



Hockliffe Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th February 2019

Present

Cllrs Coleman, Dickens, Capstick, Scott, Clerk C Washbrook;

Cllr Versallion – CBC

Apologies

Cllr Harris, Sgt Liam Mitchell.

579. Declaration of interest

(None)

580. Approval of minutes from 14th January 2019.

An item on page 2 was amended from 'Kings Arms Farm' to 'The Limes', then the minutes were signed and agreed as an accurate record of the meeting held.

581. Public forum

17 members of the public were present.

Standing orders suspended.

- Request to put the recreation ground on the Agenda. It was felt that it is going to waste and if there is nothing done then it will turn into waste land, rather than a park for the community.
- The verge around the St Nicholas Church, and the cemetery, needs firming up. **Action CW to get quotes from companies for the work.**
- The Birches. The verges are very muddy and residents are unable to park outside their homes due to work vehicles from building works. Cllr Versallion will contact the Community Safety Officer from CBC to assess if the work vehicle parking is dangerous. If an assessment that they are causing hazards comes back, they will be able to do pursue further course of action.

582. Matters for Cllr Versallion.

- The 'Shah Group' car sales company were visited by CBC representatives and have been asked to change the 'MOT Parking Here' signage to 'customer parking', and to remind customers not to park on the pavement. CBC have a Parking Enforcement Service, who give out tickets, although this is unlikely to happen regularly. Cllr Versallion encouraged the residents to remind the company regularly to inform the customers not to park on the pavement.
- A CBC conservation officer has assessed the windows on the premises opposite the lights as they have been added to the listed building without consent. CBC gave an enforcement notice and the windows have been altered by adding casing bars, but still do not conform to the CBC request. Formal enforcement can be put in place, although the owner could appeal. If this situation arises then the Head of the Conservation(?) Department will decide whether to contest this case.
- Direct Pallets. Cllr Versallion asked the residents and the PC for their opinion of the Direct Pallets planning permission, which is technically on greenbelt land. The PC and



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residents do not oppose the planning permission, so if needed Cllr Versallion can support the matter further.

- Highways England/ Detrunking the A5 through Hockliffe. CBC, Bucks CC and HE need to agree to some kind of rerouting the A5 traffic to the A505 and A4146. Bucks CC has a range of views, some opposing this idea because they believe that this would reroute through Wing and a few other villages, which is not the case. Cllr Versallion noted that gentle persuasion and discussion would be needed to achieve this long-term objective and said that the road rerouting may take 2 or 3 years minimum, whereas a bypass could take 30 years.
- Cllr Versallion commented that he was grateful that HE had brought senior management to the HPC meetings, but much of what is proposed in his personal opinion is cosmetic. Despite this, reducing the speed limit to 30 mph throughout the village is welcomed as it would enable CBC to lower the speed limit to 20 on Woburn Road (outside the school).
- Neighbouring villages Heath and Reach, and Standbridge are looking to install average speed cameras, with money raised by the parish councils being match by CBC. He suggests this could be a possibility for Hockliffe. **Action CW to contact the clerk of Heath and Reach for more information on this.**
- The junction of Eastern Way exiting onto the A5 was raised as a safety issue, but was unresolved as it is unlikely that anything further can be done.
- Land belonging to Arnold White has had planning permission rejected; it is unlikely that it will be built on in the near future.
- Leighton Road is being damaged by HGVs. Cllr Versallion has reported it, and said that CBC are 'addressing' the matter.
- A gypsy and traveller site at Mill Tree has been given permission for up to 10 caravans, although there have been reports of more on the site. Enforcement officers went to remove the additional caravans, but these had been removed before the Enforcement officers arrived.
- There has been an increase of burglaries in Hockliffe. It was pointed out by one of the members of the public that these looked like planned burglaries. Cllr Versallion said that Bedfordshire Police are seriously underfunded and much of their funding goes to Luton. Cllr Andrew Selous is aware of the situation and is trying to gain more funding for the police services.

