

**Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8th
March 2021 – 7PM (Zoom Meeting)**

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

Clerk: C Underhay Guest: Andy Meader (Pegasus Group)

217: To receive apologies for absence:

None – all Councillors present.

218: Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Dickens advised that one of the planning applications was for a property next door to his house. He noted that he would not be part of the conversation regarding this application.

219: Approval of Minutes from 8th February 2021:

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

220: Public Forum:

A resident noted that he had been contacted by Bedfordshire Live regarding traffic on the A5, particularly how ongoing night time closures of the M1 increase the number of lorries to an unacceptable level.

221: Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mark Versallion report:

Cllr Versallion reported on the following:

CBC has now passed the budget – this will mean a 5% rise in Council Tax for the year starting 1st April 2021. There is a new manager now in the Highways Department. Cllr Versallion has not seen anything further regarding the speed limit outside the school since November – however, he does think that Highways have been out to have a further look. Cllr Versallion went over the numbers of new houses built in local villages

built in the last 10 years. He will forward the figures to us. Hockliffe has had the most, although there was some debate amongst members of the public as to the accuracy of these figures.

222: Solar Farm:

Andy Meader, Senior Director Pegasus Group, led a presentation regarding the proposed solar farm at Grounds Farm (Grounds Farm Solar Park). Maps and plans were shown – the site covers 43 hectares. A flyer outlining the details has already been posted to all properties in Hockliffe. The formal planning application will be made “in a few weeks” - although it must be noted that the Solar Park will predominately be in Eggington Parish – the work entrance, however, will be in Hockliffe Parish.

Cllr Versallion noted that he would act as a “go between” the two Councils.

Cllr Coleman noted that some of the site is in a flood zone – Mr Meader responded that any development would stay away from this.

Mr Meader noted that some hedgerows would be planted around the site.

It was clarified that a footpath does not go through the site.

A resident asked about timeframes – Mr Meader responded that it takes about 6 months, and they would look to start (after the planning process) in late summer/early autumn.

The Chair asked about mud on the road – Mr Meader responded to say that they fully expected any planning approval to include a provision that this must be cleared by them.

223: A5/Speedwatch:

Cllr Capstick reported:

Speedwatch: Now in touch with police – further training (on line) will be arranged shortly.

A5: No update since the last meeting, although there will be an update ready for the Hockliffe Herald. This update will also be posted the Parish Council Facebook Page. PC Ryan wants to do speed awareness training.

He will be invited in April (to a meeting). Highways England will be invited to a future meeting as well.

Cllr Coleman noted that the A5 looked tidier.

224: Neighbourhood Plan:

The Chair noted that 13 residents had asked to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. He asked the Clerk to arrange the first meeting for next Monday (15th April 2020). A Terms of Reference Document for the Group has been drafted (attached). This was formally proposed by Cllr P Scott, and seconded by Cllr Capstick. It was unanimously agreed and resolved by the rest of the Councillors.

225: Matters arising not dealt with elsewhere on the Agenda:

The Chair noted the following:

Rat issue by the Limes – no update.

Telegraph Pole in Leighton Road – still waiting update.

Footpath between A5 and Church Lane has now been cleared.

Salt Bin by the church – CBC have approved for delivery later in the year.

226: Finance:

1. To authorise accounts for payment:

The Chair invited the Clerk to speak.

It was resolved that the following cheques could be paid:

Retrospective (within previously agreed Blooming Hockliffe Budget):

Cheque no	Amount	Payee	Reason
1801	£127.50	K&S Crook	Soil for planters (18/2)
1802	£168.95	A Alexander	Plants for the planters (24/2)
1803	£105.70	A Alexander	Barrels to plant plants in (24/2)

Cheques to authorise (all dated 8th March 2021)

Cheque no	Amount	Payee	Reason
1804	£90.37	C Underhay	Clerk Expenses
1805	£299.60	C Underhay	Salary
1806	£74.80	HMRC	Clerk Tax
1807	£54.00	K&S Crook	Plants for planters
1808	£77.98	C Underhay	Trolley to transport water, soil etc
1809	£1650	Village Garden Services	Grass cutting etc
1810	£28404	HPC	Transfer to Deposit ac (see below)
1811	£129.53	R Alexander	Handyman

We also received 26p credit in respect of interest on 26/2

2. Account Balances & Budget:

The Clerk presented a reconciliation and spend against budget. Spend is 87% of budget with 92% of year gone (as at end of February). The Clerk reported a total bank balance (as at 28th February 2021) of £79,975.63. This is split between current account (£45,624.96) and deposit account (£33,596.39).

