike nuisance

This matter was discussed earlier in the meeting.

16 Let's Talk Flitwick event Monday 14th October Rufus Centre

It was agreed that the Chairman would attend the 'Let's Talk Flitwick' event, when the Police and Crime Commissioner would be in attendance.

**Agreed:** The Clerk notify Flitwick Town Council accordingly

17 Beds Association of Town and Parish Councils Insurance Q&A's

Agreed that the invitation not be accepted.

18 Mill Lane conifer trees

The state of the conifer trees at the bottom of Mill Lane next to the public footpath was discussed. Councillor S Phillips agreed to ask a nearby resident, who leases the land from the absent land owner, to raise the matter with him.

19. Victim Support – financial assistance

It was agreed that no donation be made on this occasion.

20. Mind – Wellbeing for Later Life

The correspondence from Mind (Bedford) was discussed. It was agreed that the information be passed to the Good Neighbour Scheme for any assistance they may be able to offer and contact details be provided for the hire of local Halls.

**Agreed:** The Clerk copy the correspondence to the Good Neighbour Scheme for their possible involvement and send Hall details to Mind

2405 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

**Agreed**

That the following accounts be either noted or paid and cheques drawn accordingly:-

D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd	185.38
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd	330.46
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd	60.00
Harlington School Awards	25.00
Paint and brushes expenses for village signs	64.80
David Catlin ploughing	50.00
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd	236.86
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd	378.00
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd	228.00
Central Beds Allotment Rent	100.00
Central Beds Allotment Rent	375.00
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd	222.46
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd	362.40
H.M. Revenue & Customs (Clerk's Tax)	153.57
I.J. Foxley Accounting	25.00
Deborah Lawson - Salary August - September	551.70

Deborah Lawson Expenses August - September	57.79
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd	222.46
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd	222.46
Maureen Morey (Litter picking)*	42.00
Sue Struthers (Litter picking)*	61.50
Good Neighbour Scheme (litter and painting)	100.00
Friends of Flitton Moor (paths maintenance)	100.00
Fenland Leisure	14.40
(* <b>Agreed:</b> The hourly rate of pay be increased from now on)	

#### 2406 ANY OTHER PARISH BUSINESS

The Chairman mentioned the recent approach about a table tennis club in the village, but that there was no suitable venue at present. He also gave an update on the enforcement action at 44 High Street, Flitton and noted a recent incident of anti social behaviour in Brook Lane.

An approach had been received earlier in the day from the Village Hall seeking two nominations from the Parish Council to their Management Committee. This was discussed and Councillor M Lowe agreed to continue to be a Council representative, but no other nomination was made. The matter could be considered again when the two vacancies have been filled.

**Agreed:** the Clerk notify the Village Hall Committee accordingly

DATED this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November 2013

CHAIRMAN