



# Hockliffe Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019

## Present

Cllrs Coleman, Dickens, Capstick, Scott, Clerk C Washbrook;  
Syed Shah, Costain Galliford Try; Alan Jones, Galliford Try;  
Sgt Liam Mitchell Bedfordshire Police

Cllr Harris has stepped down from the Council

## Apologies

Cllr Versallion – CBC

### 594. Declaration of interest

(None)

### 595. Approval of minutes from 18<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019.

The minutes were approved and signed.

### 596. Public forum

7 members of the public were present.

Standing orders suspended.

- It was requested that the minutes be updated regularly on the website. Action: website publishing options should be examined. CW/PD
- The road sweeper does not go from the brook to the cattery. Action: find out the exact route the road sweeper takes and ask if it can include this extra stretch.
- The car lot sign has not be replaced, and still states that the parking is for MOT customers, not all customers. Action: see 598 below.
- The verges on Birches close are dangerous due to white vans blocking pavements, forcing pedestrians to walk on the road, and churning up the grassed areas (verges). Action: see 598 below.

### 597. Upcoming Parish Council Elections

It was announced that the Parish Council Elections will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May; any candidates wishing to become a councillor can obtain papers from the Clerk, and find more information on the CBC website.

### 598. Matters for Cllr Versallion.

No new update since last meeting.

- Contact Cllr Versallion RE car sales, birches and kilby road

### 599. Smart Motorway Team Presentation.

Syed Shah from Costain Galliford Try came to explain the Smart Motorway Scheme and its end benefits. This included the latest CCTV technology with radars, enabling rapid responses to events such as breakdowns. The appropriate lanes can then be closed, permitting continuing, albeit slower traffic flow.



## Hockliffe Parish Council

The M1 was built in 1959 with a predicted 20k per day cars travelling on it, currently there are 140k cars per day on the M1. Work on the motorway requires some closures, usually at night. It was commented that the traffic through Hockliffe is bad when there are closures on the M1 from junctions 8-13; often the whole village is blocked with traffic, due to accidents or at night when there is work on the M1. The Smart Motorway team said that they will try and reroute traffic around Hockliffe rather than through it and onto the A5. However, many drivers will have local knowledge and /or use google maps/sat navs, which will direct them through the village. They do not have the authority to stop HGVs going through, but will look into specific signage for HGVs. The smart motorway is still work in progress and any improvements may not be immediate.

### 600. Community Speed Watch Scheme update.

- The scheme has been posted on the Hockliffe Parish Council and the Hockliffe Traffic Watch FaceBook pages.
- Currently only 4 people have volunteered, 3 of which are suitable. As the numbers are low it may be unfeasible to set up the scheme.

### 601. Matters for the attention to the police.

Sgt Liam Mitchel was present for the meeting.

- Vehicle offences have declined from Jan – March, from 11 in 2018 to 7 in 2019. Overall the offences have decreased from 30 in 2018 to 26 in 2019.
- Sgt Mitchell pointed out that only recorded crime can be examined and encouraged residents to report crimes or concerns using the Bedfordshire Police webpage. **Action: Publicise Bedfordshire Police webpage 'Report a Crime' on Village FaceBook pages.**
- Sgt Mitchell said that there is approximately 3 times the amount of incidents in Dunstable as there were in the Leighton Buzzard area.
- Plain clothes officers have patrolled the area, but did not report any suspicious behaviour or incidents.

### 602. Matters Arising from the Minutes (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

None.

### 603. Matters outstanding from the Action Plan

- The bins in the recreation ground have been replaced.
- It was suggested that a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme be set up. Action: Cllr Capstick to look into this.
- The parking area on the verge by the cemetery to be added to the action plan.
- To compile a list of jobs for the handyman to do. Action: The Clerk to obtain the contact details and have main contact with him.
- To make a start on reclaiming VAT after the clerk has completed training.

### 604. Neighbourhood Plan update.

- A reminder is to be sent out RE the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### 605. Recreation ground improvements.



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- Discussion to be moved to the next meeting when Richard Alexander is present.

### 606. Events for the Village

- Discussion to be moved to the next meeting when Mandie Underhay is present

### 607. Planning Applications North Star Cottage, Watling Street, Hockliffe. CB/18/04553

- The Planning Documents were not available at the time of the meeting. Discussion will be moved to next meeting, unless the deadline is after the meeting date, in which case the documents will be issued to the councillors for comment as soon as they are available.

### 608. Correspondence received (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

(None)

### 609. Finance

Date	Cheque no	Company	Description	Amount
18/02/19	1656	CBC	Hall Hire	£27.00
18/02/19	1657	Eon	Meter removal/ decommission	£64.76
18/02/19	1658	BAPT	Affiliation fees	£201.00
18/02/19	1659	C Washbrook	Clerk Salary	£192.00

### 610. Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting, to include the Annual Parish Meeting, is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019.  
The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

15<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Signed .....