

**Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup>  
November 2020 – 7PM (Zoom Meeting)**

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Scott (Chair), P Dickens, P Scott, D Coleman,  
L Antonini, R Capstick, M Versallion (CBC)

Clerk: C Underhay

**132: To receive apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Cllr Rose

**133: Declarations of Interest:**

None received.

**134: Approval of Minutes from 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020:**

The Minutes were signed as a true reflection of the meeting.

**135: Public Forum:**

A resident thanked the Blooming Hockliffe team, and others, for the Remembrance displays in the village.

A resident noted that the cemetery was now looking a lot better.

A resident asked about the flashing 30mph signs on the A5. Cllr Capstick noted that these had now been fixed.

**136: Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mark Versallion report:**

Cllr Versallion advised the following points:

COVID Lockdown – CBC are currently redeploying staff.

Community Grant – We were not successful; however, each Ward can only have one bid & another was one successful. Cllr Versallion urged us to reapply – the process opens again next April. However, there are

other Grants that can be applied for. The Chair asked the Clerk to investigate this & liaise with Cllr Versallion if need be.

Cllr Capstick asked about reduction of the speed limit outside the school.

Cllr Versallion advised that CBC had not made a decision at this point.

Cllr P Scott asked if we can email them to express our frustration, and

Cllr Versallion said that would help. Clerk to arrange this.

## **137: Neighbourhood Plan:**

The Council discussed the approach from Willis Dawson that Cllr Versallion has had. A plan from Willis Dawson has been attached to these minutes for publication. Cllr Versallion advised that they are "just sounding us out" – it is not in the Local Plan. Cllr Versallion noted that Willis Dawson feel we are a separated community (by the A5), and therefore their plan will rebalance the centre of the village. Their plan does use Green Belt land. Cllr Versallion said we could invite them to our December meeting to discuss the plan if we so wished.

The Council felt that any approach is premature – the following points were unanimously noted by Councillors:

Any process should be fully transparent so every resident can see what is happening and be able to participate, in an open way.

There is a feeling that residents do not want a lot of new housing.

A proper consultation process (with villagers) would be required.

This is just one approach from one developer – if we were serious, should we not consider other approaches.

The preferred method of any consultation with the village would be in the school hall, and this cannot take place until COVID restrictions are lifted.

The outcome of the discussion was that Willis Dawson will not be invited to our December Meeting. We will approach them if and when we want to discuss their proposal. Cllr Antonini has said that she is happy to work on plans to facilitate consultation and planning, so we can arrange a village meeting when it is safe to do so (after the COVID pandemic).

## **138: Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the**

### **Agenda:**

The Chair noted the following:

Woburn Road Bollards – now passed over to Highways England (CBC Highways came to do and then decided it was not a CBC asset).

The last 20 years paperwork held has now been sorted. Some is for archiving, and it is boxed, ready to go (the archive is closed again due to COVID). The shredding has been done.

Churchyard Cemetery – Monument Test arranged for 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020.

## **139: Christmas 2020:**

Christmas Tree – Cllr Coleman noted he had some difficulties in obtaining a Christmas Tree. The Clerk said he would make some calls and report back to Councillors. The budget of £200 is already agreed (in the annual budget). Cllr Capstick asked about the Harvester which is currently closed (due to the lockdown), as they provide the electricity. The Clerk said he would check this.

Santa visit – The Chair asked the Clerk to go through the plans.

Santa will visit on a socially distant way on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Apart from the A5, streets will have 2 or 3 stops to allow children to visit and receive a gift. Parents must accompany children. A risk assessment was shared with Councillors. Questions were asked around how we could ensure safety (from a COVID perspective) from this involved – and these points were covered. The proposals were welcomed by the Council. A resident offered to make a donation towards the cost. Cllr Coleman offered one of two generators he has to help on the day. Cllr Antonini offered help on the day. The budget was discussed. £100 has previously been agreed for presents (annual budget). It was unanimously agreed that could be raised to £150 to cover additional presents we may need as well as items needed to assist with making the event COVID safe (masks etc). The team arranging the event, have another Zoom meeting booked for 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## **140: The Brook:**

The Chair noted that the Council has received an email from the River Ouzel Authority. They will check the brook for us. They also note that the brook is part of a major maintenance programme due for Spring 2021. This will involve clearance as well as deepening of the channel if required. The Chair asked the Clerk to chase this early next Spring, and report back to the Council.

## **141: Planning – Applications Received:**

CB/20/03489 – Hockliffe House. It was resolved that the Council would object to this on the basis that it would mean another entrance onto the A5 – it is a very busy road. The Council's approach to any request of this nature has been to object. The Clerk will complete the necessary process to advise CBC of the Council's objection.

CB/20/03889 – Extension to house a swimming pool. No comment.

