

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Steeple Morden Village Hall on
Monday 10th February 2020 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), N Badger, K Austin, S Traverse-Healy,
C Upchurch, S Wheatley, A Drew
County Cllr Kindersley (part), District Cllr Williams (part)
In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.30 PM

1. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

There had been no applications to date. The vacancy was being advertised on the website, Facebook and notice board.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Belson.
There were no interests declared.

3. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

The Chairman asked Councillors to read the circulated Councillor reports so that they could be taken as read and then questions could be asked on the content.

3.1 County Council

A report had been circulated. Cllr Kindersley advised that the Fire Authority element of the council tax was to be increased by 1.91%. The County Council was to meet the following day and approve an increase of 1.59%. Neither of these increases met inflation costs.

The Odsey car park project continued. There had been a meeting at the SCDC offices and the Head of Planning was now involved.

An announcement had been made regarding the East West Rail route which was Route E. Although this was a good outcome for the local villages, CAMBED Railroad would continue to pursue a better route. The proposal for a station south of Cambourne was a concern as most of the development was north of the village. Also the proposed route did not follow the A428 and would also go through some of the southern villages. The CAMBED Railroad group would offer their help to persuade East West Rail that there was a better route.

3.2 District Council

Cllr Williams had not yet prepared a report.

She advised that the District Council would be meeting later in the week to discuss planning delegation. She would update the Council following that meeting.

All efforts were being made to maintain the 5 year land supply as it was not where the council would like it to be.

Cllr Williams reiterated the comment made by Cllr Kindersley about a northern station. She advised that she sat on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Assembly.

There was currently a pre-action letter for a Judicial Review relating to a planning application in Steeple Morden. Cllr Williams had asked to be notified on the situation as it progressed.

Cllr Traverse-Healy suggested that it was made clear that the 5 year land supply in rural areas was contrary to good planning. Cllr Kindersley stated that the history was that the District and City want the housing supply to be considered together.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Williams and Cllr Kindersley for their reports.

4. COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM PARISHIONERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

4.1 School Drop Off Area

It was reported that the school was still not locking the gate in the evening. The neighbour was monitoring. She advised that a member of staff opened the gate in the morning but when questioned about the locking declined to accept responsibility.

4.2 Planning Application S/0068/20/FL

Neighbouring residents had submitted their concerns regarding the planning application to South Cambridgeshire District Council Planners and copied in Councillors. Residents were concerned over the huge amount of work proposed which included the two storey rear extension, building on the front of the property and an annex in the garden which was the worst aspect of the application. There were no other properties in the area with an annex in the

garden. It was also intended to have a floor to ceiling window on the second floor. If was felt that the proposal would take away their privacy.

The application was considered by Councillors under Item 11.1.1.

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF

5.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on 13th January 2020

On a proposition by Cllr Austin, seconded by Cllr Badger, the minutes as circulated were taken as read and then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6. MATTERS ARISING AND CARRIED FORWARD

6.1 A505 Junction

There was no further news. It was agreed that this item would be removed from the agenda until further information became available.

6.2 Station Car Park Update

Cllr Kindersley had given a brief update in his report. It was noted that any further update would be through him. It was agreed to remove this item from the meeting agenda.

6.3 Request for Dog Waste Bin (Bogs Gap Lane)

There had been no further communication. The Clerk reminded Councillors that South Cambridgeshire District Council had agreed to the installation of a bin if the Parish Council funded it. On a proposal by Cllr Austin, seconded by Cllr Wheatley, it was agreed that the Parish Council contribute £345 plus VAT. The Clerk to ask the District Council to proceed with the installation.

-Clerk

6.4 Clerk Appraisal

The appraisal had now taken place and Councillors had met to discuss the feedback.

6.5 Update on new website

Cllr Drew confirmed that all information had now been gathered for the home page. Cllr Austin had provided some photographs, old and new, of the village.

6.6 School Drop Off Area

Further correspondence had been received from the school asking for more detail of the agreement, current key holders and who was responsible for the maintenance of the area.

As reported under Item 4.1 the gate was not being locked after school and it was noted that there were five vehicles belonging to school staff regularly using the area.

Cllr Drew confirmed that the area was the responsibility of the Parish Council to maintain. The only requirement of the school was to unlock and lock the gate.

After further discussion it was agreed that a record be kept of the when the gate was closed by school staff until the March Parish Council meeting. The school should be given one more chance and if nothing changed during this time the gate would be locked and not reopened until a plan came forward from the school.

-Clerk

The Clerk to advise the school of this.

