

FLITTON AND GREENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL	
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Church Hall, Flitton, on Wednesday 14 th March 2018 Present: Councillors N Thompson (Vice-Chair acting as Chair), P Woodland, G. Ellis, T King, M. Lowe, R Stokes and B Rishton Also, Present: CBC Councillor J Jamieson and D Lawson (Clerk)	
2693 APOLOGIES AND SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
Apologies: Clls M Gates (Chair), N Arthur and J Fisher	
Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations of interest	
2694 MINUTES	
The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24 th January 2018 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"> • Cllr King to follow up the action relating to the last mixed row in the cemetery • Battles Over – the Bell Ringers have been requested to take part in the national ‘Ringing out for Peace’. The PC considered a recent suggestion to purchase memento but favoured looking at whether any work may be necessary to repair or refurbish the War Memorial. This will be investigated • Defibrillators –4 units are being purchased and the Chair is progressing the installation of two in Wardhedges and Greenfield. It had been suggested that running costs would be maximum of £100 per annum, probably much less, but that the PC would have to allocate a budget in future for repairs, service checks and renewables. Nothing had been specifically allocated, but funds could be earmarked out of the Grants budget 	TK DL DL
2695 DISTRICT COUNCIL AND POLICE REPORTS	
Cllr Jamieson mentioned or responded to the following	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refuse collection consultation with a summary of the main points and asking for the PC help to publicise this • Potholes between Westoning and Greenfield had been repaired and the Jet-patching machine will be back again in April to do more work. Any potholes to be reported. • An increase in Council Tax of 4.5% • No progress yet on the Solar Farm community benefit, but still chasing. Agreement between the 3 Parish Councils to revert to the 60-30-10 split with the share already paid to Westoning to be taken into account first • The Local Plan comments are still being considered prior to it being submitted for Examination. The latest NPPF consultation may help CBC, although there was warning that the number of windfall sites being relied upon, may mean that small scale development in future is inevitable and the Village Development Envelope cannot be relied upon for protection, which could make the Neighbourhood Plan even more important. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In terms of football pitches, there had not been any approach from the School about potential grassed playing areas, but if a letter were to be received, it would be passed to the Councils Assets team. The cleaner progress had been held up due to weather and a programme had been requested which would be shared with PC's when available. 	JJ/GE
2696 SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS	
Allotments:	
<p>Cllr Ellis reported that there had been a meeting on site at Flitton Hill and an existing tenant had agreed to move plots to where another existing tenant was clearing his site. The existing rent to be charged</p> <p>This would lead on to the offer of an agricultural tenancy for the rest of the field, but with a rent free first year to enable the site to be cleared and flattened prior to cultivation. The rent to be determined before April 2019.</p> <p>Cllrs agreed to meet the local farmer on site to clarify the land area and conditions of the let, including maintenance of an existing track which may become a permissive path.</p> <p>Cllr Rishton mentioned a resident's idea about a community orchard in Greenfield, but the land cost or value may make this prohibitive and the Councils land on the allotment site in Greenfield may be a better and more affordable option.</p>	GE/RS
Planning including Neighbourhood Plan	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes of the Planning Sub Committee held on 14 February were noted The planning application at 7 Church Lane, Flitton, Bedford, MK45 5EL for Two story side, single story front & rear extensions was considered Agreed there was no objection The Clerk had received an email from a couple noting their intention to make a redundant barn conversion their home in Brook Lane, subject to a planning application for an extension and this was noted 	DL
Playing Field Sub Committee	
Nothing to note	
Cemetery Sub Committee	
Nothing to note	
MUGA Sub Committee	
Nothing to note	
Highways/Cycleways/footpaths/Grass cutting	
<p>There had been a Highways Sub Committee just prior to the Council Meeting attended by Cllrs Ellis (Chair) Stokes and Rishton plus Messrs David Granger, Haydn and Daniel Wood and the Clerk (apologies were received from Cllrs Gates and Fisher and Paul Masters), and the following points were noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new grass cutting contract would commence this week and the Contractor joined the meeting to receive any updates or information. Any areas earmarked for wild flowers or bulbs would be notified to the contractor and it may still be possible to get these established for this growing season. The contractor advised about the need to cut and remove the grass in order to enable the seeds to continue cultivation and this would have to be handled alongside his cuts, by the Councils gardener. The Contractor also noted from his experience the disadvantages of having swathes of wild flower patches in a grassed area such as the Playing Field as it can collect litter and look unsightly quite quickly as well as attracting dog owners. His advice would be to plan and fence off a specific area for this purpose, but this would need 	GE

