

## FLITTON AND GREENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held at Flitton Church Hall  
On Monday 20th January 2014

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

**Also Present:**

CBC Councillor J Jamieson

D Lawson: Clerk to the Council

Julian Sparrey, Chris Ward and Sue Franklin

### 2424 APOLOGIES AND SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**Apologies:**

PCSO Juliet Wright

**Declarations of Interest:** Councillor 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.

### 2425 Co-option on to the Council

Councillor G Ellis proposed and Councillor P Woodland seconded the nomination of Julian Sparrey as a member of the Council and this was duly carried.

**RESOLVED:** Julian Sparrey be co-opted on to the Council

### 2426 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th November 2013 were received and it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

The following matters arising were noted:

- Councillor G Ellis confirmed that he was still pursuing the issue of H lines in Pulloxhill Road
- Cycle racks – all now removed from MUGA car park, two remain at The Compasses. There was an outstanding quote for the racks to be moved to the top of the playing field and concreted into position. It was **AGREED**  
That further quotes be obtained for this work
- The rubble had not yet been cleared from the Playing Field as the ground was still too soft to do this work
- Overhanging vegetation Mill Lane – Councillor K Wright mentioned a further tree which was dropping crab apples on the road which created a trip hazard. It was **AGREED**  
That Councillor N Thompson would call at the property and ask for the mess to be cleared

## 2427 DISTRICT COUNCIL AND POLICE REPORTS (OPEN SESSION)

The Open Session was moved to this part of the agenda, so that Councillor J Jamieson could provide an update on the Gypsy and Traveller (G&T) Site issue, which members of the public had attended for.

Chris Ward gave an introduction to the concerns of the group and stated that they want to work closely with the PC. Councillor N Thompson gave a brief summary of the meeting he had attended the previous week and Councillor J Jamieson clarified the latest position. It was noted that key decisions were still being made with regard to population growth figures and these were due to be discussed at forthcoming Central Beds meetings, before there would be any further news. The issue would go out to Consultation at the end of January 2014. It was agreed that the Council would keep the village informed about any changes in the situation through Flit'n' More and the website and use Councillor N Thompson as a link for group.

Other issues mentioned by Councillor J Jamieson were

- The re-surfacing of the highway at Mill Lane which had been warmly welcomed. Although the poor state of the highway which had been patched at Church Lane was noted and on the agenda again.
- Central Beds Council was holding a 0% increase council tax this year
- The red brick effect on the traffic crossing in Greenfield is weather dependant and Engineers are awaiting the right day to do it
- The news of fast speed broadband being brought to the villages was welcomed, although there was some unresolved discussion about which parts of the villages may already have high speed or not and Councillor J Jamieson said he would ask for this to be clarified.
- Very welcome news about Councillor Sue Young and Paul Meads at Pulloxhill receiving BEM's in the Queens New Year Honours list
- Councillor M Lowe asked if the light opposite the school could be repaired as it has been out of action for some time and has been reported several times to no avail. Councillor M Lowe agreed to send the reference number to Councillor J Jamieson
- Work on Flitton Hill overall had cost more than was budgeted for by Amey by about £3.5k so had not been fully completed. It was hoped that the outstanding work would be transferred to next year's budget.
- Councillor G Ellis asked whether there was a decision yet on the Proposal for match funding for footpath improvements next year, which the Council had included for the Precept, although Councillor J Jamieson did not know yet.
- The Town and Parish Conference in April 2014 may consider a speaker on Cemetery management and Councillors were invited to attend to hear this.

A report had been received from the Police which was read out. It indicated that there had not been any traffic issues as a result of the new car-boot sale on the Westoning road and that they had received the possible reports of vandalism in the Parish.

#### 2428 PLAYING FIELD SUB COMMITTEE

The Sub Committee had met on 30<sup>th</sup> November and the minutes of their meeting were noted. In addition Councillor N Arthur said that new quotes were being sought for various works which had previously been authorised and these would take place as soon as possible. Some new signs were needed and he also agreed to take measurements of the existing signs and wording so that quotes could be obtained.

