

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Cricket Pavilion on Monday 9th January 2023 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
District Cllr Williams (part)
In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) with one member of the public.

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

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

2 County and District Councillors' reports

2.1 District Council

Cllr Williams advised that she had spoken to the Chair of the Planning Committee about the Cheyney Street Mast application and would find out more during the coming week. If not scheduled to go to the committee she would ask for the application to do so.

More information was published in relation to the Local Development Plan. The District Council wanted to increase housing again to 57,000. Cllr Williams added that the most important thing was that 8100 dwellings were unallocated. She hoped these would be around Cambridge but there was always a concern for the villages. Cllr Traverse-Healy advised that Cambridge Water was to carry out a consultation at the end of January 2023 and would be phasing in bits of infrastructure.

South Cambridgeshire District Council office based staff had now started a four day week for a trial period. This was the first local authority to trial this. A discussion took place on staffing and the number of vacancies. Councillors asked Cllr Williams to report back at each meeting on the vacancy situation to see if it had improved with the four day week.

A discussion then took place on the District Council 2020 accounts which Cllr Williams advised were overdue. There were no penalties for late filing of local authority accounts. Councillors were concerned over the delay as private companies had limited time to publish their information. It was agreed the Chairman write to Anthony Browne MP expressing these concerns.

-JC

The Chairman thanked Cllr Williams for her report.

2.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

There was reference in the report to a 20mph scheme details of which would be available in February 2023. The Clerk would circulate details once received and liaise with Cllr Austin on an application. It was noted that the plan would be for a 20mph just outside the primary school.

Cllr Bird referred to the aircraft noise from the Luton approach advising that there was to be a public meeting. The Clerk confirmed that she had received details of a meeting arranged by Little Gransden during February. Cllr Williams added that she was working with residents from all villages concerned with the issue. She was not a member of the opposition group adding that South Cambridgeshire District Council was not getting involved at all.

3 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public

There were no issues raised.

4 To approve the minutes of

4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th December 2022

On a proposal by Cllr Carroll, seconded by Cllr Traverse-Healy, the minutes as circulated were taken as read, approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

- 4.2 The Parish Council Planning Meeting held on the 15th December 2022
On a proposal by Cllr Austin, seconded by Cllr Parsons, 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 Removal of Whitebeam trees –response from County Council
Following the last meeting the Local Highway Officer had confirmed that a report commissioned by the neighbouring resident recommended the removal of the two trees to prevent further subsidence to the garage. The report had been circulated to Councillors.

6 Finances

- 6.1 To receive the financial statement and to approve the payment of bills
E-ON
Reading Room electricity January 23 DD £ 39.00
DRAX POWER
Street light electricity (inc £1.81VAT) £ 37.92
THE PRINTWORKS (ROYSTON)LTD
Newsletters £ 60.00
PRO CLEANING
Disabled toilet clean Dec 2022 £15.95
NETWISE UK
Website domain renewal 26/1/23-25/1/24 inc £4.00VAT £ 24.00
LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
Contribution towards stationery/SLCC membership £ 70.15
MRS S WALMESLEY
Salary and expenses October-December 2022 £1424.13
TOTAL £1671.15
The following invoices were paid between meetings –
CURV360 LTD
Back office EV (inc £54.00VAT) £ 324.00
ESSANET LTD
WiFi Equipment (inc £79.67VAT) £ 478.01
AGREED. Proposed Cllr Bird, seconded Cllr Traverse-Healy
- 6.2 Agreement of Budget/Precept 2023/24
Following discussion at the last meeting the budget had been update and publicised. On a proposal by Cllr Parsons, seconded by Cllr Sharkey the budget for 2023/24 was agreed with a precept requirement of £32,500. All Councillors in agreement. Clerk to make the Demand to South Cambridgeshire District Council. **-Clerk**

7 Recreation Ground/Conservation Area

- 7.1 Recreation Ground Checks
Cllr Badger advised that there had been a resignation from the working group but a neighbouring resident had stepped in. There was still a full complement of helpers.
- 7.2 Update on EV Charger installation
Cllr Bird had circulated an update on the project which the Chairman thanked him for. The Clerk advised that she had forwarded her submission for the CiLCA module to the SLCC trainer for comment before uploading for examination. She would follow up with the trainer. **-Clerk**
- 7.2.1 WiFi for Village Hall/Recreation Ground Update
Cllr Bird advised that with the help of Cllr Badger wires and data cables were being installed ready to support the broadband connection when it arranged.
- 7.3 Reading Room Shed
It had been bought to the attention of Cllr Bird by the Cricket Club that the shed, which was attached to the Reading Room, needed some attention especially the doors. Cllr Carroll added that there was a big crack in the wall. It was agreed that Cllr Carroll would look and see what work was needed and also investigate an alternative structure. **-MC**

7.4 Update on Recreation Ground Barrier Repair

Cllr Badger advised that the repair was anticipated in the next week or so.

