

FLITTON AND GREENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting held at the Church Hall, Flitton,
On Monday 15 September 2014

Present: Councillors N Thompson (Chair), N. Arthur, G. Ellis, M. Lowe, T. King
and J Sparrey. D Lawson (Clerk)

Also Present:

CBC Councillor J Jamieson
Sally Smith, Dougie McColm and Mark Austin
Liz Coulson and Mr Coulson
Dave Sedgley
Angela Ayres

2494 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman moved the public participation session to the start of the meeting as members of the public were already present

Sally Smith, Dougie McColm and Mark Austin outlined the traffic problems being experienced by residents of Flitton Hill with speeding traffic, inconsiderate driving and the death of several household pets on the road. They all feared that a worse accident may occur without intervention to control the driving behaviour which extends down to the A507, where there had been at least one fatality and other accidents at the junction point. A survey had been conducted among almost all households and they were in favour of hard traffic control measures, along with other possible suggestions to alleviate or control the traffic. The situation has become worse recently for a variety of reasons; one being that the chicanes had exacerbated the problem, so that when drivers reached the Hill there was 'frustrated' speeding out of the village. The new speed reduction measures introduced earlier in the year had done little to help in either direction. Residents asked that the Council make traffic control on Flitton Hill a priority in any future years highway spending and that this may be matched by CBC joint funding. Councillor Jamieson clarified that he could seek to obtain match funding from the Highway Authority for a raised table but the timing for any Parish application for next year was not known yet. He also stated that he was exploring the possibility of a No Right-hand turn onto the A507 from Flitton Hill, although this would have to be subject to consultation. It was also pointed out the Council has other traffic issues within the Parish and that these would have to be considered alongside those of Flitton Hill. Cllr Ellis agreed that he would speak to the Police about speed watch on the hill and lead the Councils discussion with Amey to include the residents. The Chairman thanked Sally, Dougie and Mark for their presentation

GE

Liz Coulson outlined the problems being experienced in Pulloxhill Road (which falls into the Parishes of both Greenfield and Pulloxhill) by the school traffic and inconsiderate parking by parents at school drop off and pick up times. She pointed out the dangers of parking being allowed on the brow of the Hill and parking on the zigzag lines which is a traffic offence and causes a hazard because it is the only pull in point on the road when it becomes single track due to parking. The whole situation is made worse when school traffic is mixed with lorries from the industrial estate and the fear is that it could lead to a serious accident or a fatality. Residents of the Woodland Estate also risk an accident every time they try to pull out of the estate because the visible is narrowed by parked cars and they have to pull out blind. Liz also commented that the chicanes appear to create frustration in the Parish leading to speeding and requested that the Parish Council consider speed humps instead.

There was a full discussion about what measures could be taken including

<p>extending the zigzags or double yellow lining, but a concern that these may require a costly Traffic regulation Order. It was felt that there should be discussion with the school as they too have a role to play. It was agreed that a Police presence at some of the busy times could be very helpful and there may be an opportunity to do this at Operation Vision the next day. Cllr Ellis as a Trustee and Cllr Sparrey as a parent agreed to raise the problem with the school The Chairman thanked Liz for her presentation</p>	<p>DL GE/JS</p>
<p>Dave Sedgley had submitted a request for funding towards the proposed Jack Crawley Barn at the bottom of Brook Lane. He had asked for £1466 to contribute to the overall scheme which would see the erection of a new purpose built Farm Plus barn at a total cost of £21,000 - £22,000. He had secured funding from CBC Countryside Access Team to undertake the demolition and site preparation work of approx £8000 and was applying for other grants including £10,000 from Biffa Award to complete the project. He outlined the project brief and use of the Barn as a cultural heritage centre for the Flit Valley to exhibit the work of local artists including the late Jack Crawley. He said he felt he would have better success applying for grants if other funding had already been secured. Councillors questioned the security of the site and how any potential vandalism would be handled and it was confirmed that the road access would remain closed so there would only be access on foot and the site is already fairly well protected, so that it should not present any additional security risk. The Chairman thanked Dave for his presentation and confirmed that a decision on funding would be made later in the meeting.</p>	
<p>Angela Ayres explained to Councillors that it is no longer possible to get Flit'n' More printed free and that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) need assistance with funding. She said that Flit'n' More had been produced by her for 10 years and was a PCC initiative. It contains a minimal number of adverts and this generates a small income for the PCC. Quotes for printing costs now suggest publication in a similar format could be about £1000 per year. In total 650 copies of a 20 page booklet are made each quarter and these are distributed free to all households. Angela is the sole editor and from experience knows that there is normally a tight printing deadline to include copy sent in by other contributors, so a flexible printing supplier needs to be found Since its inception the magazine has become much more of a community newsletter used by several organisations including the Parish Council and she had been grateful for the previous support towards its costs. Various members of the Council agreed to provide details of printers they had used so that a variety of quotes could be obtained and Angela said she would firm up the process of getting quotes if she was successful. The Chairman thanked Angela for her presentation and confirmed that a decision on funding would be made later in the meeting.</p>	
<p>2495 APOLOGIES AND SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p>	
<p>Councillor K. Wright, S. Phillips (Vice Chair), P. Woodland and D Jobling</p>	
<p>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</p>	
<p>2496 MINUTES</p>	
<p>The Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th July 2014 were received and it was</p>	
<p>RESOLVED:</p>	
<p>That the Minutes be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.</p>	