The quotes for works to trees were discussed and it was

AGREED: that Steve Dear would be asked to undertake this work plus the new tree planting and the Clerk would inform him of this and make enquiries about the acquisition of the trees

Councillor N Arthur also raised the issue of annual tree inspections for all council owned land from a safety perspective and it was

AGREED: that the Clerk check with the CBC Arboriculture Officer to see if this is a service which the Council may offer to Town and Parish Councils.

A member of the Village Hall Committee had written to Councillor M Lowe about the car park flooding and suggesting that the Parish Council should accept some responsibility, because the drainage ditch may be causing the problem. However the drainage ditch is now cleared twice a year at the Councils expense and in the recent very wet weather the Playing Field had flooded too due to land saturation. It was held that this was due to the unusually wet weather conditions and that the Council could do no more. Councillor M Lowe agreed to communicate this back to the Village Hall Committee

#### 2429 ALLOTMENT SUB COMMITTEE

Councillor K Wright mentioned that the cultivation work had been completed at Joe's Close, although there has not been an invoice for the work yet. She also talked about a conversation recently with a representative from Anglian Water about some bore-hole testing and the offer of free manure which is now on the website.

Councillor G Ellis updated Members about the water pipe installation which is still outstanding and Councillor J Sparrey agreed to chase this up. All the allotment plots are now taken and ready to commence onto Phase 2 of development. Councillor G Ellis also asked Members opinion on an application to site a rather large shed on an allotment plot. It was agreed that a tool shed size was acceptable, but that every application should be considered on its merits and the percentage size on the plot and removable nature of the shed was most important. Councillor G Ellis would look to see if there are any national guidelines which could be used.

#### 2430 CEMETERY SUB COMMITTEE

Councillor T King reported on the work which had and is still taking place in terms of a 'catching up' exercise on a lack of maintenance over many years. The Sub Committee had plans to finish off the memorial garden with some large stones (x3) and quotes were being sought for those currently

and were working out in the region of £278 - £300 including VAT and delivery.

The Sub Committee had reviewed the previous year's grass cutting and hedge maintenance and Members were satisfied with these, but were suggesting in future that a gardener be employed on a weekly basis to undertake ongoing maintenance not covered by the Contractor. A figure of £1200pa + a one-off £500 for work on the shed had been suggested to be included in next year's budget.

A resident had also promised to donate a large stone from her garden and transporting it to the Cemetery was proving to be difficult.

The Sub Committee had agreed to shelve the idea of car parking at the Cemetery for the next financial year as there were quite a lot of other issues already ongoing.

AGREED

- (i) Members agreed to include these sums in the 2014/15 budget.
- (ii) Councillor K Wright offered arrange the transport of the stone to the Cemetery and was thanked for this

#### 2431 COMMUNICATIONS

There were no issues to discuss

#### 2432 HIGHWAY/CYCLEWAY/FOOTPATH/GRASS CUTTING

Councillor G Ellis updated the meeting on the work to Flitton Hill and confirmed that he had been unable to persuade Amey to accept the Parish Council suggestions for the work instead. However it had been agreed that the ongoing work would be monitored and if it did not prove successful that we could request changes in the future.

In Greenfield there were still some road markings to finish off and the red brick finish to the crossing, which are dry weather dependant. Whilst the projects had exceeded budget the PC would only be invoiced for the original cost quoted of £10k.

In addition there had not yet been any decision on the application submitted in July 2013 for footpath improvements (mainly in Flitton) on a shared cost basis with the Parish Council offering one third of a £45k budget. The figure of £15k was being suggested as part of the overall budget for 2014/15.

The notes of a meeting with the Council's Grass Cutting Contractor were considered including minor changes to the 2014/15 contract and a suggestion of a wild flower area at the Playing Field next year.

