

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Steeple Morden Village Hall on
Monday 13th January 2020 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), N Badger, K Austin, S Traverse-Healy, G Belson, S Wheatley, A Drew
County Cllr Kindersley (part), District Cllr Williams
In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) and 3 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 Upchurch.

Cllr Traverse-Healy advised that he had become a member of the Local Nature Group which was a public body.

3. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

3.1 District Council

Cllr Williams would circulate her report in the next couple of days. She stated that she wanted to raise awareness over using the full date when signing documents as the date could easily be changed.

There were currently three important consultations underway the first was the Local Plan Issues and Options consultation which would run until the 24th February. This affected all residents and Cllr Williams asked for everything possible to be done to advertise. The next consultation was relating to the proposal for a Cambridge South station at Addenbrookes and third related to the County Council Climate Change Strategy.

South Cambridgeshire District Council was offering three free trees to parishes in the form of a £60 voucher. Cllr Williams added that the council had a big budget for trees. The Clerk confirmed that the voucher had been applied for.

Cllr Williams then expressed her concern over Planning issues. There had been an independent company that had raised concern over the planning process. In response the Leader of South Cambridgeshire District Council had circulated a letter to Councils stating that the process would remain as it currently was. Cllr Williams stated that she agreed with the aspirations of the council but as the process was not yet included in the legal text she would continue to pursue. She explained the current process adding that if the process, as defined in the Leader's letter, was in a document it would afford protection for the future.

3.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley stated that it would be very helpful if the Parish Council would take part in the consultation relating to the proposal for a rail station at Addenbrookes and state that there was enthusiasm for a station as soon as possible and not years ahead. Cllr Traverse-Healy advised that it had not been advised how the station was going to be funded adding that this would be a national asset and should be delivered by the Government and not from housing developments and Section 106 contributions. It was agreed that the Clerk prepare a draft consultation response for agreement by Cllr Traverse-Healy and the Chairman.

In Odsey a meeting had taken place with the landowner, his representatives and the SCDC Planning case officer to discuss the proposal for a car park and associated planning application. It was recognised that a car park was an unusual application but would be for the benefit of the community. The case officer was unable to give an opinion so had consulted a senior officer. The agent, Savills, would then be advised of the outcome.

There was to be a meeting of the CAMVAL bus group on the 22nd January where the proposal to vary the bus routes in the parish would be discussed. There had been a good response via Facebook. Cllr Kindersley urged interested people to attend the meeting.

The consultation in relation to the Plantation Quarry appeared to be straightforward. Cllr Traverse-Healy pointed out that there were two areas, the Plantation Quarry and the Station Quarry. He had asked the County officers to look at the Station Quarry. Cllr Kindersley agreed to chase up a response. Cllr Traverse-Healy advised that the Wildlife Trust would welcome working with the applicant. He did though see a need for an updated environmental analysis of

-Clerk

the whole area.

Cllr Kindersley concluded his report by advising that the consultation on Carbon Strategy was to end on the 31st January 2020.

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

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

4.1 Tennis Club Accident

Councillors were advised that there had been an accident, resulting in a fractured hip, at the Club the previous week. An ambulance had been called but due to the lack of access there was a long delay. Further ambulance staff assistance was needed before the patient could be transferred to the ambulance and hospital. The issue was the difficulty manoeuvring the stretcher through the kissing gate. Councillors were asked for help to improve access should an accident such as this happen again.

The Chairman expressed his best wishes for a quick recovery to the patient. He asked for Councillor views where all agreed emergency access needed to be arranged as soon as possible. Cllr Traverse-Healy queried why the ambulance was not equipped to deal with this situation as there were often rescues from remote places. It was noted that the path behind the village hall was too muddy for the Ambulance people to carry the stretcher safely. Health and safety guidelines only allowed for the stretcher to be carried on sound ground hence the access through the kissing gate.

After discussion it was agreed that a gap of around 4feet be arranged beside the kissing gate urgently. To enable this one or two of the Leylandii trees would need to be removed. A budget of £500 was agreed to enable the felling to happen quickly. Cllr Austin agreed to speak to the Tree contractors working on the Leylandii trees by the village hall the next day.

Cllr Traverse-Healy suggested that if a similar situation arose, where an ambulance was needed, the operator be advised that the Tennis Club was accessed by uneven ground and they might need to consider additional equipment.

-KA

5. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF

5.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on 9th December 2019

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.

6.2 Station Car Park Update

Cllr Kindersley had given an update under his County Councillor report, Item 2.2.

6.3 Request for Dog Waste Bin (Bogs Gap Lane)

As agreed at the December Parish Council meeting the Clerk had sent a response to the SCDC officer, pointing out that residents picked up litter, in addition to the litter picks, and asked for the officer to reconsider.

6.4 Clerk Appraisal

The Chairman would carry out the appraisal before the next meeting.

-JC

6.5 Update on website

Cllr Drew reported that the Clerk had been asked to officially place the order. A cheque for the first instalment would be sent at the same time.

-Clerk

6.6 School Drop Off Area

The school had responded to the letter sent by the Clerk, following the last Parish Council meeting, asking for copies of the agreement and minutes. It was advised that neighbours were currently monitoring and closing the gate if needed.

The file containing the information relating to the area had been located in which there was a letter from the Clerk at the time the arrangement was made. Cllr Drew reminded Councillors that the area was set up as a Safer Routes to School initiative in 2003, as a drop off point, and at the time the school had to confirm that a proper rota would be set up for the opening and locking of the gate so that unauthorised access to the car park did not occur.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk reply to the School stating that the Parish Council expected the School to arrange for the area to be open half an hour before parents arrive and to close half an hour after school. If this did not happen then the locks would be changed and access denied. The School would also be asked to advise how they would manage this routine and if they had a

different solution.

