



Hockliffe Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 7.00pm Monday 15th April 2019

1. INTRODUCTION

The Chairman, Cllr Coleman opened the meeting and welcomed the public

Meeting attendees: Cllrs Capstick; Coleman; Scott

In attendance: Ward Cllr Versallion; PC Ed Ruston; Clerk C Washbrook

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Dickens

2. APPROVAL OF 2016 APM MINUTES

The minutes of the APM 2018 are incomplete but notes of the previous APM were signed by Cllr Coleman.

3. PARISH REPORTS

➤ Chairman's Annual Report

This year we have had a change of Clerk; Pam Scott resigned in November and we welcomed Corrina Washbrook to the role. Cllr Alexander left the Parish Council in November and Cllr Harris resigned in March. We have also appointed a new handyman.

Routine works of the Council have continued throughout the year alongside other works which have taken up much of our focus. These being:

- The replacement of the skate park with new play equipment and fitness stations.
- The Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Local Plan and the Parish Council's work to fully understand and respond to that.
- The amendments to the Hockliffe Neighbourhood Plan.
- Work to improve the A5 following the detrimental effect of the opening of the A5-M1 link. The following progress has been made:

- o Resurfacing of Watling Street, south of the lights, following remedial resurfacing works which had a detrimental impact on villagers.

- o Change of the diversion during planned M1 works, from the A5 through the village to the A505-A4146.

- o Work has begun by Highways England on the process to detrunk the A5.

- o Proposed safety measures, including a reduction in speed limit through the village, an extension of the reduced speed limit area and improved gateway signage and keep clear markings at the entrances to side streets throughout the village, expected shortly.

- o Good working relationship with Highways England, with access to key decision makers.

- o Smart Motorway team working with the Parish Council to minimize the impact of their scheme works on the village.

➤ Ward Cllr Versallion's Report

Cllr Versallion attended the meeting to report on Central Bedfordshire Council activity over the year, he covers seven villages in CBC.

The Hilton car sales issue, with a lack of customer parking leading to parking on the verge, forcing pedestrians onto the road, has improved, although this is still not perfect. If this gets worse then please report to Cllr Versallion.

Cllr Versallion recently visited the top end of Kilby Road where there are bungalows. There have been at least 2 break-ins in the past year. Some of the boundaries of the gardens lack security fencing. It also has easy access to the gardens because they back onto the recreation ground. This is an issue for the Housing Department, Cllr Versallion has requested new gates and fencing along the back.

Gladman are putting in a planning application for 77 houses in Hockliffe, next to the business park. The application is yet to go through to CBC planning department. When it does, HPC will be able to comment officially. Cllr Versallion thinks that the development is too dense and it goes into Green Belt land, sticking out too far west of the village boundary. The development would provide 106 financial contribution.

Cllr Versallion is still chasing up Highways England, they are waiting on word from Buckinghamshire County Council about the detrunking diversion along the A505 / A4146. He is also supporting the speed reduction through Hockliffe from 40mph to 30mph.

The date of the Neighbourhood Plan inspection is 21st May. A judge will be listening to submissions from the community. Cllr Versallion feels that there may be issues as there are no traveller sites put into the plan. He also mentioned that Cllr Dickens is talking to CBC, and needs to raise awareness of Green Belt, density of housing and car parking, among other issues.

➤ **Police – PC Ed Ruston**

Hockliffe on the whole has had a decrease in reports of crime occurring. There have been 3 Antisocial Behaviour (ASBs) incidents in the past 3 months. He encourages residents to report incidents either by phoning 101, or contacting the Bedfordshire Police FaceBook site or the Bedfordshire Police website. If incidents are not reported then the police will not record or respond to them

➤ **Hockliffe Helping Hands – Julia Dickens**

Total of 43 jobs, in which 9 different people helped:

- 21 to the doctors.
- 10 to physio.
- 1 to Hospital.
- 3 Prescription pick-ups.
- 2 Household jobs.
- 2 Befriending.
- 4 Shopping.

Stoke Mandeville was the furthest.

Total volunteers: 6 drivers, 1 handyman, and Helen Buckingham, co-ordinator.

The service clearly remains of value to the community.

➤ **St. Nicholas Church – Julia Dickens**

Highlights of the year: The Flower Festival of August 2018 has to come top here. Masterminded by Carol and Brian Speller, and aided by a group of volunteers, it was a triumph. The addition of a very full programme of music organised by Pam, created a wonderful atmosphere. Many people came several times, saying that they just wanted to sit and enjoy.

Looking at our Mission Action Plan goals, we set ourselves a 5-year aim of *“actively seeking opportunities to transform our community through regular interaction”*.

