

Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th October 2021

Councillors Present: Cllrs R Scott (Chair), P Scott & Cllr Antonini

Clerk: C Underhay

72: To receive apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Cllr P Dickens and Cllr Versallion (CBC). Cllr Coleman was also not present. Cllr Capstick tendered her resignation just prior to the meeting and was also not present. The Clerk will deal with notifying CBC after the meeting. The Chair recorded his thanks to Cllr Capstick for her work whilst part of the Parish Council, particularly surrounding the A5.

73: Declarations of Interest:

No Declarations of Interest were received.

74: Approval of Minutes from 13th September 2021:

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

75: CBC Cllr Mark Versallion Report:

No report

76: Public Forum:

A resident reflected on the recent accidents on the A5 that have mainly been outside of the village. Two of these have unfortunately resulted in loss of life. The resident wants to arrange a petition to send to our MP – with desired outcome of having calming measures placed on the A5 – for example average speed camera's. The Council was happy, although they asked to see the petition before it went out (as it will be in the name of the Council) – Cllr P Scott proposed this was agreed in principle, and this

was seconded by Cllr Antonini and then resolved by all Councillors present.

A resident asked about the Christmas Tree Light (socket) by the Harvester – The Chair noted that it had been replaced but still needed to be checked (which he said he would do). The Chair noted that we will need to purchase a cable from where the socket is now, to where the Christmas Tree will be.

A resident noted the work due to be done in the park and asked for a wider review – the Chair noted that this would be a good idea, but of course we have to consider funding. We have a meeting with CBC about funds tied up in S106, and that we will report back once that meeting has taken place (it has been postponed by CBC until 16th November 2021). It was noted by others present that it could be landscaped – also the children would like a roundabout.

A resident asked about the Wilderness – the Chair noted that this was private land and outside of the Councils remit – we have tried to contact them in the past, but not had a response.

A resident enquired about who would be looking after the A5 now Cllr Capstick had resigned – the Chair said this would be discussed later in the Agenda – a resident then noted that the pathway behind the crash barrier needs attention.

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

The Chair noted the following:

The next meeting will unusually be held on the third Monday in November (15th).

The Clerk has been in contact with a manager at CBC Highways and is hopeful he can arrange a meeting in the coming weeks. Various items will be discussed regarding CBC Highways, including the road by the Cemetery and other items that have been outstanding for some time (noted in last month's Minutes).

The Grave issue noted in last month's Minutes is still outstanding.

The Police have contacted the Clerk to say that they can now come out to meetings (post COVID) – the Clerk has extended an invite for November's Meeting.

78: Grounds Farm Solar Park:

The Chair advised that he and the Clerk, together with Cllr Versallion, had been in discussion with Eggington Parish Council. Assuming that Planning is fully passed (the final stages) then the Developer will pay £5000 per year to each Council for the next 40 years. This is index linked every 5 years. This amount is a Community Grant (as opposed to S106) – the funds will come directly to us, and it will be up to us to decide how these funds are spent. The agreement was shared for consensus amongst councillors. The Chair proposed that this was accepted, and this was seconded by Cllr P Scott and fully resolved by all Councillors present.

79: The Park:

The Chair noted that the orders agreed at the last meeting had now been placed.

80: A5/Speedwatch:

The Chair advised that Speedwatch training had now been completed and a time plan was in circulation – the aim is to start this month. A resident asked if it would be possible to purchase our own speed radar (as we will be sharing Dunstable's) – the Chair noted that this will form part of our Budget discussion, which will take place in December. The Chair noted that the Clerk had spoken to a specialist surveyor regarding vibration and property surveys, various options had been discussed, however such a survey can be expensive. There were various questions, and these can only really be answered by a professional – the Clerk was asked to invite a professional to next months meeting to discuss the types of survey and what they can show. He will also be able to answer questions.

Cllr P Scott volunteered to be the liaison with Highways England regarding matters to do with the A5.

81: Christmas:

The Chair noted that we had obtained quotes for a Christmas Tree. The Company we had last year quoted £200 for a 15ft tree and £220 for a 16ft tree (both excluding VAT – so in effect the Council could agree £200 plus VAT without obtaining further quotes – but would need to obtain 3 quotes for a 16 ft tree. Delivery has been quoted at £70 plus VAT – but we could collect ourselves.

The Clerk therefore provided two other quotes for a 16 ft tree:

Real Christmas Trees.co.uk - £400 including Vat and delivery.

Send me a Christmas Tree.com - £307 including VAT, but you cannot see what you have ordered until it comes – delivery is included, but we cannot control when it comes.

The Chair noted that we were very happy with last year's Christmas Tree, and it was delivered exactly on time. He proposed that we accept the quote from last years Company (Badger Hill) for a 16ft tree with delivery (so we do not have to worry about collection). This was seconded by Cllr Antonini and resolved by all Councillors present.

It was agreed that we would do a separate event to anything that the HSA arrange. Cllr Antonini has agreed to lead – we would like to do a lighting up ceremony on, possibly on 28th November 2021 (but this date could be changed). Cllr P Scott proposed that we increase the budget to £200 to purchase presents – this was seconded by the Chair and resolved by all Councillors present. Cllr Antonini will conduct a separate meeting from those interested in helping and provide an update at the next meeting.

82: HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee:

Cllr Antonini is happy to lead this event. Cllr P Scott proposed a separate committee to oversee the event, and this was seconded by the Chair and was resolved by all present.

