

FLITTON AND GREENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held at Flitton Church Hall
On Monday 18th November 2013

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

Also Present:

D Lawson: Clerk to the Council

2407 APOLOGIES AND SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies: Councillor N.K. Thompson (Chairman)
CBC Councillor James Jamieson and PCSO Juliet Wright

Declarations of Interest: Margaret 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.

2408 Co-option on to the Council

Cllr K Wright proposed and Cllr P Woodland seconded the nomination of David Jobling as a Councillor and this was duly carried.

RESOLVED: David Jobling be co-opted on to the Council and the Clerk to sort out the Declaration of Office and Personal Interest as soon as possible

2409 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th September 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:

- Notice boards – the Clerk explained that a local craftsman had agreed to make some new notice-boards at cost price and had incurred £502.53 so far on buying the oak and fittings and that the first one, to be sited next to the Church hall, was ready. It was agreed to ask for a quote to fit the Board.
- H lines in Pulloxhill Road – Councillor Ellis said he had heard no more and would follow up his consultation
- Overhanging vegetation in Mill Lane – now resolved
- Cycle racks – the racks had not yet been fitted at the White Hart and there was a problem at the Playing Field. The newly installed bike rides were loose and it was agreed that they were not fitted correctly according to the size of the bolts and the depth of the tarmac and that they should be removed for the time being as the location was not ideal and they were insecure/hazardous. Graham Lowe would pursue the misleading installation advice with the manufacturer. The Playing Field Sub Committee, at their next meeting, would consider the issue of cycling on the Playing Field and whether the bike racks could be situated somewhere more useful

- The Parish Plan be placed on the website
- The rubble will be cleared from the Playing Field shortly
- The Lease at Wardhedges had now been executed and registered
- The tall conifers at the bottom of Mill Lane be monitored for the time being

2410 DISTRICT COUNCIL AND POLICE REPORTS

An email summary submitted by Councillor Jamieson was read out by the Clerk, most of which was to be discussed later in the meeting, apart from the complaints about the car boot sale commencing on Sunday on the road between Greenfield and Westoning. Councillor Jamieson had asked for the name or contact details of the site owner so that the highways team could write in case of any highway problems.

PCSO Juliet Wright had sent her apologies at the last minute, but submitted an email report about crime levels in the Parish and the Clerk read this out. It was also noted that the police had not encountered or had any new reports about the motorcycle nuisance along the new cycleway. PCSO Wright had agreed to ask her colleagues to visit the car boot site on Sunday to see if any traffic nuisance was being caused.

2411 OUTDOOR STRATEGY

Councillors expressed their thanks for the excellent work undertaken on this report and noted that payment of £250 would be sent shortly once any expenses had been taken into account..

Councillor Ellis asked for one amendment to be made in the cycle way section, which he would email to the Clerk. It was suggested that the Parish Plan Sub Committee take responsibility for the dissemination and discussion on the strategy in liaison with the various other Sub Committee Chairs.

AGREED

The Outdoor Strategy be adopted by the Council and responsibility for implementation be passed to the Parish Plan Sub Committee

2412 ALLOTMENT SUB COMMITTEE

A new allotment agreement had been drawn up and Councillor Ellis had agreed to consult allotment holders over the clause on keeping livestock. He had done research on the matter and following a discussion, it was agreed that the clause not allowing livestock be kept in the agreement for the time being, to be reviewed in the future.

It was suggested that an additional clause be inserted to advise tenants that they need their own Personal Insurance cover whilst working on their plot and the Clerk agreed to insert this.

The new tenants on both sites were noted along with the cultivation work at Joes Close and the installation of water pipe at Flitton Hill. Both were likely to incur minor charges.

AGREED

- (i) The Allotment Agreement be adopted subject to the additional clause being inserted.
- (ii) The expenditure to be incurred at both sites was approved

2413 CEMETERY SUB COMMITTEE

Councillor King reminded Members of the discussion at the July Meeting about the Lawn Cemetery proposal, when it was agreed that there should be a period of public consultation. She referred to the report which had been prepared as the basis for the consultation and this was discussed and agreed to place on the website.

Councillor King also noted that the initial work on the Memorial Garden had been completed at a cost of £614 and the Sub Committee were pleased with the results. Some additional work was also proposed and this would be costed. The Council was also asked to accept quotes for the fencing work along two boundary lines

AGREED

- (i) The consultation on a Lawned Cemetery commence
- (ii) The Memorial Garden costs be noted along with the future additional expenditure
- (iii) The fencing quotes be accepted

2414 COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor King reported that the Sub Committee had met and co-opted Angela Ayres (Flit'n 'More editor) on to the meeting. It was hoped that Angela's presence would strengthen links between the Councils communications and the magazine and maintain close links with the website. It was agreed to look at the website in Silsoe, but as it is run in a very different format to the Bedfordshire Parishes sites, it may not be easy to change to this kind of format.

2415 HIGHWAY/CYCLEWAY/FOOTPATH/GRASS CUTTING

Councillor G Ellis reported on the progress of the traffic consultation and noted that the work at Pulloxhill Road junction was now ready to commence although no timescales had been given yet. However the proposals at Flitton Hill were subject to a Traffic Management meeting on 21 November to which he had been invited. He would convey the Councils dissatisfaction with Amey's suggestions for Flitton Hill, especially as the initial Council view was not taken into account by them. However he also explained that by sticking to this principle the Parish Council could well expect to be billed £1000 for a repeat of the consultation and have the work delayed whilst this ensued.

Councillor Ellis noted that work was progressing on the cycleway, the barrier had been erected at Fitzroy Cottages and some alterations were being made to the barriers along the route.