The Flower Festival clearly went a long way towards meeting this goal. Other highlights also made their contribution:

- **Harvest:** Working with the school on music and service structure produced a very successful Harvest service attended by 45 adults and 30 children.
- **Christmas:** We didn't hold any services for Christmas Day itself, but the Carol Service has become a real feature of village life, with standing room only this year.
- **Messy Church:** Led by Claire Vogeli and assisted by several adults both from the congregation and further afield, Messy Church continues on an ad hoc basis. Now that the Recreation Ground buildings are closed, it has been held both at Claire's home, and in church. Messy Christingle was very well attended. Most recently, a Messy Play Mothering Sunday service was well-supported, and an Easter Egg Hunt is in the offing.
- **Friends of St. Nicholas:** We are very grateful to Nick and Maria Evans for working with Fr. Noel to start the new Friends of Saint Nicholas. Nick and Maria have held a couple of private Cream Tea events in aid of the fabric, and plan a formal launch of this on 25th May 2019 with an Auction of Promises. This organisation is embryonic as we write, but hopefully will develop and grow during the coming year.

In the meantime:

- **Weekly services** continue. We are grateful to Geoff Marchant and Tricia Humber for their continuing support of our worship.
- **Attendance:** The statistics for 2018 showed a small increase in regular attendance. This appears to be largely due to wedding couples who attended regularly in advance of their weddings, but have ceased to worship after their weddings. Encouraging such people to continue worshipping remains a challenge. It was suggested that a special event for recent wedding couples might encourage continuing contact, but having promised to set this in motion, Julia has singularly failed to do anything about it!
- **The church remains available** for the wider community, and during the year to December 2018 there were 5 baptisms, 3 weddings and 1 funeral.
- **Fabric repairs:** Progress has been slow with fabric repairs and provision for such things as a toilet and kitchen area, as money is in short supply and there is much preparation work to be done. Father Noel is leading a group with a view to looking into fundraising. We have the help of the Diocesan fundraiser David Bevan, and neighbour Ross Cunliffe. We still need to complete Statements of Need and Significance prior to obtaining faculties and funding. Any offers of help with the paperwork will be greatly appreciated!

- **Bells:** Having been worked hard, the bells have now reached the point where without some proper attention they are no longer able to be rung at all.

➤ **Cemetery Clerk – Corinna Washbrook**

This year there has been one interment. The topple test was carried out in January 2019.

➤ **Hillersden Charity – Julia Dickens Church Warden & ex-officio Trustee.**

Neighbourhood Plan and Hillersdon: There is still some hope that the trust land may be sold and the proceeds used to assure the future of the church, construct a village hall, and to provide a significant trust fund for the local community.

However, when the CBC finally published their Draft Local Plan a year or so ago, they allocated 140 houses to the village, but did not include the Hillersdon Trust land.

In the autumn of 2017, the Parish Council carried out a Reg 14 statutory consultation on their draft Neighbourhood Plan. In the light of comments made, they have now re-drafted the NP, and just held a second formal consultation. (Landowners, including us, took no part in the re-drafting process.)

The outcomes and comments from this second consultation will be incorporated into a final draft to be presented to CBC, an inspector, and finally a community referendum. In the meantime, CBC's own Local Plan is just about to enter its formal Examination stage.

In the belief that the village can be better served by our own Neighbourhood Plan, we and the Parish Council, amongst others, have lodged appeals against CBC's site allocations and will make representations to the inspector. The two processes must run alongside each other, and each must have regard to the other.

Like Brexit, it has been a long journey, there is still a long way to go, and no very clear path marked, but keep watching this space.

➤ **Youth Club – Sandra Williams**

HYC have had a great year this year. Children have enjoyed trips to GoBowling in Dunstable, Mr Mulligans Indoor Crazy Golf in Milton Keynes, Tilsworth Driving Range and Reasons To Be Cheerful ceramic pottery studio in Leighton Buzzard.

Sadly, HYC held it's final session this month. Sandra Williams stepped down as Chair after six years. Our other volunteers felt it was the right time to step down also. It is a huge commitment for us, juggling work, family and poor health. A mountain of work goes on behind the scenes like planning, risk assessments, first aid training, safeguarding policies etc. I think we should be incredibly proud of running the club so successfully and providing a provision for the children in the village for the past six years. We have seen our members flourish in confidence and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with them all. I would just like to publicly thank Karen and Laura Buckingham, Brenda Kirkman and Peter Edwards for their constant commitment and support over the years and ensuring the club's success. A thank you also to Klp Stanbridge and Hockliffe Lower School for their help and partnership. We were overwhelmed by the cards, gifts and gratitude presented to us by all the parents and children at our farewell meal at The Harvester.

4. QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION TO PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

The council asked the residents if there were any specific issues that they wishes to be raised and/or prioritised over the coming year. The responses were:

- The recreation ground at Kilby Road.
- Parking on Kilby Road, Ninelands and the Birches. There has been issues with parking for some time and it was queried as to whether the grassed areas of the pavement, which are severely damaged in areas due to cars, vans and HGV driving on them, could be made into parking bays and a resident parking scheme and/or drop down bollards be in place.
- A village hall for the community.
- Preventing the parking of HGVs outside McDonalds, which makes it dangerous for people to exit the restaurant car park. HGVs are unable to turn in the car park, so park on the verge. Bollards were suggested, but these have previously been put in place and flattened by HGVs visiting the restaurant. Cllr Capstick will investigate the issue with HE.

The meeting finished at 7.50pm.

April 2020

Signed

Where no signature exists this is an electronic version and is the same as the hard copy version available for inspection from the Clerk