

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in St Peter & St Paul Church on Monday 12th December 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
In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) with four members of the public.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Austin and County Cllr Kindersley. There were no declarations made.

2 County and District Councillors' reports

2.1 District Council

Cllr Williams reminded the meeting of the Transport consultation which ended on the 23rd December 2022. She added that some people were unable to find reference to the proposed congestion charge which was Question 9.

There had been a ward walk with the SCDC Chief Executive Officer with the emphasis mainly on the council properties in the village. Cllr Williams wanted residents with problems with damp and mould to either contact her or the SCDC Housing team directly. Quite often problems were missed.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Williams for her report.

2.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

3 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public

3.1 Update on Tree Planting

The tree planting co-ordinator gave an update advising that she had hoped the planting would take place in Jubilee Way before Christmas but it had to be postponed. She referred to two invoices for the purchase of trees adding that one invoice included stakes for the trees planted in 2021. An application had been made for a single pot grown Beech tree under the SCDC 6 free trees initiative. Planting around the car park and play area and extending the hedge planting to the kissing gate was discussed. This would be addressed once the car park resurfacing had taken place.

A discussion on correspondence from Cambridgeshire County Council regarding the removal of two Whitebeam trees on Cheyney Street took place. The CCC Local Highway Officer had asked where four replacement tree could be planted. Concern was raised over whether it was really necessary to remove the trees. The Clerk would ask the Highway Officer for evidence.

-Clerk

The co-ordinator had suggested a number of sites within the village which the Chairman suggested could be plotted on a map. This would be investigated.

3.2 Street Lamp

It was reported that the lamp at the bottom of the Church driveway was covered in ivy and obscuring the light. Councillors would look to see if the ivy could be cut back.

-Cllrs

3.3 Planning ref 22/94769/FUL

Neighbouring residents expressed a number of concerns over the planning application including the narrow access to the site, possible obstruction of the road during the construction phase and the plans not matching the elevations. It was suggested that the application had not been thought through.

3.4 Proposal for a 5G Mast on Cheyney Street

Councillors were asked the position. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council was made aware of the proposal at the last meeting. A planning application had now been received, which was too late for this agenda, so a Planning meeting had been arranged for the 15th December 2022.

4 To approve the minutes of

4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th November 2022

On a proposal by Cllr Traverse-Healy, seconded by Cllr Bird, 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 Booking of Recreation Ground

Cllr Bird asked that in future as much information as possible be obtained from people wanting to book the recreation ground. Details were needed so that the website could be referenced re times, purpose etc.

6 Finances

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

E-ON		
Reading Room electricity December 2022 DD		£ 39.00
DRAX POWER		
Street light electricity (inc £1.75VAT)		£ 36.71
THE PRINTWORKS (ROYSTON)LTD		
Newsletters		£ 60.00
WAVE		
Sewage charge April-November 22		£163.64
PRO CLEANING		
Disabled toilet clean Sept 2022	£19.94	
October 2022	£11.96	
November 2022	£15.95	£47.85
NETWISE UK		
Website hosting 09/01/23 -08/01/24 (inc £66.00 VAT)		£396.00
ORNAMENTAL TREES LTD		
Trees for planting (inc £89.33VAT)		£535.99
HERTS NATIVE TREES		
Trees and stakes		£817.50
TOTAL		£2096.69

AGREED. Proposed Cllr Traverse-Healy, seconded Cllr Upchurch

6.2 Budget/Precept 2023/24

The Chairman and Cllr Bird had prepared a document for consultation with Councillors. The Chairman stated that the key point was that the precept would not need to increase. He went through some of the figures. It was agreed that the draft would be published and circulated, so that residents could be kept updated, before the final decision was made at the January 2023 meeting.

-Cllr Bird

6.3 Water/Sewage Bills

Cllr Bird proposed that as the bills for the last half year were under estimated the clubs would not be invoiced this time. An invoice based on an accurate reading would be prepared on April 2023 when the next water and sewage bills were due. This was agreed.

7 Recreation Ground/Conservation Area

7.1 Recreation Ground Checks

Cllr Badger confirmed that there was nothing needing attention at this time.

7.2 Update on EV Charger installation

Cllr Bird reported that work was supposed to begin but due to the bad weather he anticipated it would be delayed. An agreement had been reached with the Bowls Club regarding the supply of power and the Parish Council had been successful on obtaining a second grant from South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Cllr Bird proposed that the Parish Council sign up for back office support from Curv 360 Ltd at £270 plus VAT for a three year contract. This was agreed by all Councillors.

