

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held remotely on
Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), N Badger, K Austin, A Drew, C Upchurch, S Wheatley, S Traverse-Healy, M Bird, G Belson
 County Cllr Kindersley (part)
 In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

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

There were none received.

2 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

2.1 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

He referred to a current consultation on air traffic control changes relating to Luton airport where the proposal would be a significant improvement for the Steeple Morden area. Planes would be stacking over Gamlingay instead. Cllr Kindersley was working with colleagues from Central Bedfordshire making the suggestion that the A1M would be a better place as it already had background noise.

At the last County Council meeting four motions were agreed which related to the £28million gap in spending, an anti-Semitism motion, funding for schools and to try to get utility companies to work with the County Council on building projects.

The Fire Authority was appealing to residents not to have bonfires or displays. Each member of the authority had been awarded a £50 bonus for their work during the last lockdown.

Cllr Kindersley, and the Parish Council, had received an update from the County Council Principal Enforcement and Monitoring Officer on the Odsey Scrapyard site. A planning application was anticipated.

The Clerk asked Cllr Kindersley if he was aware of the reason for the surface change on the Cobbs Lane footpath as she had not received any feedback from the County Rights of Way Officer, Peter Gaskin. He confirmed that he was also investigating and was told that the change was arranged by Mr Gaskin. He would continue his investigation.

3 COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM PARISHIONERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no comments made.

4 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF

4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on 14th September 2020

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

4.2 The Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 12th October 2020

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

5 MATTERS ARISING AND CARRIED FORWARD

5.1 Update on new website

Cllr Drew reported that she hoped to have completed the transfer by now but was waiting for photographs and CVs from some Councillors. She would arrange for the Clerk to take over the site soon. Cllr Upchurch has some amendments to make to the contact list but this could be amended after the site had been passed over.

5.2 Odsey Scrap yard Update

As reported by Cllr Kindersley there was likely to be a planning application submitted soon.

5.3 Tennis Club Replacement lighting proposal

The replacement lighting had been installed.

5.4 School Drop Off Car Park update

Cllr Drew confirmed that a replacement gate had been ordered which would take 4 weeks to arrive.

5.5 LHI Application 2021/22

The application had been submitted by the closing date at the end of September 2020.

6 FINANCES

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

E-ON

Reading Room electricity November 2020DD £ 78.00

HAVEN POWER

Street light electricity October 2020 DD (Inc £12,VAT) £255.80

IN & OUT

Disabled toilet clean October 2020 £ 11.73

THE PRINTWORKS (ROYSTON) LTD

Newsletters October 2020 £ 50.00

E W PEPPER LTD £400.00

TOTAL £795.53

Agreed Proposed Cllr Wheatley Seconded Cllr Bird

INVOICES AGREED AT PARISH COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING 12TH OCTOBER 2020

E-ON

Reading Room electricity October 2020 DD £ 78.00

HAVEN POWER

Street light electricity September 2020 DD (inc £45.59VAT) £281.75

THE PRINTWORKS (ROYSTON) LTD

Newsletters October 2020 £ 50.00

IN AND OUT

Disabled toilet cleaning September 2020 £ 11.73

STEEPLE MORDEN ALLOTMENT AND GARDEN SOCIETY

Reimb for replacement gate post £ 47.30

HERTS NATIVE TREES

Trees for village planting project £395.00

MRS S WALMESLEY £1136.98

Clerks salary and expenses July-September 2020

HMRC

PAYE July-September 2020 £273.80

TOTAL £2274.56

6.2 Budget/Precept 2021/22

Councillors agreed that they would meet in December to get discussions on the budget and precept requirement underway. The Clerk to forward details of receipts and payments to date against budget 2020/21 to the Finance working group. **-Clerk**

7 RECREATION GROUND/CONSERVATION AREA

7.1 Village Tree Planting Update

Cllr Wheatley reported that the trees had been ordered and the working group was awaiting delivery.

7.2 Play Area Upgrade

Cllr Badger and Cllr Drew would prepare some costings to put forward for discussion at the next meeting where the Budget and Precept for 2021/22 would be discussed.

-AD, NB

7.3 Repair to Zip Wire

Two quotations had been received with the lowest price for the repair quoted by Playdale who had installed the equipment originally. This cost was £295.00 plus VAT. Councillors agreed that the Clerk place the order for the work to proceed. **-Clerk**

7.4 Reopening of Reading Room/Pavilion

As a four week lockdown was due to commence on the 5th November the Reading Room and Pavilion would be closed. Once further instructions were received from the Government on reopening this item would be revisited.