583. Matters for the attention to the police.

(None).

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

Goldleaf needs to be contacted RE the letter sent after the last meeting as there has been no response, despite the cheque paying them for their services until April 2019 being cleared. Goldleaf need to attend to the hedges as per the contract. **Action CW to follow up.**

585. Matters outstanding from the Action Plan

To be brought forward when Cllr Harris is present.

586. Neighbourhood Plan update.



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- The NP is out for consultation. The council has written Frequently Asked Questions about the Neighbourhood plan, and has produced a form for responses for the residents of Hockliffe to make their comments. The FAQs will be added to as and when pertinent questions are asked.
- The question of whether Hockliffe was a large or small village was raised. The PC are trying to determine how the village sizes are assessed by CBC. One source of confusion was where the boundaries lie.

587. Community Speed Watch Scheme

- Cllr Capstick asked for volunteers to start up a Community Speed Watch Scheme. There needs to be a minimum of 2 volunteers, who will receive 1 ½ to 2 hours training.
- Drivers caught speeding do not get fines, but letters are sent out. HGVs that frequently speed will have letters sent to the companies for whom they work for.
- If the scheme is implemented, temporary signs saying “Community Speed Watch Area” will go up. Once the scheme is established, permanent signage can go up and readings can be taken anywhere within a designated 1km area along the road.
- HE are not proposing to include any permanent speed cameras under their safety proposals but this will be kept under review once the measures are in place (subject to successful consultation).

588. Update on issues relating to the A5

- Safety measures. An informal consultation with CBC and HE in regards to safety measures to the A5 that HE propose has taken place. CBC require some changes to their orders, after which the formal consultation will begin, this will be around the end of March/early April. There will be a 21 day notice period, with works to follow after this, provided that no objection have been made.
- Detrunking. Still a priority for HE, discussions with CBC ongoing. The PC will arrange a meeting with Andrew Selous MP to clarify HPC position, and to establish ways in which he can support /influence detrunking the A5 though Hockliffe.
- Air quality. The reduction of air quality – due to the raised volume of traffic – is a factor that could support the detrunking of the A5 from the Flying Fox round about to J11a. DEFRA and DoT run the Joint Air Quality Unit (JAQU), which can classify areas of concern, called Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). Currently Hockliffe is not classed as an AQMA but it could be considered as one in the future. HPC would encourage residents of Hockliffe to contact the environmental department at CBC to raise concerns about air quality and to lobby for air quality monitoring to be carried out in the village.
- M1 Smart Motorway works: A representative from the Smart Motorway team is hoping to attend the meeting in March. If they are unable to attend an update will be obtained from them ahead of the meeting.
- EHH / Oxford – Cambridge Expressway: A proposed road link between Oxford and Cambridge via Milton Keynes, by linking existing roads and building some new ones, could possibly have some effect on Hockliffe traffic. The preferred ‘corridor’ (proposed route area) was announced in September 2018. Proposals with connectivity studies are



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currently being worked on, and a public consultation is expected to commence in Autumn 2019, with the preferred route to be announced in autumn of 2020. This will then go to the development phase, followed by an application for planning permission through the submission of a Development Consent Order to the Secretary of State. Subject to planning consent, forecasted construction is set to begin in 2025, and anticipated road opening in 2030.

589. Events for the Village

It was suggested that a book swap programme was started for the residents. **Action Cllr Capstick will be exploring further options.**

590. Planning Applications

(None)

591. Correspondence received (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

(None)

592. Finance

Date	Cheque no	Company	Description	Amount
18/02/19	1654	CBC	Hall Hire	£27.00
18/02/19	1655	C Washbrook	Clerk Salary	£312.00

593. Date of Next Meeting

- The next scheduled meeting, to include the Annual Parish Meeting, is Monday 11th March 2019. The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

11th March 2019

Signed