



Hockliffe Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th April 2019 7.50pm

Present

CLLrs Coleman, Capstick, Scott, Clerk C Washbrook;
CLLr Versallion, Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)
PC Ed Ruston, Bedfordshire Police

Apologies

CLLr Paul Dickens

611 Declaration of interest

(None)

612. Approval of minutes from 11th March 2019.

The minutes were approved and signed.

613. Public forum

4 members of the public were present.

Standing orders suspended.

- If the Local Plan is approved then the Dashwood land will get planning permission, however if the Neighbourhood Plan is approved then a smaller portion of the property will be approved. Highways England (HE) will not accept new housing estate roads that go straight out onto the A5, but will accept use of existing access (roads) that go out onto the A5, so there is some debate as to whether the Local Plan would get approval from HE. It was agreed that housing estates going out onto Leighton Road would be safer.
- Park / Recreation Ground. There was a suggestion that a subcommittee to be raised to come up with ideas to improve the Recreation Ground to then bring forward to the Parish Council. It was also suggested to have an article in the Hockliffe Herald to raise awareness and gain interest from the residents.
- There is S106 money that would be enough for resurfacing the area where the containers are, and the plot of land behind, which has become over grown. There is a fenced off area behind this which belongs to CBC.
- Dog walkers have been using the recreation ground from Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable. It has been observed that they do not always clear up dog fouling. They have also been walking dogs in the 'cow field' adjacent to the recreational ground, which allows public access. Although the dogs are kept on their lead, it is worried that if dogs foul in this area and it is not cleaned up, it may cause health problems to the cows. Incidents need to be reported to the Community Safety Team, once a significant amount of incidents are reported then the Community Safety Team will send an officer up, who can prosecute offenders. **Action: CLLr Versallion to provide Community Safety Team email address.**

614. Matters for CLLr Versallion.

- A new industrial park in Milton Keynes, in South Caldecote has been proposed. This



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hasn't gone through CBC yet. There may be a significant impact on the A5 and Hockliffe. **Action: Cllr Capstick to raise with Highways England.**

- The Highways team will be duelling the A421, this may eventually alleviate some of the traffic through Hockliffe, as it will be a better route to go via the A6 / M1 Link, which hopefully will be picked up by google maps therefore diverting people from going through Hockliffe.
- There is a concern from residents that neither of the Local Plan or the Neighbourhood Plan consider 'natural growth', and by the completion of the 141 houses CBC has required to be built in Hockliffe, there may be around 200 houses built in total. There have been complaints that the infrastructure of Leighton Buzzard cannot take all the extra housing within the area it covers.
 - The NHS are planning on having a 'GP Hub' as they have in Dunstable and Biggleswade, in Leighton Buzzard, with assistance from CBC. By merging facilities, they can use the staff differently and more effectively.
 - HE & CBC are aware that the roads in the area may have issues, and will eventually work on solutions.
 - The Oxford-Cambridge Arch will trickle down benefits in the surrounding areas, and may benefit Hockliffe.
 - The meeting in Chicksands regarding the Local Plan will consider comments that have been submitted during the Local Plan consultation. Those who have submitted their comments will receive an email or letter, if they have not already done so. These comments will have as much weight as if the person who gave them were physically at the meeting.

615. Matters for the attention to the police.

PC Ed Ruston was present for the meeting.

- Residents have reported that there are vehicles without tax parked in the road in Hockliffe. The police can only seize cars if they are being driven or can issue fixed penalty notices of £30 for unnecessary or wilful obstruction. If a resident suspects that a vehicle is without tax they report it to the DVLA and CBC traffic officers, who have the power to investigate matters further. Also see <https://www.gov.uk/report-untaxed-vehicle> to check if a vehicle has been taxed and how to report an untaxed vehicle.
- There have been complaints that drug dealers have been seen and strong odour of cannabis in certain areas of Hockliffe; also a resident reported a car patrolling the area, they were unable to get the number plate. The resident contacted 101. These have been reported, but it appears that nothing has been done
 - These need to be continually reported, so the police are aware of the issue and know it is a regular occurrence.
 - The information is collated and is assessed by intelligence.
 - Police officers are not always able to come out immediately. There are not many police officers 'on the beat', and if there is a likelihood that the concern may have moved on by the time an officer can get to the area, they may not



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go directly. However, the police do patrol areas that have been reported to see if the concern is ongoing.