The following matters arising were noted:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H Lines Pulloxhill Road Cllr Jamieson agreed to chase this, but noted that residents would have to meet their own costs. • Cycle racks – the Village Hall have suggested that the cycle racks should be placed at the Playing Field rather than use car parking space at the Village Hall. Alternative suggestions were discussed and it was agreed that the matter be raised with the Committee again. It was also suggested that some of the 8 remaining racks could be offered to the School and Cllr Jamieson agreed to mention this to them • The post box in Greenfield should be moved shortly • Flooding Working Party on the agenda • New litter bins at the Playing Field have been ordered • War Memorial work – Cllr Thompson explained that the work at the Memorial was not as bad as had first been thought and that he was discussing with the PCC whether there was an alternative suggestion based on the high costs for the work or any other source of local funding which may be available to them • Build out Flitton High Street now seems to have been replaced by a narrow path to be built next to the existing wall, but details on this are awaited from Amey. • Action column in the minutes – this is used when the minutes are produced but when copying onto the agenda sheet, the format is lost. The Clerk will look at this again • A letter had been sent to the land owner next to the Church Hall about parking, but the response had not been positive 	ML/GE JJ DL	
2497 DISTRICT COUNCIL AND POLICE REPORTS		
The Police had sent apologies but a copy of the crime statistics had been circulated.		
It was noted that Op Vision was taking place on Wednesday 17 September and the Police could use the Village hall car park all day and were scheduled to visit properties in Greenfield in the morning and Flitton in the afternoon, all those able to help should meet in the car park at 11.30h on the morning		
<p>Cllr Jamieson mentioned the Clayhill Farm planning application which had now been received and asked for his apologies to be noted at the joint meeting on Tuesday evening, when the Community Benefit was being discussed again. There was short discussion about the status of the Community Benefit with regard to the planning issues and Cllr Jamieson explained his understanding of this and what objections, if appropriate could be made.</p> <p>The Clerk drew a recent request to members to ask for a Planning Application to be called to Committee, to Cllr Jamieson's attention, but it was felt there were insufficient planning grounds to do this.</p> <p>Cllr Thompson also asked for clarification about whether the Council had to 'support' or 'object' to planning applications on line or whether it was acceptable just to 'comment'. In the past when the 'comments' box had been used on-line to leave the Councils view, the Clerk had been rebuked for not stating clearly one way or the other and so the council had tried to comply ever since. It was suggested that there should be another option which is 'Do Not Object' rather than 'Support'. Cllr Jamieson agreed to look into this.</p>		JJ
2498 SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS		
Playing Field Sub Committee		
The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 August were discussed and the		