<p>separate maintenance. This would be discussed with the Playing Field Sub Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Ellis introduced the Councils ongoing concern about congestion at peak times outside the school and the presence of the Operators lorries, which appeared to be in the area at that time, more so than in the past. This seems to be leading to more complaints about this patch of road than any other in the Parish, although the Operator said his level of complaints was still low, especially compared to 2009 when the RAT's group were campaigning in the Parish. It was accepted that the problem is worse in the mornings around drop of times, than pick up in the afternoon. <p>The Vehicle operator explained his operational methods and why some of the timing issues were now outside his control and were leading to some vehicle movement during peak times. However even during peak times, he said that there are windows of opportunity when the cars are parked, for a lorry not to be part of any congestion and pass freely down the road. It was agreed that the worst time is when school drop off vehicles are moving in or out of the area and the gaps left between parked cars become congested leading to stop /start and backing traffic. Car drivers can be as much to blame for causing congestion as the lorry drivers and the Operator said it is often car drivers who tend to freeze in the face of a large lorry and then expect that driver to manoeuvre out of the situation. Hence there does need to be road respect from all involved and perhaps school drop off drivers need to be aware of their driving techniques as well as the lorry drivers.</p> <p>However, should there be any discourtesy of difficulties with any of the Operators vehicles they are all fitted with trackers and dash cams (facing forwards) so can be reviewed after any incident. The Operator encouraged any drivers who experience difficulties with his fleet to contact him direct or through the Parish Council and if possible keep lorry details, so that evidence can be viewed.</p> <p>In response, Cllr Ellis said he would speak to the School and try to ascertain if there is a specific short window of time when he could recommend to the Operator not to send out a vehicle. This is not feasible for longer durations, despite the elongated school drop off time because of the impact on the business, specific timed deliveries and the drivers working day. This was acknowledged by all present as being an issue without a full resolution but working together may help make all parties more aware of any problem behaviour and times. Cllr Ellis would also ask the School to write to the Operator to clarify the situation so this evidence is available for all to see.</p> <p>Other quite radical solutions to the problem were discussed such as moving the industrial estate or the school or preventing all parking on the road and utilising other areas for park and walk. However, many of these ideas had either been attempted in the past or were not feasible. The Clerk also clarified that the Council had sought advice from the Vehicle Operating Agency and their Environmental Team would be prepared to get involve if necessary, but no-one wanted the matter to get that far.</p> <p>Cllr Ellis did agree to speak again to the Highway contractor about double yellow lining and enforcement of existing parking control measures to see if any more could be done.</p> <p>The operator had done a random sample of vehicle movements that morning to show the times of lorries in the immediate area and offered</p>	<p>GE</p> <p>GE</p>
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<p>to continue to provide this information to the Council if it would be helpful and everyone confirmed it was.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The revised Silsoe Wardhedges scheme had been welcomed by residents and was now back with the CBC design team for finalisation and costing prior to formal consultation. Cllr Ellis was asked about cost and commented that CBC seemed to be working on the budget which had been discussed with them at the last meeting. 	
2697 SECTION106 GRANT APPLICATION(S)	
<p>The Clerk reported that she had heard today that the S106 application for access work at the Playing Field had not been successful, which was disappointing. However now that the work had been done to plan and cost new access points, it may be something which the Playing Field Sub Committee would like to consider.</p> <p>The other S106 grant application made by the Greensand Trust to continue the cycleway from the river at Mill Lane to Ruxox Farm and then Flitwick, including a new river bridge, had been successful and members were pleased to hear that this walking/cycling link to Flitwick would now become a reality. It was also hoped that it would put pressure on work commencing on Phase 1 of the project along the river path</p> <p>As the use of the wide track would be shared between pedestrians and cyclists, the Trust were encouraged to include signage to signify this and make sure that cyclists let pedestrians know they were there as in some members experience this does not always happen</p>	<p>NA</p> <p>DL</p>
CLERKS REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help Clean up the Country – litter pick weekend Following postponement of the original date, it was agreed to try to participate in this initiative by organising a litter pick outside the scope of the national event, although there was difficulty finding a mutually convenient date. Cllrs Stokes and Rishton agreed to lead on the organisation, and would confirm the best date for them, bearing in mind the growing season and difficulty in picking litter too late in the spring. Arrangements would be made if and when a date could be put in place General Data Protection Regulation The Clerk was attending a training session run by the BATPC later in the month and would report back to the Council 	<p>RS/BR</p> <p>DL</p>
ANY OTHER BUSINESS – FOR INFORMATION ONLY	
<p>Cllr Woodland mentioned a request by a resident to site bird feeders in Centenary Wood, but as it is outside the Parish area, the resident was advised to contact Pulloxhill Parish Council</p>	
DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
<p>The date of the next meetings was noted as Wednesday 15th May 2018 19:30h at the Church hall Flitton</p>	
<p>The meeting ended at 20.50h</p>	
<p>DATED this 15th day of May 2018</p> <p>Signed - Chairman</p>	