7. FINANCES

7.1 To receive the financial statement and to approve the payment of bills

The invoices were checked by Cllr Wheatley

E-ON

Reading Room electricity February DD £ 35.00

HAVEN POWER

Street light electricity February 2020 EE (inc£46.47VAT) £287.11

IN & OUT

Disabled toilet clean January 2019 £ 15.65

STEEPLE MORDEN VILLAGE HALL

Hire of village hall meeting room 10/2/20 £ 10.00

THE PRINTWORKS (ROYSTON) LTD

Newsletters £ 50.00

THE POST OFFICE

Emptying of eurobin 2019/20

£927.50

MR R J GROUND

Leylandii tree work £1950.00

Removal of tree for emergency access £ 250.00 £2200.00

ST PETER & ST PAUL

Donation towards burial ground mtce 2019/20 honoured £1000.00

MD LANDSCAPES

Grasscutting July-December Rec ground	£560.00	
Verges	£520.00	
Conservation area	£250.00	
VAT	£266.00	£1596.00

MORELOCK

Solar panels for MVAS (inc £159.60) £ 957.60

TOTAL £7078.86

AGREED PROPOSED Cllr Wheatley SECONDED Cllr Austin

It was noted that Councillors had agreed to honour the payment for burial ground maintenance at their meeting in September 2020. The Church had been advised that no further contributions could be made.

8. RECREATION GROUND/CONSERVATION AREA8.1 Tree Survey Report8.1.1 Agreement of Quotations for Tree Work

The Clerk reported that a further two quotations had been requested. One had been received and this had come in under the agreed budget of £1500. Cllr Drew advised that work would take place on the most dangerous trees in the report first before the birds started to nest. The remainder could wait until the Autumn. It was agreed to wait until the end of the week for the second quotation and then appoint the contractor who had provided the cheapest quotation.

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-Clerk

8.2 Leylandii Tree Work (by Village Hall) update

The work was scheduled to take place on the 14th January.

8.3 Car Park Light Repair

The Clerk had urged. Councillors suggested that if the usual contractor could not carry out the repair another be approached.

8.4 Request for two replacement Litter Bins

Cllr Drew had sourced two replacement bins at a cost of £143.76 plus VAT each. It was agreed that the Clerk arrange the purchase.

-Clerk

8.5 Access for Emergency Vehicles

Following the last meeting the removal of a tree by the kissing gate had been arranged. A post now needed to be removed. Cllrs Austin and Badger agreed to arrange.

-
Cllrs Austin,
Badger

8.6 Bluegrass Festival 2020 –review of arrangements

As discussed at the November 2019 Parish Council meeting Councillors agreed that no charge would be made for the Festival. Photographs of the litter bins and surrounds would be taken before and after the event. Should there be a lot of rubbish generated the Parish Council would consider asking for a refundable deposit in future.

The Clerk would write to the Festival organiser and confirm the arrangement. Cllr Drew would take the before and after photographs.

-Cllr Drew
& Clerk

9. MAINTENANCE9.1 Footpath/Footways9.1.1 Craft Way Footpath

It was advised that the hedge requiring attention was associated with 10 Craft Way. The Clerk was asked to write to the residents, now that the property had been identified, and request that the hedge be cut back.

-Clerk

9.2 Agreement of Grasscutting contracts 2020/2022

Details of the tenders had been circulated to Councillors. The quotations were discussed. On a proposal by Cllr Wheatley, seconded by Cllr Badger, it was agreed that the contract for 2020 - 2022 be awarded to MD Landscapes. All Councillors in agreement. The Clerk to advise the contractors. She would also ask MD Landscapes to start the grasscutting once the grass begins to grow and to remind them to include The Green in the verge cuts as it had been missed in the past even though the area was shown on the specification.

-Clerk

9.3 Update on latest litter pick

Cllr Belson was not in attendance so an update would be made at the next meeting.

10. TRAFFIC10.1 MVAS Update

Cllr Austin reminded Councillors that they had agreed to purchase solar panels for the MVAS once confirmation from the Planners had been received that planning consent was not needed. Cllr Williams had confirmed this at the last meeting. The cost of the solar panels was £399 plus

-Clerk

VAT each. It was agreed that they be ordered.

Cllr Austin then reported that one of the signs had been moved to Hay Street by the recreation ground and it was recording speeds in both directions. The sign had registered speeds for two vehicles between the school and Craft Way at 77mph early one weekday morning. He had prepared a précis of all the data gathered from the signs since they were first erected. He added that generally the percentage of speeding vehicles had not decreased but felt the signs were effective.

