

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held outside Steeple Morden Cricket Pavilion on Monday 11th July 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), M Bird, N Badger, S Traverse-Healy, O Parsons, C Upchurch, M Carroll, N Sharkey
District Cllr Williams, County Cllr Kindersley (part)
In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) with two members of the public.

1 Apologies for absence, declarations under the code of conduct and requests for dispensations

Apologies were received from Cllr Austin.

Cllr Clayton declared a pecuniary interest under item 11.2.1 as the landowner.

2 Presentation of Jubilee Award 2022

The Chairman presented the Jubilee Award to Mike Smith adding that everyone supported his nomination. Mr Smith contributed a lot of time to the village.

Mr Smith thanked the Chairman. He stated that he appreciated the nomination. Mr Smith also thanked all the Councillors for all the work they did on behalf of the village. Not enough recognition was given.

3 County and District Councillors' reports

3.1 District Council

Cllr Williams advised that not a great deal had happened within the District Council since the elections in May. Councillors had all had refresher training. She added that the better trained the better Councillors were at their jobs. Out of the 45 District Councillors there were 19 newly elected through the May election and By-election.

Cllr Williams stated that the next consultation on the Local Development Plan was scheduled before Christmas although a date was not yet known.

Internal email was still an issue for Cllr Williams. She was particularly concerned that she was missing important planning applications adding that she didn't want to miss anything. She was aware that there had been neighbours missed off notifications in some incidents. Cllr Traverse-Healy advised that he had problems accessing the Planning portal the previous weekend. This was a fairly regular occurrence. Cllr Williams stated that there were a lot of ongoing issues with the portal generally.

A decision would be made soon on community facilities in Northstowe. £30 million of South Cambridgeshire District Council money was scheduled to go towards that.

Cllr Williams concluded her report by advising that she had not received any further complaints about bin collections although she was aware of a few issues with the green bins.

3.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated his monthly report.

He reported that East/West Rail now accepted that their consultation showed that there were a lot of comments about the northern approach. East/West rail representatives were now including northern Cambridge parishes in their correspondence. It was anticipated that the Rail Minister would be making an announcement before the Summer recess. Cllr Kindersley added that he was aware that South Cambridgeshire District Council had written a letter to the Government urging East/West Rail to come to Cambridge. If this did not go ahead it was anticipated that the additional housing planned for Cambourne would be moved somewhere else.

Cllr Traverse-Healy asked about proposed housing numbers now that the elections were over. Cllr Williams advised that 41 new proposed sites had been put forward for consideration, under the LDP Call For Sites, plus additional information on the sites already under consideration. This was going to be a contentious issue.

Cllr Kindersley continued his report by advising that he had been at Jesus Green to welcome the Commonwealth Games baton. He had also been at the Cambridge Pride event. Earlier in the day he had attended the opening of the Heart and Lung Research Institute next to Addenbrookes. This was fascinating. Cllr Kindersley heard at the event that health/social care authorities across the County would soon have a one stop data

base where they have access to all patient records. Cllr Kindersley asked if this would cover all Counties but was advised that at the present time only Cambridgeshire. It was recognised that there was an issue with cross county GP practices. The Chairman thanked the Councillors for their updates.

4 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public

There were no issues raised.

5 To approve the minutes of

5.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on the 6th June 2022

On a proposal by Cllr Bird, seconded by Cllr Upchurch, the minutes as circulated were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

6 Matters arising and carried forward from last meetings

6.1 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Policy update

There was no further update.

6.2 Replacement of Allotment Boundary fence mesh

The Allotment Society Chairman had forwarded two quotations for the replacement fencing. She advised that the quotes were not exactly like for like as one was more specific on materials and included dropping of the mesh into the ground for rabbit proofing.

A discussion took place on the quotations. On a proposal by Cllr Bird, seconded by Cllr Upchurch, it was agreed that the quotation from Chris Markham for £1800.00 be accepted. Councillors also agreed that the Allotment Society Chairman be advised that as the more thorough quote had been approved this was on the understanding that the responsibility for future maintenance would transfer to the allotment society.

