



Hockliffe Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9th September 2019 7.00pm

Present

Cllrs Capstick, Dickens, R Scott, P Scott, Rose.
Clerk Washbrook

Police community support officer (PCSO) Stephen Turner, Bedfordshire Police.

Apologies

Cllr Versallion, Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC), Cllr Coleman.

045. Declaration of interest

(None)

046. Approval of minutes from 11th July 2019.

Item 031. Was corrected from September to July. The minutes were amended and signed.

047. Public forum

15 members of the public were present.

Standing orders suspended.

- Request for website to be updated.
 - Action: Update website with minutes and agenda.
- A5 update (further below), the council was presented with a quote for a mobile speed camera for future discussion.
- Request for subcommittees to be created: Hockliffe in Bloom; Events committee; Park planning.
 - Action: put on September's agenda.
- Smart Motorways M1 detour signage has become smaller.
 - Action: to be brought up with the Smart Motorways team.
- River/Brook is blocked/slow.
 - Action: contact CBC to clear the brook of debris.

048. Matters for the attention to the police.

PCSO Stephen Turner was present.

- A report was given with the quarterly statistics.
- Residents brought up the issue of drug activity within the village. The police are aware of the situation.
- Residents were encouraged to report crimes and concerns using 101 the internet (Beds police website, and Crimestoppers) for non-emergency issues. PCSO Turner informed the residents that they can view crimes on a map at <https://www.police.uk/>
- Residents discussed the issue of speeding on the A5 Watling Street during the night. Mobile cameras operated by the police were usually operated during peak times /rush hour, when the traffic is often slow due to congestion. The residents informed the police that the issue of HGVs going through the red lights and speeding through the village, was during the night when the roads were clear. It was requested for the police to undertake speed assessments during the night. PCSO Turner will look into this request.
- Residents can submit their own videos to the police for the police to make a decision as to further action if required.



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- The Speedwatch Scheme would enable to bring enough evidence to the police of speeding and motorists going through red lights for further action by the police to be taken.

049. Matters for the attention of Cllr Versallion.

(None)

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

- The drains have been cleared by Highways England's contractors, with exception for the drains on the corner of Leighton Road and A5 north. The contractors spoke with a resident and informed them that another visit to the site will be needed.
- There is no hygiene certificate for 'Back in Time for Tea'.
 - Action: Contact the relevant authorities to alert them to this.
- A walk around the village to see what jobs need to be carried out by the handyman needs to be arranged with the councillors.
 - Action: arrange with councillors a time to walk round the village.
- Quotes for the churchyard gate were discussed, with the lowest quote with a query to ask how much installation would be.
 - Action: contact the gate company to get a quote for the installation of the gate.

051. Update on matters relating to the A5

- There have been mixed messages about Bucks CC view on the A5 Detrunking. Although HE do not seem to think that they pose a problem, they could object to the proposal when it is under consultation.
- Residents queried the benefits of detrunking the A5 through Hockliffe, to which Cllr Capstick responded:
 - The A5 is a strategic trunk road; there are not many villages on the A5 which are maintained by Highways England (HE), who enforce all rules and regulations, including road signage and markings. CBC or the Parish Council currently do not have direct say on these.
 - Detrunking would mean:
 - that it would no longer be the 'A5'
 - it was owned (?) by and the responsibility of CBC.
 - CBC could introduce a 'toolbox' of traffic calming measures, including physical measures such as speed bumps.
 - Theoretically put in weight restrictions on the road.Therefore controlling traffic through the A5.
- It would also mean that CBC would have to be informed of what needs doing and what measures are and are not working.
- The detrunking of the A5 through Hockliffe is not customary, as there are existing roads which the traffic could use – usually new roads are used to detrunk. It is estimated that it will take 3 to 5 years for detrunking to happen, however, it is uncertain how far along we are on this time scale.
 - Actions:
 - Contact Wing PC to find out what their attitude is towards detrunking the A5; consult Wing PC's minutes to see if the issue has been raised and whether they see it as a problem.
 - Find out where we are on the times scale of detrunking the A5



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- Find out if Bucks CC have any objections to the detrunking of the A5 through Hockliffe.

052. Planning

- a) Neighbourhood Plan Update: the council has been awarded a new grant of £2000 to complete the Neighbourhood Plan.
- b) Local Plan Update: Currently waiting for the inspector's report.
- c) Planning applications received: CB/19/02385/OUT Bell Meadow Yard, Watling Street, Hockliffe, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9NA Residential redevelopment. 9 detached houses and access road.