7.5 Steeple Morden Magpies –Agreement of Maintenance of Pitches

Following the positive discussions with the Magpies Chairman at the last meeting there had been no further communication.

Cllr Badger advised that he was aware that the club was expecting an electrical report on proposed floodlights which he was told would be available for this meeting. This related to a previous request by the club for additional floodlights.

Councillors agreed that it was up to the club to come back to the Parish Council with a draft agreement relating to the maintenance of the pitches. This item would be removed from the agenda if nothing was forthcoming for the February meeting.

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

9 Planning/Tree work Applications

9.1 To consider Planning Applications

9.1.1 Planning Ref 22/05302/HFUL

24 Hay Street –Single storey rear extension, replacement roof structure to provide first floor accommodation, erection of outbuilding in rear garden, removal of brick front boundary wall and installation of a replacement timber fence and the addition of vertically boarded timber fence with trellis top (Re-submission of 21/05513/HFUL)

Recommendation -Support

9.1.2 Planning Ref 22/05202/HFUL

47 Hay Street –Single storey rear extension

Recommendation -Support

9.1.3 Planning Ref 22/05411/HFUL

Cheyneys Lodge, 83 Station Road –Replacement of flat roof over existing extension and replacement with pitched roof

Recommendation -Support

9.1.4 Planning Ref 22/05551/FUL

Horse and Groom, Baldock Road –Demolition of the existing building and the erection of three roadside retail and ancillary takeaway units (Class E/Sui Generis) together with associated parking, access improvements and landscaping (CLP Planning)

The Chairman updated new Councillors on the history of the site and previous planning applications. He had received comments from residents who questioned whether more retail units were needed on the A505.

Cllr Traverse-Healy stated that main worry was transport adding that he felt this was a destination rather than attracting passing trade. The proposal would also increase the traffic on the A505 with a particular concern over the cross over point travelling from Royston. After discussion the following recommendation was agreed –

Recommendation-Object

-on highway grounds. There was already a problem with traffic on the A505 with concerns at the Odsey/Steeple Morden junction. There would be an added hazard for traffic travelling from Royston turning right into the site opposite Thrift Farm

-Councillors are aware that the existing building is an eyesore but in their opinion the site would be better suited as a non destination site e.g. a truck stop.

9.2 Further information relating to Planning application Planning ref 22/94769/FUL –Land adjacent 3 Church Lane

A resident had been in contact with the Clerk and Councillors advising of further information found which could support the refusal of the planning application. The resident thought that the Parish Council should have made a stronger representation.

The Clerk was asked to write to the resident advising that the Parish Council had made its representation, objecting to the proposal, and should the Planning Officer's decision be different then Cllr Williams would press for the application to go before the Planning committee.

-Clerk

Cllr Traverse-Healy advised that there had been a good report made by the conservation officer. He added that over the years he had tried to get a copy of the

conservation area assessment without success. He added that without this the Parish Council was vulnerable as it could not justify its position. After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk write to the Planning/Conservation Officer asking to see the original reasons behind the conservation area for the village so that the Parish Council could better judge planning applications.

-Clerk

10 To consider correspondence received including;

10.1 CAPALC –Proposal to amend Articles of Association

The Parish Council had been advised that following the AGM in September, a Special General Meeting was called to approve the proposed amendment to the Articles of Association. Each member council has one vote which can be made at the meeting or by returning the proxy form before the meeting. Details had been circulated to Councillors who agreed the resolutions. The Clerk was asked to vote on behalf of the Parish Council to support.

-Clerk

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

11.1 Odsey MVAS Data

Cllr Austin reported that information from the MVAS while installed in Odsey showed the lowest percentage of speed on any camera throughout the whole village. It showed that only 1.3% of vehicles exceeded the 40mph speed limit. Cllr Parsons was asked to relay this information to Odsey residents.

-OP

11.2 Bowls Club Water

Cllr Bird reported that the Bowls Club were working on getting a reduction in the water/sewage bill for the club. They had installed a new water meter.

11.3 Newsletter

Cllr Badger offered to advertise the availability of the Newsletter on the Facebook page.

-NB

11.4 Bogs Gap Lane Dog Waste Bin

During the bad weather a vehicle had hit and flattened the bin. The refuse collection operatives had managed to make it usable but it needed to be replaced. The dual use bin was provided by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The Clerk would follow up with them.

-Clerk

12 Date of next meeting – 13th February 2023

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm

Chairman

Date