The CBC suggestion to consider the designation of the path at Fitzroy Cottages as the official route into Centenary Wood was considered, but the views of the residents were not known. It was also felt that the diagonal path through the adjacent field should still remain in place, even if the route were to be re-designated.

There was a short discussion on the new grass cutting contract, but the details of this would be discussed at a meeting to be arranged with the Contractor. Any comments welcomed. It was noted that there had been some compliments about the impressive look of the verges in the Parish.

AGREED

- (i) That Councillor Ellis should object most strongly to the current proposals and seek to revert the proposals to the Council's initial view, accepting that this may incur cost and delay
- (ii) That CBC be urged to consult widely on the proposal to re-route the access into Centenary Wood and the Parish Council offer them any assistance with this through the website or local magazine

2416 PARISH PLAN

Councillor Phillips noted that The Plan consideration for the initial tranche of work was coming to an end and work on the Outdoor Strategy would be provide a good replacement for any new initiatives.

2417 PLAYING FIELD

Councillor Arthur explained that the quotes which had been obtained so far for the safety surfaces and some additional work were not easily comparable and agreed to arrange a meeting of the Sub Committee to consider these in more detail.

It was also agreed that the quotes for work on trees at the front of the site be postponed for now, until another inspection could be made.

A suggestion had been made by a Parishioner about trees to screen the MUGA frontage and various suggestions about types of trees were made. Councillor Ellis said that the Woodland Trust supply free trees, including fruit trees. It was agreed to look at the site at the next Sub Committee meeting.

Councillor Lowe raised the issue of a large number of dog owners using the Playing Field to walk across despite the signs. It was agreed that the Playing Field Sub Committee should consider this problem in more detail.
AGREED

The Playing Field Sub Committee meet to consider the issues discussed above

2418 PLANNING ISSUES

The planning issues were noted along with the revised application received that day on the 63 Mill Lane proposals, which were being circulated. Councillor Arthur raised an issue about planning in the Prime Minister's constituency relating to the possible absence of a Local Plan in the area, which allowed developers to succeed at Appeal. He expressed concern that this may happen in this Central Bedfordshire if the Local Plan had not been adopted and whether the Parish Council should look to a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Clerk explained that the CBC Plan is in draft status (whereas Bedford's has already been adopted) and this does put the authority slightly at risk until it is adopted. Town and parish Councils can produce their own Neighbourhood Plan under the Localism legislation, which can be adopted as statutory guidance in the meantime by the Local planning Authority as part of its Local Plan.

It was agreed to consult Councillor Jamieson about this at the next opportunity.

Councillor Woodland mentioned the land being sold by auction in the village and her idea that the Parish could consider buying such a plot of

land in the future for the benefit of the community, however acknowledging that it was too late in this instance as the auction had been earlier in the day.

2419 TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT

1. Salt Distribution - the Good Neighbour Scheme had understandably declined the approach about accepting responsibility for salt distribution in the village and in the meantime the Council has received a letter from Insurers Aon reminding warning about the cover required to clear, salt or grit the highways (including pavements). Following a long discussion about the CBC offer to supply free salt to villages, it was decided that this could not be accepted because of the logistical complications.
2. The Review of Polling Places and Polling Stations in the Electoral Ward was noted and the only question which was raised was why the Parish needed two venues or whether they could be combined into one Polling Station. .
3. The Draft Central Bedfordshire Design Guide which has been published for consultation, setting out key principles and standards to guide the delivery of high quality design was noted.
4. Councillor Ellis offered to attend the CBC Town & Parish Council Conference on 27 November 2013 if free and the Clerk agreed to send him details.
5. The Community Rights booklet from DCLG, based on the premise that local people value and love the places they live in. was discussed and it was agreed to revisit the principle of Localism in the future.
6. The Electoral Commission is consulting on the issue of electoral mandate for councils, as the next round of full elections will take place in May 2015. They are seeking views about making the process of standing for election easier for local people. The Parish Council felt that the first obstacle was to get volunteers to be interested and that the process may not be the most off-putting factor.

2420 GRANT AID CONSIDERATIONS

A letter asking for funding by the Police Partnership was discussed and it was agreed that they should be asked to apply formally to the Council through the grant application process.

AGREED

The Clerk invites the Police Partnership to apply for funding using the Council's Grant application form

2421 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

AGREED

The Bank balance was noted and the following accounts be either noted or paid and cheques drawn accordingly:- (the Clerks salary had not yet been sent by the payroll accountant, but was authorised for payment)

Flitwick Heritage £100.00
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd £455.26
BATPC Clerks Course £200.00
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd £1,122.00
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd £592.06
Anglian Water £14.05
Hire of Church Hall Flitton £105.00
Keys for Playing Field £7.95
D.J. Granger Landscapes Ltd £282.46
HM Land Registry £40.00
Royal British Legion £17.00
Mr J Smith Grounds Maintenance £614.00
Maureen Morey (Litter picking) £45.50
Deborah Lawson Expenses Oct/Nov £112.40
H.M. Revenue & Customs (Clerk's Tax)
I.J. Foxley Accounting
Deborah Lawson - Salary Oct/Nov

2422 PARISH MATTERS

Councillor Lowe mentioned the idea of the Parish Council acquiring a Community wheelchair for loan to residents and asked Councillors to think about it.

2423 FUTURE MEETING DATES

The following schedule of Council meetings was agreed
January 20th 2014
March 17th 2014
May 19th 2014
July 14th 2014
September 15th 2014
November 17th 2014
January 19th 2015
March 16th 2015
Finance Sub Committee 13th January 2014

The meeting ended at 21.35h

DATED this 20th day of January 2014

CHAIRMAN