

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Steeple Morden Cricket Pavilion on Monday 14th November 2022 at 7.00pm

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

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

All Parish Councillors were in attendance. There were no declarations made.

2 County and District Councillors' reports

2.1 District Council

Cllr Williams was not in attendance.

2.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report. He had been copied in on correspondence relating to a proposal for a telecom tower at Cheyney Close adding that there had been a similar proposal in a nearby village which had been overruled.

The position regarding the congestion charge consultation had moved on. Cllr Kindersley advised that the MP for Cambridge had stated that he would not support a charge. The consultation would be running until the 23rd December but the position after that was uncertain. Cllr Kindersley urged the meeting to respond to the consultation focusing on the buses to Steeple Morden.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kindersley for his update.

3 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public

3.1 Planning Application 22/04347/LBC

The applicant was in attendance. He stated that he wanted to reassure Councillors that everything in the plans complied with regulations and the proposal was sensitive to neighbours.

Cllr Traverse-Healy asked if the front elevation of the property would change. The applicant confirmed that the proposed extension would not be visible from the road.

4 To approve the minutes of

4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on the 3rd October 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.

5 Matters arising and carried forward from last meetings

5.1 Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Policy update

There was no further update available from South Cambridgeshire District Council.

5.2 Ashwell and Bassingbourn Patients Group update on representative

The Chairman advised that the Group had now appointed a representative from the village so he was not needed on this occasion.

6 Finances

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

E-ON

Reading Room electricity November 2022 DD £ 39.00

DRAX POWER

Street light electricity (inc £1.81VAT) £ 37.92

THE PRINTWORKS (ROYSTON)LTD

Newsletters

£ 60.00

LGS SERVICES

Internal Audit 2021/22 (inc £19.00 VAT)	£114.00
E W PEPPER LTD	
Allotment land rent	£400.00
PENNON WATER SERVICES LTD	
Recreation Ground water 28/4/22 -31/10/22 (inc £17.23 VAT)	£103.37
Allotment Water	£ 53.94 £157.31
MD LANDSCAPES	
Grasscutting July 2022(inc £17.00VAT)	£102.00
Recreation Ground hedge and conservation area £750.00	£852.00
TOTAL	£1660.23

Agreed. Proposed Cllr Traverse-Healy, Seconded Cllr Badger

Cllr Bird advised that since the 31st October 2022 the EV grant from the Department of Transport had been received. He suggested that now the Parish Council had on-line banking, and the Clerk had access to on demand statements, the Financial Report in future be prepared up to the date of the meeting. This was agreed.

Councillors also agreed to transfer £43,000 to the Cambridge and Counties Bank where higher interest rate was available. Clerk to arrange. **-Clerk**

6.2 Update on Bowls Club Invoice

Cllr Bird had met with Bowls Club representatives and explained the invoices. He had suggested that the club might like to contact Wave (Anglian Water) and explain that the vast majority of the water they use went into the ground and not down the drains. The Club confirmed that they now understood the utility bill cost distribution and the committee would arrange for the outstanding invoice amount to be paid.

The Clerk advised that she had just received the latest water rate invoice and so would be preparing the latest invoice once the Wave invoice was received. Cllr Bird asked for a copy of the water invoice. **-Clerk**

6.3 Internal Auditor Report 2021-22

The Internal Audit report had been received and circulated with no major issues identified.

7 Recreation Ground/Conservation Area

7.1 Recreation Ground Checks

Cllr Badger reported that all okay but there would be some areas requiring maintenance soon. Cllr Bird had been asked by the Bowls Club if the hedge cutting could be combined with the Parish Council schedule to save money. Cllr Badger advised that this would be something to discuss with the Parish Council contractor, MD Landscapes. The contractual position of the Bowls Club with their contractor would need to be investigated.

7.2 Update on EV Charger installation

Correspondence had been received from the Village Hall Committee concerned over the proposal which was not acceptable to them. The Committee had provided a Trust Deed for the Village Hall from 1971 which they stated had been overlooked. The Trustees had agreed that there was a need for off-street charging but there were a number of questions raised.