## **142: A5/Speedwatch:**

Cllr Capstick reported the following, after a meeting with Highways England:

Hockley Court keep clear request:

The keep clear signs were designed with the east side of the village in mind. Hockley Court is on the west side. It would be problematic to put a keep clear request here as they would be too close to the others. A 12-month review will take place (a Road Safety Audit) and Hockley Court will be considered at that time.

Bollards at the end of Woburn Road:

This will be investigated and repaired as appropriate.

Flashing 30mph signs:

Now fixed

Overgrowth of verges:

This will be investigated and appropriate action taken as necessary

New 30mph sign blocking The Leys:

This will be considered when the 12-month Road Safety Audit is undertaken.

Speeding, particularly HGVs during the night:

Highways England need time for the 30mph to settle so they can see compliance levels. 12-month data is generally considered a reasonable amount of time/data to work with.

Highways England has provided CBC Highways with data on the condition of the A5, which they are assessing (de-trunking). An update will follow.

### **143: Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy:**

Cllr Rose has completed some work on this policy, and re sent it to Councillors before the meeting.

It was unanimously resolved that this policy is adopted.

### **144: Blooming Hockliffe:**

No report this month.

### **145: Remembrance 2020:**

The Chair noted that the displays in the village look "splendid". He invited the Blooming Hockliffe team to speak. The team asked if they could investigate purchasing a permanent memorial. A grant can be requested from the War Memorials Trust. The Chair said this could be investigated. A further payment of £16 for paint, and £7.99 for glue had been made – bringing the amount within the £200 budget agreed.

### **146: Matter concerning a tree in the park:**

The Chair reported: As a result of last month's meeting the Chair and Clerk visited the park to look at the tree (the leaves of which were reported to land in a resident's garden). The resident would ideally like the tree removed. Overwhelmingly, the Council did not support this request. The tree is somewhat away from the residents' back garden. An offer of Helping Hands could be made to assist the resident with clearance of leaves could be made.

## **147: Handyman:**

The Handyman was not present. The Chair asked the Clerk for an update – the Clerk noted that the children’s play area had been cleaned, and we had an invoice of £37.50 to approve. Payment was unanimously resolved.

## **148: Cemetery Verge:**

The Chair noted that the Clerk has written to Paul Salmon at CBC Highways (recommended by Cllr Versallion). This is to request a site meeting so we can discuss what actually can be done. He has not replied at the moment – the Clerk will chase, but is mindful of COVID restrictions on CBC employees at this time.

## **149: Community Grant Update:**

The Chair noted that Cllr Versallion (in his report), had advised that we had been unsuccessful in obtaining a grant for the works required in the Rec (as part of the ROSPA report). The Clerk will look at other grants available, this, and the ROSPA report work, will feature on December’s agenda.

## **150: Finance:**

### **1. To authorise accounts for payment:**

The Chair invited the Clerk to speak.

It was resolved that the following payments could be made:

Cheque	Amount	Payee	For
1773	£16	M Underhay	Paint for remembrance
1774	£349.40	C Underhay	Clerk Salary
1775	£87.40	HMRC	Clerk Tax



# Hockliffe Parish Council

*"Serving the local community"*

1776	£40.39	C Underhay	Clerk Expenses
1777	£537.00	Garden service	Maintenance (Grass etc)
1778	£37.50	R Alexander	Handyman
1779	£7.99	A Alexander	Glue for remembrance
1780	£144.00	B Simpson	Website maintenance

The following credits received in October 2020 were noted:

Interest – 28p and cemetery income £75 (12<sup>th</sup> October 2020)

## 2. Account Balances & Budget:

October reconciliation presented to the meeting. This reconciled our balances to:

Current account - £41,785.63

Savings account - £33,595.28

The spend against budget year to date was also presented to the meeting, and this shows a 64% spend against budget (against 58% of the year passed) – however, the Clerk has also noted that expected spend between now and the end of March should bring us within budget.

The Clerk noted that he is well advanced with the outstanding VAT returns, and this will bring additional income in the region of £11,000.

## 3. Online Banking:

There was a short discussion regarding this matter. In principle, there was no objections that this could not be pursued – the Clerk will therefore find out more detail to be presented at a future meeting.

#### **4. Precept 21/22:**

It was unanimously resolved that the precept request per household for 21/22 should remain unchanged at £56.80.

#### **5. Items for inclusion in the 21/22 Budget:**

This will be formally presented at the December 2020 meeting. Blooming Hockliffe will be presented in a different line, to include Remembrance.

#### **151: Correspondence Received (for information only):**

None to report

#### **152: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:**

Nothing other than items already mentioned above.

#### **153: Date & place of the next Parish Council Meeting:**

This will be held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 via Zoom, commencing at 7pm.

The Meeting was closed at 8.59pm

DRAFT MINUTES

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020