It was noted that until the Parish Council was able to obtain the Power of Competence the chargers would not be used.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Bird for all the work he had carried out on this project.

7.3 Update on Recreation Ground Barrier Repair

In hand.

7.4 Morden Magpies –Agreement/Maintenance of Pitches

The Chairman of the Magpies, Guy Dyke-Price explained the funding available to clubs through the FA which included 2/3rds of the cost towards pitch maintenance and care. It would be possible to access around £60,000 over five years but the club needed to officially carry the responsibility for maintenance of the pitches.

The Chairman confirmed the support of the Parish Council adding that a formal agreement would need to be prepared to ensure that the proposal did not impact on the other users of the recreation ground. He added that the agreement would have to be drafted through Solicitors with the Magpies paying both sides' legal fees. The Chairman also suggested arranging the draft as soon as possible so as not to delay the funding.

Mr Dyke-Price then reported on the running of the club which was now independent from Steeple Morden Football Club. He concluded that the Magpies Under 10 team had won the season so were the best Under 10 team in the County.

8 Maintenance

8.1 CCC Request for position for replacement trees following removal of Whitebeam on Cheyney Street

As discussed under Item 3.1 the Clerk was to ask the CCC Local Highway Officer for evidence as to why the trees needed to be removed. She would also contact the SCDC Tree Officer.

-Clerk

8.2 Pavilion Spring Clean

The Clerk had been advised by the Cricket Club that they intended to carry out a spring clean to the outside of the Pavilion including moss removal to the roof and some minor repairs to the bench seating. The gutters had already been cleaned.

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 22/04769/FUL

Land adj 3 Church Farm Lane –Detached 2 bedroom chalet bungalow

Councillors discussed the planning application taking into account the comments made by the neighbouring residents. The following recommendation was agreed –

Recommendation Object

The Parish council has concerns about the accuracy of the plans submitted by the applicant. There are a number of discrepancies. For example the length of the building is put at 5.2m on one plan but other plans suggest up to 10.5m. This but one example of a number of discrepancies.

Would ask for a plan of the vehicle turning circle as none is provided and there are questions on whether sufficient space is available on the plot.

If approved the application would require a condition to ensure that the tree roots of the retained tree are protected.

Parishioners are concerned that with the limited width of Church Farm Lane and the size of the plot condition should be made to ensure that the Highway is not obstructed.

If the Planning Authority is minded to approve the application then the Parish Council request that it is referred to the Planning Committee.

10.1.2 Planning Ref 22/02407/CONDA (FOR INFORMATION)

78-80 Flittons Farm –Submission of details required by condition 8 (Bat Licence) of planning permission 22/02407/CONDA

10.1.3 Planning Ref 22/04756/CL2PD (FOR INFORMATION)

13 Church Farm Lane –Certificate of Lawfulness Under S192 –Garage conversion and internal alterations

11 To consider correspondence received including;**11.1 Smoking outside Primary School**

The Parish Council had been contacted by a resident concerned over a parent smoking a cigar in the vicinity of children. The Clerk had agreed to bring this to the attention of the Parish Council but advised the resident that there was nothing they could do.

11.2 SCDC Six Free Trees

An update was made under Item 3.1.

12 WIFI for Village Hall/Recreation Ground

Cllr Bird had circulated information to Councillors. He advised that County Broadband had made their first connection in the village. Part of the plan for the community was to provide a link to the recreation ground. Cllr Bird added that a WIFI connection would be needed for the EV chargers. If the link was provided it would need to be made accessible to the community providing open WIFI to the village hall, bowls Club and Pavilion. There would be a one off cost of around £800. Cllr Bird would continue to pursue and also follow up on a second promised link for the Church.

-Cllr Bird

13 Councillors' items for information and requiring the urgent attention of the Clerk**13.1 Retirement of Post Mistress**

The Post Mistress and assistant were both retiring at the end of January 2022. The Clerk reminded Councillors that they were unable to spend parish money on a gift. The Clerk was asked to compile a draft 'thank you' letter for Councillor input to be agreed at the January Parish Council meeting.

-Clerk

14 Date of next meeting – 9th January 2023 -Cricket Pavilion

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

Chairman

Date