<p>following issues were noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A quote for the repair of the MUGA car park post and height bar had just been received and would be discussed with the Sub Committee Chair so that the Insurance claim could be submitted • The Clerk was dealing with the ROSPA requirement for the baby swing and would speak to the Chair about the quote received • All the new signs were now in position • Cllr Lowe commented on an inappropriate use of the goal post by an adult doing pull ups which had been challenged, which the Council endorsed and highlights the need for the adult exercise equipment to be considered again in future. 	<p>DL/NA</p> <p>DL/NA</p>
<p>Cemetery Sub Committee</p>	
<p>There had not been a meeting, but the following points were noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The grave digger recently sought an impromptu consent to use the compost area for displaced soil and now instead of asking for it to be removed, it was agreed to ask the gardener to use it to do some of the levelling work which had been identified • Further stones for the remembrance garden would be sourced 	<p>DL</p> <p>TK</p>
<p>Communications and Parish Plan</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Phillips had left an update on the Parish Plan which was read out • The Greenfield Notice board was due to be installed shortly and the Clerk agreed to chase the contractor 	<p>DL</p>
<p>Allotments</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Ellis said that he would verify the water consumption at Flitton Hill and let the Clerk have figures • The two vacant allotments at Joes Close had now been cleared and would be periodically cleared in future. There were no current plans to use them 	<p>GE</p>
<p>Highways/Cycleways/footpaths/Grasscutting</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Sparrey had been present at the recent site visit by Amey and Cllr Jamieson and explained some of the findings, including an interesting discussion about the current position of Amey as the CBC contractor and commissioner, which will change soon when the contract expires. • Cllr Sparrey talked about patching potential potholes in Church Lane and Brook Lane as part of the visit, but the decision not to do any patching in School Lane as it may need a significant amount of work in the future • Any remedial work required in the village should be listed and sent to Amey • Cllr Sparrey had produced a summary of what to do in the event of flooding, which basically indicated that legal responsibilities lay elsewhere other than the Parish Council, unless the Council is the land owner. • The position of the Village Hall and Playing Field were discussed and it was noted that the Village Hall Committee are custodians of the land on behalf of the Parish, but that the Playing Field is Leased to the Parish Council for a period of 42 years expiring in 2017 • Cllr Sparrey spoke about the legal responsibility for the flooding outside the Village Hall being the responsibility of the landowner which is the Village Hall Committee. The Parish Council having responsibility to keep the drain entrance clear on the leased land, although CBC as the land owner already do planned maintenance on the drain every three years, unless there is an emergency. • When any new Lease is agreed for the land it should be specified in 	

more detail	
2499 FINANCE COMMITTEE	
The Clerk noted that the External Auditor had asked for more information from the Council which has now been sent, although there has not been any response yet. There were two applications for financial assistance to be considered and both applicants had already spoken to the Council	
RESOLVED	
(i) To award The Friends of Flitton Moor £1466 subject to other grant applications being successful so that the project can go ahead,	DL
(ii) To agree to the printing of Flitton Moor for the next two editions subject to the best printing quote being accepted. Thereafter the Council to seek to include the expenditure for printing (up to a maximum of £1500), into the annual budget as there was recognition of it as a valuable channel of communications for the whole Parish. It was furthermore agreed that the PCC should continue to manage and receive the advertising revenue to keep the same balance of news/adverts as currently exists.	DL
2500 PLANNING ISSUES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the last meeting the planning application at Clayhill Farm had been submitted although with a disappointing offer of community benefit. A further joint Parishes meeting will be held on 16.09.14 • The applications where comments had already been submitted and those still requiring comment were noted 	DL
2501 CORRESPONDENCE AND CLERKS REPORT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The situation of parking control half on and half off the highway outside the cemetery and possible use of new Traffic Regulations was noted and a decision is awaited • The Council noted that a defibrillator had been agreed by the Village Hall Committee and that a joint application to CBC has been made • The Clerk will submit comments to the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel and thanked Cllr Phillips for her suggestions on this. 	DL
2502 ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
The Clerk mentioned a letter from the Village Hall Committee received today seeking any other nomination to fill the two places allocated to the Council, but it was felt unlikely that both vacancies could be filled. Cllr Arthur asked if the Gala had been successful and Cllr Lowe confirmed it had and that the condition of the field had been good	
2503 DATE OF NEXT MEETING	
Monday 17 November 2014 19:30h at the School Greenfield	

The meeting ended at 22:19h

DATED this 17th day of November 2014
CHAIRMAN