Objections:

- Contrary to Neighbourhood Plan.
- New access road goes straight out onto the A5, which is against HE policy.
- Dangerous stretch of the A5 for residential dwellings
- The land greenbelt (?)
- Land not considered by CBC in Local Plan.
- Isolated from the rest of the village.
- Possibly contaminated land.
- Concerns on in fill housing.

053. Christmas Planning.

- The dates for the lights to be turned on in the village was decided upon 8th December at 6.00pm.
- The Church's Christingle service will also be on this day, it was discussed to work with the church so it would be part of the celebrations.
- There is a Christmas Fayre at 4.30pm.
- Decision on whether there will be band entertainment/carols.
- It was confirmed that the Hockliffe School Association had a budget of £100 from HPC for Father Christmas presents, and £190.00 was in the HPC budget for a Christmas Tree.
- The Christmas Tree lights need replacing.
 - Action: the electrical connections / RCB box needs to be checked that it is in full working order.
 - Action: Contact Kip to ask about entertainment.
 - Action: Cllr Coleman to confirm that we have a Christmas Tree reserved and the cost.
 - Action: Find out what is needed for new Christmas Tree Lights from Cllr Coleman, and get 3 quotes for new lights.

054. Public litter bin outside the village shop.

- A public litter bin has been requested by the shop owners and declined by CBC on the grounds that there are 3 litter bins on the stretch of road where the shop is. CBC gave the option to purchase a new bin for £445.00 for a metal bin or £310 for a plastic bin. This would include 1 years worth of collection once a week, after which it would cost £150 per annum for collections. If more collections were needed then additional costs would be incurred. It was speculated if one of the present bins could be relocated from the bus shelter, which is not used, and if there were any issues with this if the council could pay for the relocation.
 - Action: Clerk to contact CBC to ask whether the bin at the disused bus shelter can be relocated, and whether the PC council were to pay for the relocation would it help to its repositioning.



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055. Renewal of grounds maintenance contract.

- Currently ongoing. Cllr R Scott is in the process of sending out tenders to companies that have been recommended by other councils and the school. It was also mentioned that some of the areas maintained by the council could be wildlife meadows, which would bring down some of the maintenance costs, make the village attractive and attract wildlife.
 - Action: add to next meeting's agenda to review potential sites for wild meadows.

056. Outstanding actions.

- It was decided to postpone this item until the October meeting.

057. Jobs for the Handyman.

- It was decided to postpone this item until the October meeting.

058. Parish Council training requirements.

- Cllr P Scott and Cllr Rose agreed to attend the New Councillor Training run by Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils (BATPC). Cllr Capstick was unable to attend the Chairmanship 1 training run by BATPC, and requested information as to when the next Chairmanship 1 training session would be.
 - Action: Clerk to book Cllr Scott on the BATPC New Councillor Course (Cllr Rose has already received confirmation of training) and send out payment. Additionally, to enquire when the next Chairmanship 1 training session will be taking place.

059 Correspondence received (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

(None)

060. Policies signed off

The Financial Regulations (the NALC model) were reviewed and amended – they will be updated and signed off in the October meeting

061. Finance

Date	Cheque no	Company	Description	Amount
9/8/2019	1680	Zurich Insurance	Parish Council Insurance	£887.95*
9/8/2019	1681	C Washbrook	Clerk salary August	£192.00
9/8/2019	1682	Kall Kwik	HH Summer ed	£172.00
9/8/2019	1683	S Chapman	Neighbour Hood Planning	£250.00
9/8/2019	1684	CBC	Uncontested election	£67.69
9/9/2019	1686	CBC	Hall hire	£27.00
9/9/2019	1687	SLCC	Cemetery management CD	£31.80
9/9/2019	1688	Parish Council Website	Annual subscription	£120.00



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9/9/2019	1689	Kall Kwik	Newsletter	£95.00
9/9/2019	1690	C Washbrook	Clerk salary September	£475.20**
9/9/2019	1691	BATPC	New Councillor Training	£60.00

* Zurich Insurance cheque 1674 signed 08/07/2019 minutes item 043. Was returned as amount was incorrect. The Cheque has been cancelled.

** The clerk salary includes a tax rebate of £235.20 due to a tax code change.

062. Date of Next Meeting and Items for the Agenda

The next scheduled meeting, is Monday 14th October 2019 at 7.00pm.

Items for next meeting's agenda:

- Subcommittees: Events, Park planning.
- Christmas Planning
- Dog poo bin by the cattery
- Review of areas for wild meadows
- Jobs for the handyman & walk round village
- Churchyard gate
- Website
- Outstanding actions
- Speed limit outside school

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

9th September 2019

Signed