83: Neighbourhood Plan:

Richard Alexander advised that a meeting was held on 7th October 2021 – the Minutes have not been prepared yet. However, the plan is to produce a short survey this month – this will be hand delivered to all households by 1st November and will only concentrate on “bigger picture” questions. After the results have been assessed, a longer survey will be produced.

84: Defibrillators:

The Chair asked Mandie Underhay to speak. £54 has been spent, as a locksmith had to be engaged to repair the lock on the defibrillator by Hockliffe Business Park (it had stuck in the locked position). The clerk advised that this was approved under emergency spending provision in our Finance Policy.

New pads and battery sticks need to be ordered for all 3 defibrillators (including the one in the school that the Parish Council maintain). All three expire in November. Quotations have been obtained, and these are all similar:

SADS - £394.14 plus vat plus £6 P&P

DEFIB world £435 plus VAT

Amazon - £497.97 inc VAT (so £414.98) without.

It was proposed by the Chair we accept the quotation from SADS on the basis that they are the cheapest and our previous supplier with no issues. This was seconded by Cllr P Scott and resolved by all present. The Clerk will now place the order. It was noted that the budget set aside for this is £150 – however, this has been in place for 3 years with no expenditure – it is just that as the defibrillators were all installed at the same time, the consumables all run out at the same time.

A resident asked about a defibrillator at the north of the village – the Chair said this could form part of next years budget and asked for it to be deferred to the Budget meeting in December.

The Clerk has heard from the school – they would be agreeable to the one in the school being placed outside – as long as the Parish Council pay for it. The Clerk will arrange quotations for this.

85: Open Spaces Risk Assessment Review:

The Chair presented this document for approval – he proposed it – it was seconded by Cllr Antonini and resolved by all present.

86: Finance:

The Chair asked the Clerk to speak.

1. To authorise accounts for payment:

The following payments were presented. It was resolved by all Councillors present that they could be paid. (b) means they are included in the budget:

Cheque no	Amount	Payee	Reason
1869	£27.00	CBC – hall hire	NP Meeting (b)
1870	£349.60	C Underhay	Clerk salary (b)
1871	£87.40	HMRC	Clerk tax (b)
1872	£30.25	C Underhay	Clerk Expenses (b)
1873	£54.00	CBC – hall hire	NP & PC Meeting (b)
1874	£599.55	Goldleaf	Groundcare (b)
1875	£54.00	C Underhay	Locksmith for defib
1876	£705.94	B Simpson	Webmaster (b)
1877	£48.48	A Alexander	Blooming Hockliffe (b)
1878	£255.00	kallkwik	Hockliffe Herald print (b)
1879	£200.00	Autism Bedfordshire	Grant

2.Account Balances & Budget:

The Clerk reported that the Current account balance was £28,984.12 and Savings Account balance was £54914.70 – total £83899.18 as at 1st October. Spend against budget is 44% (with 50% of the year gone – so under).

The Clerk has written to Goldleaf regarding the missing invoice, as requested by Cllr Dickens – pending response.

3. Autism Bedfordshire Grant:

The Chair re-presented a grant application from Autism Bedfordshire for £200. A further email had been received the charity that answered the question raised by Cllr P Scott last month. The email outlined the work it does in Hockliffe and advised how the funds would be spent in support of this. The budget provision is only £100, however, particularly as spend is currently under budget, the Council agreed to support this, Grant. It was proposed by Cllr P Scott, seconded by Cllr Antonini and resolved by all Councillors present.

4.S106 Update:

The Chair advised that the teleconference set up for 5th October 2021 between himself, the Clerk and CBC had been postponed (by CBC) until 16th November 2021 – this item will be brought forward to our December meeting.

87: Planning – Applications received:

The chair presented two applications for discussion:
CB/21/04313/Full – 30 Clifford Close
CB/21/04219/FULL – Land east and West of Tebworth

No Councillors present had any comment

88: Blooming Hockliffe:

The Chair asked for a member of the Blooming Hockliffe Team to speak. The team will be changing the flowers in the planters in the coming weeks.

The team would like to buy a Remembrance Bench. They had already provided 3 quotes to the Chair for consideration at the meeting. These quotes are:

GDSteel Belfast - £664.99 no post
Sprint CNC - £600 no post

Memorial Bench inc - £634.99 plus £69.99 postage

All the above do not include VAT.

The Handyman has estimated an installation cost of £80

The Chair asked the Clerk whether we have a budget line – the clerk noted that we don't, but we do have a reserve, and our spend is currently under budget, with a forecast that this will still be the case at the end of the financial year – so the cost could be contributed to "other". Income is also more than expectation due to cemetery income being greater than expected (by £500).

The Chair proposed that we went forward with the bench for £600 – the Blooming Hockliffe Team will now proceed with the purchase.

It was also agreed that the best place to put the bench was on one of the corners of the A5/Woburn/Hockliffe Road.

89: Handyman:

The Chair asked the Handyman for an update. The gate at the Church Cemetery will be fixed over the next 2 weeks. The Chair also asked for this gate to be painted.

90: Clipstone Brook:

Cllr Coleman had asked for this to be on the Agenda – he was not present at the meeting, so the item was postponed.

91: Communication Policy:

The Clerk advised that this was not ready for presentation

92: Correspondence Received (for information only):

The Chair noted that only one piece of correspondence had been received – this was from a resident who felt he had not been consulted regarding Grounds Farm Solar Park. Cllr Versallion has dealt with this.

93: Items for inclusion in the next agenda:

- Precept
- Police Report
- Councillor Vacancies
- Clerk Pay
- Surveyor (item 80)

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Colin Underhay – Clerk – 16th October 2021

Signed as a true record..... Rob Scott (chair) 15th November
2021

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