616. Matters Arising from the Minutes (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

There will be no Parish Council Elections because not enough candidates. The Cllrs Capstick, Dickens, Scott and Coleman have been elected by 'uncontested election'. Anyone wishing to become a councillor can be co-opted in the May meeting. **Action: Advertise councillors to be co-opted on Noticeboards, FaceBook and website.**

617. Powers and Duties of Hockliffe Parish Council

There are only four councillors, Cllr Capstick will be presenting a 1 page document to clarify what councillors can and cannot do, unfortunately she was able to provide this at the April meeting due to ill health.

618. Hockliffe Parish Council communications.

HPC are looking at a what they do and how they can do them more efficiently, which includes:

- Tasks that need to be done to manage open spaces and to help deliver better services and facilities.
- Looking at providing a better website. The current website serves a basic purpose, but the Parish Council (PC) are unable to add pages. The Parish Council would like to have a website with a community feel. It has been identified that not all residents are on FaceBook and it is not always a successful medium to convey PC issues, minutes, agendas and publications, and the village noticeboards are not always looked at.

619. Update on matters relating to the A5

- Highways England will be attending the May Parish Council meeting. They are aware of the A6-M1 link and are looking at widening the area of impact.
- Work on speed reduction and signage through Hockliffe on the A5 is due to begin in summer.
- There are weekly meetings between Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and Highways England (HE) regarding the detrunking of the A5 through Hockliffe. Bucks CC are a secondary consultee to the detrunking. Conversations regarding the detrunking have been positive.
- The impact of detrunking the A5 on the A505 and A4146 would become a HE rather than CBC issue.
- Smart Motorways: works have quietened down, as they were finished early. The Smart Motorways team had a meeting regarding the signage as requested by the residents and PC of Hockliffe as the detours were signed to go via Hockliffe rather than around the village.

620. Community Speed Watch Scheme

The Community Speed Watch Scheme has been advertised in the Hockliffe Herald, Hockliffe Traffic Watch, Facebook and the Parish Noticeboards. Only 4 people have responded, 1 of



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which wasn't able to commit due to other constraints. It was put forward to the council and the residents if they had any ideas of how to encourage people to put themselves forward. The requirements would be to undertake training in Dunstable, and presenting evidence to the police. It was suggested that more information of exactly what the job would entail, so that the prospective volunteers would fully understand what they would be signing up for.

Action: Cllr RC to present a more detailed description of requirements.

621. Neighbourhood Plan update.

622. Recreation ground improvements.

- Discussions in the *Public Forum* (item 613) covers this item.

623. Planning Applications

- a) Responding to planning consultations and applications
 - i. Neighborhood Plan (NP) discussions on social media (eg Facebook), do not hold any weight. Residents had the opportunity to comment on the NP during the consultation. Information on how to do this was widely advertised and responses were received and taken into consideration.
 - ii. There are procedures in which residents are able to comment outside the Parish Council meetings on planning applications. **Action: Put information on how to make comments on planning applications on the new website.**
- b) Applications received by Hockliffe Parish Council.
Northstar Cottage, the planning application wishes to use a small portion of green belt land to allow for lorries to turn. Although this is greenbelt land, Hockliffe PC supports this application.

624. Correspondence received (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

(None)

625. Finance

Date	Cheque no	Company	Description	Amount
15/4/2019		CBC	Hall Hire	£27.00
15/4/2019	001661	C Washbrook	Clerk Salary	£259.20
15/4/2019	001662	HMRC	Income tax	£190.80

626. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting, to include the Annual Parish Meeting, is Monday 13th May 2019. The meeting closed at 9.30pm.