A presentation would be made to parishioners at the Annual Parish Meeting.

10.1.1 Update on reforming of Community Speedwatch Team

There was no update. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

10.2 Police attendance to discuss speed

As agreed at the last meeting the Clerk had tried to arrange for Sgt Priestley to attend the meeting but learned that he had resigned from his post. The names of two other officers had been given but neither responded to the requests made by the Clerk to attend this meeting. Councillors agreed that the précis of MVAS data gathered be forwarded to the Police Superintendent of Highways which the Clerk would do.

-Clerk

11. PLANNING/TREE WORK APPLICATIONS

11.1 Planning Applications

11.1.1 Planning Ref S/4541/19/FL

8 Craft Way –Erection of two storey rear extension, ground floor front extension and annex
The representations made by neighbours under Item 4.2 were taken into account. Councillors agreed that the proposed annex in the garden was out of keeping with the surrounding properties and would be an overdevelopment of the site. The extension to the main dwelling was discussed and was considered to be within permitted development. The main issue was the proposed first floor window (floor to ceiling) which would be an invasion of privacy. It was also recognised that if granted the annex could become a separate dwelling so should have a condition, should the application be approved, to remain as part of the main property. The following recommendation was agreed by all Councillors.

Recommendation -Objection

The annex is not in keeping with the surrounding area and would be an overdevelopment of the site. Had the application for the extension being separate this would have been considered but there would have been an objection to the upstairs window which would overlook the neighbouring properties.

If minded to approve the application it is requested that a condition be put on the approval to ensure that the annex remains as part of the main dwelling.

The Parish Council would like the application to go before the planning committee and suggest a site visit.

11.1.2 Planning Ref S/0068/20/FL

Field Gate, 10 Bogs Gap Lane –Garage conversion and single storey rear extension

Recommendation -Support

11.1.3 Planning Ref FMW/080/19

Station Quarry, 75 Station Road –Application to vary condition 1 of Planning Permission ref S/0366/00 to allow for the continued use of Station Quarry to 31 December 2038 being the date established in the quarry extension permission (Permission Ref S/00036/06/CM)

Cllr Traverse-Healy had brought this to the attention of the Clerk as details had not been forwarded for this consultation. She had since contacted the Officer.

-Clerk

It was agreed that the application be supported with the same comment made to the planning application for the Plantation Quarry that an updated wildlife analysis be carried out on the whole area.

The Clerk was asked to remind the County Officer that the Parish Council wanted to be notified on all future applications.

11.2 Update on Delegation Arrangements for SCDC Planning Applications

Further correspondence had been circulated by the Leader of the Council, Bridget Smith. Councillors reiterated their previous comment that if the process, as defined in the Leader's letter, was in a document it would afford protection for the future

11.3 Agreement of Parish Council response to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation

Cllr Traverse-Healy had circulated a list of questions to Councillors and confirmed with them that they wanted the village to remain as a group village with a tight framework. It was recognised that small developments and extensions to existing properties were needed to keep

the village alive and these would continue to be supported. An emphasis would be put on the requirement of infrastructure, including facilities, before any development.

It was suggested that a point be made about the proposal for tree planting in the village and Councillors were reminded that a resident was putting together a recommendation for tree planting. The Clerk was asked to urge the recommendation for discussion as an agenda item at the next meeting.

-Clerk

-Cllr
Traverse-
Healy

Cllr Traverse-Healy would circulate a draft response to Councillors before submission.

12. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED INCLUDING:

12.1 Operation London Bridge

Further guidance had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the Church and expenditure of £50 was agreed for a book of Condolence.

-Clerk

13. COUNCILLORS' ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND REQUIRING THE URGENT ATTENTION OF THE CLERK

13.1 Meeting Dates for 2020

The Clerk was asked to add as an agenda item for the next meeting.

13.2 Parking on grass –Russell Close

There had been some complaints about the parking. It was noted that this area was South Cambridgeshire District Council land so any complaints should be referred to them.

13.3 Leylandii Trees by Play Area

Concern was raised over the Leylandii trees by the play area. It had been noted in the recent tree survey that they were safe but Councillors were aware that they were encroaching on the play equipment and this was sure to be highlighted in the next RoSPA report.

It was suggested that expenditure to reduce the height of the trees, or removal, could be budgeted for in the financial year 2021/22. For health and safety purposes it was agreed that trees should be sided off as soon as possible so that they did not encroach the zip wire. It was also agreed that the successful contractor for the tree survey work be asked to include the siding off.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Monday 9th March 2020

There was no further business and declared the meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Chairman

Date