The Clerk had heard back from the neighbouring landowner and would pass details on to the Allotment Society Chairman to arrange a site meeting. **-Clerk**

7 Finances

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

E-ON

Reading Room electricity July 2022 DD £ 39.00

PRO CLEANING

Disabled toilet clean May 22 £ 15.95

THE PRINTWORKS (ROYSTON)LTD

Newsletters £ 58.00

MD LANDSCAPES

Recreation Ground Grasscutting x13 £1105.00

Grass verge cut April 2022 £ 320.00

VAT £ 285.00 £1710.00

ST PETER & ST PAUL CHURCH

Use of Church for PC April 2022 PC meeting £ 20.00

LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Cont towards zoom/stationery £ 30.00

MR M BIRD

Reimb for Pavilion key cutting (inc £0.88VAT) £ 14.25

STEEPLE MORDEN VILLAGE HALL

Contribution towards car park lights £250.00

SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Uncontested election May 2022 £135.00

MRS S WALMESLEY

Clerks salary and expenses April-June 2022 £1415.81

MRS C UPCHURCH

Reimb for Jubilee trophy engraving £ 8.00

TOTAL £3696.01

AGREED. Proposed Cllr Bird, Seconded Cllr Parsons

7.2 Cambridge and Counties Bank Mandate

The Clerk advised that the bank mandate needed to be updated as three of the signatories were no longer Parish Councillors. It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllr Badger and Cllr Bird be added to the mandate and three ex-councillors removed.

Clerk to arrange for the paperwork to be completed by the new Councillors. **-Clerk**

8 **Recreation Ground/Conservation Area**

8.1 Recreation Ground Checks

Cllr Badger confirmed that everything was satisfactory.

8.2 Proposal for EV Chargers

Cllr Bird had circulated a report which recommended that the Parish Council encourage the take up of electric vehicles by installing two vehicle charging points to the northern site of the Village Hall. These would be made available to all residents and visitors to the village. The report stated that it should be possible to recover £350 per socket as government subsidy of public charger installation. The Government was also running the On-street Residential Charge point Scheme (ORCS) organised by the Energy Savings Trust (EST). The scheme offers to cover up to 60% of eligible capital costs but the application called for quite a lot of background material. One requirement from the EST was that the need and interest was identified in the local community and a survey was expected to run. Cllr Bird advised that a paper and on-line survey was launched in mid June with a closing date of mid July. To date a good level of support was indicated.

A discussion took place on how the EV chargers would be used. The Chairman was concerned that they could be used all night. Cllr Bird advised that the CCTV would be able to pick up who was doing the blocking so a parking fee could be charged.

The way to pay was also discussed with Cllr Bird advising that the use of the chargers would have to be paid for through an App. There were other alternatives being investigated.

The cost to the Parish Council if all grant applications were successful was advised at around £4,000.

After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Clayton, seconded by Cllr Traverse-Healy, that the installation of the 2 EV chargers go ahead providing that the costs to the Parish Council was under £4000. This was agreed by all Councillors. Cllr Bird would keep Councillors updated on progress. **-MB**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Bird for the work he had carried out on this initiative to date.

8.3 Update on Recreation Ground Barrier Repair

Cllr Badger reported that the contractor he had asked to quote was struggling to find a supplier of the posts. It was suggested that another section of the barrier could be adapted to provide the required posts which would be investigated. Cllr Badger advised that he would ask another contractor for advice too. **-NB**

9 **Maintenance**

9.1 Traffic

9.1.1 Missing Repeater Signs

The repeater signs had been replaced.

9.1.2 MVAS –Additional Poles for Odsey and North Brook End

The Clerk had been advised that the County Council was to investigate if the existing signs at Odsey could be repaired or not. If not then the power supply would need to be disconnected. Once the signs were removed then the posts would be available for the MVAS.

A privately funded LHI application could be made for the additional poles.

10 **Parish Council Projects 2021/22**

10.1 Update on Quotations for Car Park Resurfacing

Cllr Carroll reported that one of the contractors had been back in touch with a revised quote which did not include drainage or soakaways. He referred to the discussion at the last meeting to combine the work with the grounds works for the EV chargers but the EV contractor was too expensive.