3. Allocation of funds (Earmarking):

The following allocation was proposed by Cllr P Scott

- £10,000 Village Hall (increased by £3,000)
- £2,500 Neighbourhood Plan expenses
- £28,000 Park equipment/repairs (as required by ROSPA)
- £2,500 Garden in the park
- £5,000 Cemetery verge Parking
- £2,000 Community events
- £12,000 Tree work

This totals £62,000, and will leave enough working funds for other eventualities. The proposal also included the transfer of £28,404

from our current account to our savings account – to bring this balance to £62,000.

This proposal was seconded by Cllr Capstick, and then unanimously agreed (resolved) by the Council.

227: Policy and procedure review/renewal:

It was resolved by all members of the Council that the following policies were renewed for 12 months (to March 2022):

Financial Regulations
Health & Safety Policy
Standing Orders

It was also resolved that the Precept policy was renewed, however the figures will be updated to reflect the Precept due in April 2021 (so this policy will be updated on the website on 1st April 2021). The Precept figure will change to £21470 – which equates to £56.80 per household or £1.09 per week. This Policy will next be reviewed in April 2022.

228: Risk Management Strategy:

The Chair presented the Risk Management Strategy Policy for review (as it is due to be renewed). This renewal was unanimously agreed by the Council.

The Risk Register was presented to the Council for approval by the Clerk, together with a list of actions. Acceptance was proposed by Cllr P Scott and seconded by Cllr Capstick

229: The Park:

No Update

230: Tree Survey:

The Chair presented three quotes for review as follows:

Robert C Yates - £375 plus VAT

Davis Trees £450 (no VAT)

Arbtech Ltd - £739 plus VAT

All of the quotes include advising us of trees requiring attention and a schedule of works. The Council unanimously accepted (resolved) Robert C Yates quote – this was not agreed solely on cost – he was also recommended to us. The Chair asked the Clerk to engage the services of Robert C Yates.

231: The Hedge In The Cemetery:

The Chair reported that this has now been completed. It has been cut back to the same height as the hedge by the Commonwealth War Graves.

232: Hockliffe Herald Printing:

Cllr Antonini advised that she had obtained three quotes. However, she noted that Cllr Dickens had then gone back to Kallkwik (present printer) who agreed to undercut these three quotes – so we will be retaining their services.

233: April Meeting:

The Chair noted that in April, we will also be holding the Annual Meeting of the Parish. The Parish Council Meeting will follow immediately afterwards, but will be in a shortened form.

234: Planning Applications Received:

The Chair reported the following:

CB/20/03489 – Hockliffe House – update from November meeting – no decision made yet (by CBC).

CB/20/04627 – Goose Lodge -update from January meeting – this has been refused by CBC.

Two new applications have been received:

CB/21/00686 – The Old Stables – no comment from the Council.

CB/21/00437 – Stanbridge Solar Farm – no comment from the Council.

235: Blooming Hockliffe:

The Chair invited a member of the Blooming Hockliffe team to speak. The planters are now out with spring plants. A large planter shaped as an H is being made. Summer plants will be ordered soon.

236: Handyman:

Richard noted that he has now started to look at tasks. He will be looking at park benches first.

237: Cemetery Verge:

No further report since the last meeting.

238: Correspondence Received (for information only):

The Chair noted the following:

A resident has corresponded with CBC about the small brown bins being replaced in gardens properly by dustmen, as otherwise they blow everywhere.

An email was received regarding caravans in the hotel car park – replied that it is beyond our remit (and they have now gone).

Email received about state of pavement by Bull Farm.

239: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

There were no additional items.

240: Date & place of the next Parish Council Meeting:

This will be held on Monday 12th April 2020 via Zoom. This meeting will follow immediately after the Annual Meeting of the Parish – and will start no later than 8pm.

Signed as a true record..... Rob Scott (chair) 12th April 2021

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 13th March 2021

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