-Clerk

7. FINANCES

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

The invoices were checked by Cllr Drew.

E-ON

Reading Room electricity January DD £ 35.00

HAVEN POWER

Street light electricity January 2020 EE £283.20

IN & OUT

Disabled toilet clean December 2019 £ £7.50

STEEPLE MORDEN VILLAGE HALL

Hire of village hall meeting room 13/1/20 £ 10.00

THE PRINTWORKS (ROYSTON) LTD

Newsletters £ 50.00

A CHAMBERS

Recreation Ground expenses £ 10.97

SLCC

Contribution towards membership 2020 £ 58.00

ACACIA TREE SURGERY

Tree survey (inc £75.00 VAT) £450.00

NETWISE UK

New Website first payment £899.00

MRS S WALMESLEY

Clerks Salary & Expenses 1/10/19 -31/12/19 £983.01

HMRC

PAYE October -December 2019 £239.20

TOTAL £3025.88

AGREED PROPOSED Cllr Traverse-Healy SECONDED Cllr Drew

7.2 Agreement of Budget/Precept 2020/21

A draft budget had been circulated to Councillors for consideration. Cllr Austin queried whether expenditure for solar panels, to recharge the MVAS batteries, should be included. Cllr Williams had confirmed that planning permission would not be required for these panels. Councillors agreed that the expenditure for these would be from the 'Parish Project' budget for the current financial year.

After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Austin, seconded by Cllr Traverse-Healy to request a precept of £31,500 for 2020/21. All Councillors in agreement. The Clerk to make the Demand to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

-Clerk

7.3 Water meter reading

The Clerk advised that the meter reading supplied by the Bowls Club appeared excessive, more than the reading for the main meter. It was agreed that the charge made be adjusted. Clerk to arrange the invoices.

-Clerk

8. RECREATION GROUND/CONSERVATION AREA

8.1 Tree Survey Report

The report had been circulated to Councillors who agreed that it was very good and contained more detail than expected. The Tree Surgeons had prioritised work and provided quotations. Councillors agreed that everything recommended to be done as soon as possible should go ahead. The Clerk was asked to obtain two further quotations for the work. As this needed to be carried out before the Spring a budget of £1500.00 was agreed.

-Clerk

8.1.1 Tree behind village Hall

8.1.2 Recreation Ground Trees on Hay Street

8.1.3 Trees by Play Area

These trees had been included as part of the survey and recommendation for works to be carried out.

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

Investigations were underway following confirmation of the position of the light. The Clerk was asked to urge.

-Clerk

8.4 Litter Bins

Cllr Drew to obtain details, and costings, of replacement bins for the next meeting.

-AD

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

The Clerk to look at previous minutes to find out the exact location of the offending shrubbery, and report again on the County Council website.

-Clerk

9.2 Review of Grasscutting contracts 2020/2022

Invitations to tender had been sent out to four contractors who had been asked to return their quotations by the 7th February 2020.

9.3 Litter Picks 2020

Cllr Belson reported that the dates for the picks had been agreed and advertised. There was to be eleven litter picks through the year. She added that past volunteers were coming back to help.

10. TRAFFIC10.1 MVAS Update

Cllr Badger had arranged for the information gathered from the sign to be shared on Facebook. Cllr Austin reported that there had been some interesting responses, 83 in total. There were questions raised, and suggestions made on traffic calming measure which had already been investigated over the years by the Parish Council. There had been a lot of emotion expressed. Councillors agreed that parishioners should be advised through the newsletter that speeds through the village had improved since the signs were put up. County Council Highways had not supported any traffic calming suggested, in the past, but the Parish Council was to make an application in the next round of the Local Highway Improvement Initiative for 40mph buffers at each end of the village.

Cllr Austin suggested an additional post on Hay Street to mount the sign. The Clerk advised that County Highways require an application through the PFHI (Privately Funded Highway Initiative) to arrange this. She suggested that a street lighting column might be a cheaper option. Balfour Beatty, who managed the County streetlights, made a charge but Cllr Williams confirmed South Cambridgeshire District Council did not.

10.1.1 Update on reforming of Community Speedwatch Team

There was no update. It was stated that the item in the newsletter to give the Parish Council views on the MVAS response, could include an appeal for anyone interested in joining a Speedwatch team to come forward.

10.2 Invitation to Sergeant Priestley to attend February 2020 Parish Council meeting

The Clerk was asked to invite Sergeant Priestly to meet with Councillors, and members of the public, at 7pm on the 10th February 2020.

-Clerk

11. PLANNING/TREE WORK APPLICATIONS11.1 Planning Ref 19/00021/VCMW

Plantation Quarry, 75 Station Road –Excavation of chalk and restoration to a beneficial after use to quarry. Application to continue with planning permission ref S/0365/00 (extension of time limit).

As discussed with Cllr Kindersley the Clerk was asked to request that an updated wildlife analysis be carried out on the whole area.

-Clerk

11.2 Planning Ref S/4117/19/LB

32 The Green –Replacement timber casement windows 7no, repoint chimney, repair east gable end wall, replace cast iron rainwater goods

Recommendation –Support11.3 Greater Cambridge Local Plan Issues and Options Consultation 13th January -24th February 2020

Cllr Traverse-Healy agreed to prepare a report on the consultation for the next meeting.

-STH

12. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED INCLUDING:12.1 Fews Lane Consortium –Proposed changes to planning procedure as SCDC12.2 SCDC –Items referred to Planning Committee

The above items were discussed under the District Councillor Report Item 3.1.

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

There were no issues raised.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Monday 10th February 2020

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

Chairman

Date