Cllr Bird had prepared a draft response which had been circulated to Councillors. It was recognised that there had been a break-down in communication between the Parish Council and Village Hall Trustees. As there were concerns over the cost to the Village Hall it was suggested that a float to cover three months electricity charges be transferred by the Parish Council. If the Trustees were not interested the same conversation would take place with the Bowls Club who appeared, through recent discussions, to be more open about sharing facilities.

After further discussion it was agreed that Cllr Bird liaise with Cllr Austin who was also the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee. **-Cllrs Bird/Austin**

7.3 Update on Recreation Ground Barrier Repair

Cllr Badger reported that the posts had been delivered and were awaiting installation by MD Landscapes.

7.4 Steeple Morden Magpies –Agreement/Maintenance of Pitches

The Parish Council had been asked by the Club to sign a document relating to the maintenance. There had been a few issues which Councillors wanted clarification on and had invited the Magpies representative to the meeting to answer questions. There

was nobody in attendance. Whilst the Parish Council was in broad support, without engagement from the club, it was decided this request would not be pursued.

8 Maintenance

8.1 Traffic

8.1.1 Removal of Static Speed Signs

The signs had now been removed. Cllr Austin advised that he had put up brackets for the MVAS but would need to cut back some foliage before erecting the unit.

8.1.2 CCC Update on 20mph application process

The County Council had told Parish Councils not to apply for 20mph zones through the LHI process. There would be a separate scheme set up for this purpose.

8.1.3 Speeding Vehicles through village

Concerns were raised over the traffic speeds by a resident who was also a cyclist. The Chairman invited the resident to speak. The resident gave examples of his concerns over the past 18 months whilst living in the village.

The Chairman stated that the Parish Council recognised that there was a problem and Councillors had been working on trying to address this over the past years. Everything the County Highway Authority had suggested the Parish Council had acted upon and had spent in excess of £20,000.

A discussion took place on the Community Speedwatch team. If someone was willing to set up a team of volunteers then the Parish Council would give its full support.

The Chairman thanked the resident for attending the meeting and discussing his concerns.

9 Parish Council Projects 2021/22 (on hold until March 2023 meeting)

10 Planning/Tree work Applications

10.1 To consider Planning Applications

10.1.1 Planning Ref 22/04347/LBC

16 Hay Street –Single storey rear extension, new roof light to side elevation and demolition of the conservatory on the original cottage building, restoring it to close to its original state

Recommendation -Support

11 To consider correspondence received including;

11.1 Clarke Telecom

A letter had been received regarding a pre consultation on a proposed radio base station installation on the grass verge of Cheyney Street. This installation would enable the provision of the latest 3G, 4G and latest 5G technologies in the Steeple Morden area. It would include a 17m high slim-line monopole, supporting 6 antennas, 1 wraparound equipment cabinet at the base of the monopole, 2 equipment cabinets, 1 electric meter cabinet and ancillary development thereto.

Councillors discussed the proposal and agreed that the proposed monopole was too tall with the site being too prominent in the village for this equipment. Cllr Bird reminded Councillors that there were a lot of residents who wanted 5G technologies. After further discussion the Clerk was asked to respond to the letter pointing out that the proposed siting was in a too prominent location and suggest that there may be other areas in the village which would be more suitable.

-Clerk

11.2 Request to book the Recreation Ground 7th May 2023

The reserving of the ground was so that a village celebration could be arranged following the coronation of King Charles III on the 6th May. Councillors agreed the request providing there was nothing else happening.

Cllr Badger agreed to check with the Cricket Club to make sure that there were no cricket fixtures arranged for that day. He would advise the Clerk who would respond to the request.

-Cllr Badger/Clerk

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

12.1 Update on Litter Pick –The Green

Cllr Carroll reported that there was a well attended litter pick the previous weekend. He expressed concern over the amount of rubbish deposited by a builder on an area near The Green. The builder concerned was known. The Clerk was asked to write to him stating that he had an obligation to keep the area tidy. **-Clerk**

12.2 Food Boxes

Cllr Carroll referred to the charity food boxes in the Church advising that a box had gone missing.

13 Date of next meeting – 12th December 2022 (to be held in St Peter &St Paul Church)

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm

Chairman

Date