#### 2433 PARISH PLAN

Councillor Phillips noted that the initial tranche of work was coming to an end and she would update it on the impact it had made in the Parish, but also that the Outdoor Strategy would provide a good basis for any new initiatives.

#### 2434 FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE

Councillor Arthur presented the work of the Finance Sub Committee in drawing up a budget for the Council in 2014/15. This had been done in more detail than in the past and should make spending across different budget heads clearer in future. The council discussed the proposed budget whilst also considering the current and projected bank balances and what

would be considered as a prudent level of reserves. The percentage increase of 58% was discussed and it was felt that this could be justified, especially when compared to other similar sized Parish Councils. Wherever possible the Band D property rate of just over £1 a week per household should be promoted as a reasonable level of funding to support the improvements being proposed in the Parish for next year. The effect of the withheld Council Tax Support Grant by Central Bedfordshire Council was also discussed as was the possibility of this being challenged, but there was nothing more that could be done about this. Taking all the figures into account a Precept of £36,000 was proposed and it was AGREED that a Precept of £36,000 be levied for 2014/15.

#### 2435 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

##### AGREED

The following payments/income was noted and the Chairman mentioned that all invoices in future would need to be submitted at least two weeks before a meeting for payment.

D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd £510  
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Maureen Morey (Litter picking) £65  
Clerk Expenses Dec/Jan £29.99  
I.J. Foxley Accounting - £25  
Clerk - Salary Dec/Jan - £533.86  
HMRC – £141.62  
Anglian water allotment charge - £14.21  
1&1 annual subscription £35.96 (Teresa King)  
Income - NBB Bolts + £117.96  
Income - Cemetery +£20

#### 2436 GRANT AID CONSIDERATIONS

There had not been any grant applications

#### 2437 PLANNING ISSUES

The planning issues were noted

#### 2438 TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2014  
Already discussed
- Notice boards  
The new notice board at the corner of Brook Lane/High Street should be ready soon. It was noted that the old one sited here, along with the board at the Compasses, may have been subject to vandalism and Councillor Lowe reported this to the Police
- Affiliation Fee – Beds Association Town and Parish Councils  
It was AGREED to renew the subscription to the BATPC at a rate of £299 per annum
- Centenary of the First World War.  
The Council had not planned any specific commemorative event, but

would see if the Church was holding the Armed Forces Service again this year.

- Campaign to Protect Rural England  
It was AGREED to become a Member of the CPRE, at a cost of £29 per annum and review the benefits at the end of the term.
- Litter Picking  
It was AGREED to add an article to the website and in Flit'n'More asking residents to keep their house frontages clear of litter to improve the appearance of the Parish and minimise litter picking work.
- Society of local Council Clerks (SLCC)  
It was AGREED not to join the SLCC
- Church Lane Flitton  
The Chairman had received a complaint about the highway patching up in Church Lane Flitton which had been reported to the Highways Authority.
- CBC Town and Parish Conference  
A decision on attendance would be made nearer the time of the Conference

There were a couple of information points,

Councillor M Lowe reported on the sudden death of the Village Hall Secretary Linda Moody. She also asked why the Village Hall details had been removed from the website, (please see)

<http://flittongreenfield.bedsparishes.gov.uk/playing-field-muga/>

Councillor K Wright mentioned the position of the post box by the chicane which is in the wrong position now and Councillor G Ellis agreed to look at this in advance of the next meeting.

Councillor N Thompson had spoken to one of the Church Wardens about a 'Community Thank You' service at the Church (Sept 5<sup>th</sup>) and would like a nominated contact point on the Council to discuss this with, it was agreed that this would be Councillor G Ellis until the next meeting.

#### 2439 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The following schedule of Council meetings was agreed

March 17th 2014

May 19th 2014

July 14th 2014

September 15th 2014

November 17th 2014

January 19th 2015

March 16th 2015

The meeting ended at 22.00h

DATED this 17th day of March 2014

CHAIRMAN