



# Hockliffe Parish Council

## Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10 Sep 2018

**PRESENT:** Cllrs Coleman, Capstick, R Scott, Alexander, Harris and Clerk P.Scott

Cllr M Versaillon - CBC

**501. Apologies**

Cllr Dickens

**502. Declarations of Interest**

None

**503. Approval of minutes from 9 July 2018**

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting held.

**504. Public Forum**

25 members of the public were present.

Cllr Alexander explained that moving forward the Parish Council would manage this section of the agenda more closely following training that he and Cllr Capstick had attended. Residents would be able to address the Council on matters on the agenda or request matters for discussion at subsequent meetings. This would be introduced over the next two meetings so that issues needing to be raised by residents could be successfully captured.

- A resident stated that the bollard near the school had been knocked over and was dangerous needs to be reported to CBC
- The seat near the Harvester needs attention, this will be an early job for the handyman
- Road works north of the lights are causing a problem Highways England (HE) advised that they would look into this matter.

**505. Highways England Update**

Cllr Capstick introduced this item and updated the meeting HE were in attendance and referred to their attendance at PC meeting in March 2018. HE not aware of the works north of the village and will look into this matter. HE mentioned the serious incident with a resident being knocked down in the village, the issue with the traffic lights not working, which is due to a sensor that was damaged during the resurfacing works and traffic volume which has increased due to the closure of the A4146 in Bucks.

Areas that HE are exploring include the potential detrunking of the A5, although this involves a long legal process between HE and the relevant Local Authorities, initial responses seem positive.

The M1 Link road has been shown to have increased traffic by 3000 vehicles a day, there will be a post opening evaluation report carried out which will include impact on the surrounding area, a report will be completed in May 2019.

The A5 has always been the diversion route for M1 relief traffic but in the future the A505 /A4146 will be used wherever possible.

Cllr Versaillon stated that residents are frustrated with the length of time it is taking to implement improvements for the benefit of the village, six months have gone by and no changes have been implemented. He asked whether the HE could take a more pragmatic approach to some of the “quick wins” which will improve life for residents whilst addressing longer term issues.

A resident mentioned the serious road traffic accident in the village, that there were three other incidents that day as well and that there had been fatalities due to the build up of traffic entering the village from the North. All accidents, near misses and smaller “bumps” need to be reported to HE, Dept of Transport, Andrew Selous MP and the Police to support the detrunking and environmental action.

Another resident mentioned about the ease of looking at making the Leighton Bypass into two lanes. The HGV weight limit in Woburn and Toddington is not being observed. When you walk in the village the HGV’s are so close, the resident said that they felt that the increase in traffic was aggravating their asthma. All the local shortcuts are known and this is also having a detrimental effect on surrounding villagers. Hauliers are being spoken to but difficult to “police”. HE referred to the successful detrunking of the A5 through Dunstable but reiterated that this is a long process.

Another resident stated that A5 through the village is not able to sustain 32 tonne lorries and that in the last thirty years most villages have been bypassed.

Concern was expressed about the probable increase of traffic brought about through the new housing in surrounding areas like Houghton Regis (approximately 7,400).

The work to the A6-M1 Link have not modelled the effect that the extra traffic will have on Hockliffe. A lot of vehicles are using the A5 through Hockliffe if they are going to Milton Keynes (MK) as the M1 takes you to the wrong side of MK.

Cllr Coleman advised that the new Pallet business (south of the village) who attended a previous HPC meeting said that they would request that drivers only turn left out of the site is not happening. Concern was expressed that this may lead to more accidents. There was a previous school coach crash in this area.

A resident of White Horse Close asked when the “keep clear” boxes could be reinstated, this is linked to the work that the HE are doing.

A resident mentioned that Hockliffe features daily on the radio traffic reports, wondered also how Sat Navs get altered when road hierarchy gets changed.

Cllr Versaillon advised that he knows that surrounding villages like Tilsforth, Stanbridge and Egginton are being directly impacted with local people using their roads to avoid the A5.

HE need to provide a timescale to come back to the village with responses to suggestions that have been put forward. Cllr Capstick and Cllr Alexander are leading on this for HPC.

**506. Matters for Councillor Versaillon**

A resident referred to the Duke of Bedford’s land being put forward in the CBC Local Plan, the area is near the Brook and in the flood plain. CBC have a legal responsibility to deliver 25,000 new homes in the new plan period. CBC are required to “cooperate” with surrounding areas to help satisfy housing demand. The Checkley Wood site was rejected as it is not close enough to existing villages. Junction 13 to Marston Mortaine are having to take high levels of housing. The village is considered as a large village in planning terms due to the facilities as we have 3 restaurants and a post office.

Cllr Versaillon expressed concern on the length of time any detrunking plans could take given that it took seven years to achieve the detrunking for Dunstable. Discussion was had about the possibility of a petition to request speed reduction in the village.

**507. Matters for the attention of the Police**

Unfortunately crime statistics are not currently available due to the website being updated, although there was information concerning the work that the police have been doing to deal with flytipping.

**508. Matters Arising from the minutes (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

None

**509. Matters Outstanding from the Action Plan**

Cllr Harris went through the outstanding matters and updated the action plan, specific items to mention:

- I. Duke of Bedford Land to be picked up on the work being carried out through the Neighbourhood Plan we now have a new consultant who previously worked for CBC.
- II. Noticeboards have been repaired
- III. HE ongoing matter as discussed at the meeting.
- IV. Recreation Ground work was completed ahead of school holidays and has been received favourably.
- V. Handyman interviews to take place ahead of next meeting.
- VI. Containers at recreation ground – currently exploring options
- VII. Cleaning of the recreation ground – to be picked up by new handyman
- VIII. Cemetery Clerk / Parish Clerk vacancy advert to go out and interviews to take place.
- IX. GDPR work ongoing
- X. Claim for VAT
- XI. Kings Arm listed building
- XII. Repair has taken place to phone box
- XIII. Car show room “office”

**510. Purchase of Tree following dead tree removal**

Church Warden has asked the PC to hold this matter for the time being as they are looking at their boundary in relation to parking.

**511. Arrangements for Christmas**

The PC would like to hold a Christmas event at the Harvester as in previous years although it was not possible last year as Father Christmas was busy. The electric box on the grass looks like it has been damaged so this will need to be looked at ahead of any event. We need to liaise with Hockliffe PTA so that events do not clash. Await date from PTA. Discussion about the possibility of setting up an events committee and to hold more events in the village.

**512. Planning Applications – CB/18/03151/FULL The Leys**

Planning application considered by Cllrs and concern expressed for the impact visually to the village. PClerk to object on these grounds.

**513. Correspondence Received**

None.

**514. Finance**

- To approve payments to be made:

10/9/2018	1623	Kallkwik	Hockliffe Herald	£ 146.00
10/9/2018	1624	Mrs P Scott (Aug)	Parish Clerk Salary	£ 148.80
10/9/2018	1625	CBC	Hall Hire	£ 27.00
10/9/2018	1626	Fenland	Recreation Ground	£44,674.80

10/9/2018	1627	Mrs P Scott	Expenses	£ 11.79
10/9/2018	1628	Clive Keble	N Plan	£ 200.00
10/9/2018	1629	Mrs P Scott (July)	Parish Clerk Salary	£ 148.80

- It was **resolved** that all payments be made and two authorised signatories were instructed to sign the cheques.
- Goldleaf cheques to be held until clarification of spend provided.
- Cllr Scott advised that payment would not be made to Fenland until confirmation that payment had been received into the account.

**515. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018. The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

8<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Signed .....

DRAFT