A discussion took place on water runoff and drainage. Cllr Carroll would discuss further with the contractor. It was noted that the surface would be for light usage so a barrier may be required to stop heavy vehicles. **-MC**

10.2 Redecoration of Reading Room

The Clerk had been in correspondence with a representative of the Football Club who was going to liaise with the Cricket Club and come back to the Parish Council by the September meeting with a plan.

The representative had advised that there was a leak in the Reading Room roof which the Football Club had offered to arrange repair. This was agreed.

At a previous meeting, during discussion about the electrics, it had been agreed that a flood light for the car park be installed attached to the Parish Council electricity supply instead of the Village Hall. The existing arrangement was not particularly safe.

A quotation had been received to supply and fit a flood light with timer, from LDB Electrics at a cost of £341.00 plus VAT. The quote was agreed.

11 Planning/Tree work Applications

11.1 To consider Planning Applications

11.1.1 Planning Ref 22/02437/FUL

Land off Ashwell Road –Erection of four detached earth sheltered Paragraph 80 dwellings with associated hard and soft landscaping, formation of two new ponds and re-wilding of land

It was stated that the application was not a lot different to the previous application. The site was still outside the village envelope, and being multiple dwellings did not comply with LDP Policy H15, a single dwelling of character and merit.

Recommendation Object

- ***The buildings are not of exceptional quality as required by the NPPF para 80. There are a number of developments of this type.***
- ***The proposed development is outside the village envelope.***
- ***The development is contrary to Local plan policy H/15 as the application is for four dwellings and the policy is clear that only one dwelling is permitted. In addition the site is an encroachment into the countryside and does not enhance the landscape setting of the village.***

11.2 Planning Ref 22/02425/FUL

11.2.1 Wyndmere Farm, Land at Ashwell Road

Erection of commercial building, extension to existing hard standing area to allow an increase in site area, relocation of existing shipping containers, and erection of new boundary fence

Cllr Clayton left the meeting while the application was discussed.

Cllr Badger chaired the meeting in his absence.

A discussion took place on whether a planning application was the correct process for the purpose to extend the site area. It was suggested that the proposal would be better going through the LDP process where it could be properly assessed. This was a very sensitive entry point into the village.

After further discussion it was agreed to make the following recommendation –

Recommendation –No Recommendation

- ***The Parish Council would prefer this application to be handled through the Local Plan process which is the correct procedure for determining changes to the settlement building envelope. It enables the development to be judged against other requests.***
- ***If the Planning Authority is minded to approve the application then the Parish Council would ask for a condition on boundary treatment. The fence would be very prominent sight on entering the village. We would request that a hedge using plants of local providence is provided with a management scheme prior to occupation.***

12 To consider correspondence received including;

12.1 Bluegrass Festival 2022 and 2023

A request had been made to hold the Bluegrass Festival in 2023 from noon Thursday 8th June –Noon Monday 12th June. This would be the 25th Festival.

Cllr Badger confirmed that the 2022 event had been managed very well from start to finish. Councillors agreed that the event could be held on the dates advised. Cllr Bird would add to the website booking system. The Clerk to confirm with the Bluegrass committee.

-Clerk

13 Councillors' items for information and requiring the urgent attention of the Clerk

13.1 County Broadband

Cllr Bird had circulated an update for Councillors.

13.2 Station Road Pavement

Cllr Carroll reported that he had received complaints about the pavement on Station Road which had broken up. He agreed to take a photograph and report on the County Council website.

-MC

13.3 Request for a Steeple to Ashwell Cycleway

Cllr Carroll was aware of the request. The Chairman advised that, apart from being across two county borders, the cost would be more than a Parish Council could cover. Cllr Bird suggested that the people making the request form their own group to investigate.

Cllr Parsons added that an Odsey landowner had cut out a path from Odsey to Ashwell, as part of discussions with residents on a proposed planning application. The path had since grown over.

14 Date of next meeting –12th September 2022

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20pm

Chairman

Date