



# Hockliffe Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2018

## **Present**

Cllrs Coleman, R Scott, Dickens, Harris, Clerk P Scott, C Washbrook;

Cllr Versallion – CBC

Cllr Richard Alexander has resigned from the Parish Council.

## **Apologies**

Cllr Capstick.

## **533. Declaration of interest**

None

## **534. Approval of minutes from 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

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

## **535. Public forum**

19 members of the public were present

Standing orders suspended

- Cllr Harris raised that an Events Committee, separate from the PC, needs to be formed as the PC cannot apply for grants. Volunteers are required to run the committee, advertising for these positions will be on noticeboards and Facebook. The committee need not be formed until after Christmas.
- J Dickens advised that the verge outside St Nicholas church needs to be stabilised. She has arranged quotations from Double Arches.

## **536. Highways England Update**

Simon Amor and Steve Thulborn from Highways England (HE) and Chief Inspector Longwith were present and gave updates on the progress so far.

### **HE**

- Aware of concerns of the villagers and the recent deaths north of the village.
- Safety measures to be discussed in December
- Warning signs and enhanced road signs on the entrance to the village are considered.
- There is no current intention of lowering the speed limit as the speed survey did not identify excessive speed through the village.
- Detrunking is the long-term solution but needs Bucks CC and CBC to work on this, currently this is far off.
- Excessive speeding through the village and speed related incidents would be required before the speed limit dropped.
- Money is not an issue regarding the speed limit drop.



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- A petition may help with considering lowering the speed limit.
- Short term measures due early next year, maybe earlier. Vegetation removal from signs in December.
- The fatalities in the 60mph speed zone do not affect the speed limit through the village.
- If CBC say that a 20mph speed limit outside the school has to be done this will help the HE consider lowering the speed limits through the village.
- To lower the speed limit they need evidence from the police, go through legal procedures and decision within the HE.

### **Chief inspector Longwith**

- Traffic management survey has been taken after a fatal collision north of the village.
- Findings of the survey concluded that drivers that didn't comply to the speed limit averaged at 46mph, this is too low to warrant a drop in the speed limit through the village.
- Safety Cameras in the 60mph speed zone caught 4 offences within a 3hr time period in the previous Friday, in a 1.5hr time period today 3 offences were made. Out of 2300 cars that went through 54% of these were noncompliant to the speed limit. The traffic was free flowing during this time.
- This is not enough evidence to reduce the speed limit.
- Strategies to reduce speed include: education, engagement (going into schools), engineering works with HE, speed cameras.
- Not enough resources for the police to have officers enforce the speed limit through the village.

### **Comments from the residents**

- General consensus amongst residents that they could not understand why the speed limit was 40mph through the village, when other villages on the A5 were 30mph.
- Signs were hidden by foliage or not working.
- Suggestion of 'smiley face' speed check signage.
- 30mph would significantly reduce the fatalities on the road, evidence from ROSPA supports this.
- People speed after being stuck in queues out of frustration.
- Motorbikes go through the village at >90mph.
- Signage on A505 new roundabout has been badly marked out, causing a near accident with a lorry.
- Since the M1 link road the traffic has worsened.
- HGVs are parked up by McDonalds which creates problems with people



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pulling out onto the A5.

- When there are speed cameras in the village drivers flash each other so speeding is reduced

### **537. Matters for Cllr Versallion.**

- Several outstanding planning enforcement cases in the village including Kings Arms Farm, the Limes and Car Sales, Copy Cllr Versallion into emails etc. regarding these matters. (add bullet below to this
- Car sales: parking on the pavement, which results in pedestrians walking on the road; 70+ cars on site when it has planning permission for 30; signs of residential habitation on site; the outside of the property is a mess and needs to be tidied up.
- Call 101 when cars are blocking a public highway and get a reference number. Send Cllr Versallion emails until the matter is dealt with.
- Bedfordshire police are underfunded, Cllr Versallion asked the PC for continued support as there is a new campaign for more funding for Beds Police. Underfunding is also relevant for the NHS and schools.
- Local Plan sets out that there are to be 25k new homes in Bedfordshire, need to get the Neighbourhood Plan approved ahead of the Inspection in Spring 2019 so that as a community we have something to fall back on.
- Cllr Versallion will push CBC to push for a 20mph speed limit outside the school.
- Since last meeting there has been talk to two offices in CBC about detrunking the A5. This requires Buckinghamshire CC to agree to A505 upgrade and a long legal process. Cllr Versallion is pushing hard on this.

### **538. Matters for the attention to the police.**

James Bonney is our local PC. They are aware of the criminal activity on Kilby Road; stolen items; personal abuse, including threats to life and are in contact with residents. Crime Stoppers can be used to report crime but if the Beds Police website is used 'report a concern' there is a record of local residents which provides evidence that more than one person is being affected. Overnight patrols are happening but there seems to have been a spike in vehicle break ins from last year in the villages surrounding Leighton Buzzard. Cllr Coleman mentioned about the increase in hare coursing, this matter can be dealt with by the rural crime team rather than community policing team, landowners should report activity on their land.



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**539. Matters Arising from the Minutes (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

(None)

**540. Matters outstanding from the Action Plan**

The action plan had been circulated prior to the meeting and will be looked at in more detail in December's meeting

**541. Neighbourhood Plan update**

Need to organise public meetings to discuss sites within the village for new housing, and for the public to make comments. This needs to happen before the consultation in February 2019. The draft plan has been written, but decisions have to be taken on the sites identified in the Local Plan by CBC and the sites that were being considered in the earlier Neighbourhood Plan.

Action – December – finalise dates, needs to be at least 6 weeks before the consultation.

**542. Arrangements for Christmas**

The PC will be funding the Christmas Tree, which has been sourced by Cllr Coleman. The tree is £150. It will also pay for the lights to be inspected by the electrician, and for presents from Father Christmas.

A meeting was held with Hockliffe School Association, who have agreed to the above and will be organising the remaining elements.

**543. Events for the Village.**

Event Committee formation as mentioned in item 535.

**544. Items to be included in the Draft Budget 2019/20**

Parish Clerk presented a draft budget for consideration discussion took place amongst Councillors with the precept in mind. To be finalised at December's committee.

**545. Planning Applications**

Direct Pallets – previous landscaping refused by CBC, asked for the PC support for new proposals. General agreement was positive. Cllr Harris asked whether there would be any more lorries – there would be 3 more lorries, totally in 15.

**546. Correspondence received (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

(None)



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### 547. Finance

Date	Cheque no	Company	Description	amount
12/11/2018	001634	CBC	Hall hire	£27.00
12/11/2018	001635	Mrs P Scott, Clerk	Salary	£148.80
12/11/2018	001636	Mazars	External Audit	£240.00
12/11/2018	001637	HMRC	Payments 4,5, b.	£185.00

- Goldleaf cheques to be held until clarification of spend provided.

### 548. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018. The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

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Signed