8 MAINTENANCE

8.1 Footpaths/Footways

8.1.1 Craft Way Footway

The Clerk reported that she had spoken with the Local Highway Officer who confirmed that he had made contact with the resident a couple of times about the overgrown hedge. The Clerk was advised to report again on the County Council website following half term and this would be followed up again. Cllr Upchurch had taken some photographs which she would forward to the Clerk.

-CU and Clerk

8.1.2 Cobbs Lane Footpath

As discussed under the County Councillor report this was being followed up with the County Rights Of Way officer.

8.2 Litter Pick Update

Cllr Belson reported that there had been two further litter picks in October 2020. She thanked Mike Smith for co-ordinating the latest session in her absence. As take away outlets would be remaining open during the next lockdown of four weeks further litter was expected. Cllr Belson added that due to the restrictions further litter picks would not take place in 2020.

Cllr Belson was thanked for organising this.

9 SMARTIES PRE-SCHOOL LOAN

The Chairman explained the background to the loan. Smarties had recently asked if the loan could become a permanent gift, due to the difficulties with the pandemic, but South Cambridgeshire District Council had since given Smarties a grant of £10,000 which would be enough to see them through. They were currently looking on a plan to revise costs. The Clerk reminded Councillors that repayment of the loan was requested by May 2022 the date of the next parish elections.

The Chairman added that a further update would be made by Smarties in October 2021.

10 PLANNING/TREE WORK APPLICATIONS

10.1 Planning Applications

There were no applications for consideration.

Notification of an application had been received for 74 Station Road (Ref 20/04302/HFUL). A Planning meeting would be arranged to discuss the plans.

10.2 Planning Appeal S/2064/19/FL 39 Bogs Gap Lane

Details of the appeal had been forwarded to Councillors. If there were any further representations they needed to be made by the 12th November 2020.

Councillors agreed to stick to the original decision of to recommend Support subject to the condition of no on street parking.

11 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED INCLUDING:

11.1 SCDC Covid 19 Grant offer for Parish Councils

The District Council had grants of between £100 and £400 for parishes to help with the next wave of the virus. Cllr Belson advised that Steeple Morden had not made an application and nothing had been done about starting up a voluntary group again. During the first wave people were supported in various ways.

The Clerk reminded Councillors that there was to be an update on the 3rd November by South Cambs officers on the current situation.

11.2 The Green/Cheyney Street Junction

Communication had been received complaining about a high kerb at the junction which had resulted in damage to a vehicle. The resident believed that the kerb was unlawful. Details of the communication had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting.

It was agreed that as this was a County Highway issue, and therefore not in the remit of the Parish Council to take action, the Clerk would acknowledge the e-mail and

advise that this issue should be reported on the County Council website. The position with the kerb would then be followed up by a County Council officer. **-Clerk**

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

12.1 Old Parish Records

Cllr Bird reported that he had collected some parish records stored in the village and included were some meeting minutes and other documents. He was asked to check to see if the minutes were signed copies and if so they would need to be put in secure storage. The Clerk to check with the County Archivist to find out the current procedure for storage. In the meantime Cllr Bird would scan the documents. It was suggested that they could be put onto the website for interest. **-MB and Clerk**

12.2 Air Traffic Control Meetings

As reported by Cllr Kindersley there were currently consultations underway relating to changes in the approach to Luton airport. Cllr Bird offered to attend the remote meetings on behalf of the Parish Council and report back.

12.3 White Ponds Wood

Cllr Badger expressed his concern over a number of dead trees and rotting branches in the wood. It was advised that the wood was managed by the Woodland Trust. The Clerk was asked to relay the concerns to them. Cllr Wheatley added that over the past six months some tree work had been carried out in the wood. **-Clerk**

12.4 Conservation Area Grasscutting

Cllr Belson reminded Councillors that the conservation area was usually cut for the bonfire PTA fundraising event. This year the cut had not been urged with the contractor as the event was not taking place. The Clerk was asked to remind the contractor as it was on the annual maintenance schedule. **-Clerk**

12.5 Station Bus Route

Cllr Belson reported that there were to be changes to the route which would affect the Mordens. She advised that the status of the bus had been changed and was now a formal route so was no longer as flexible. At the present time use of the trains by residents was low so Cllr Belson suggested revisiting the service in 9-12 months when the situation would hopefully be better.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 14th December 2020

There was no further business and declared the meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Chairman

Date