

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Cricket Pavilion on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7.00pm

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

In the absence of Cllr Clayton the meeting was chaired by Cllr Badger.

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

Apologies were received from Cllr Clayton. Cllr Carroll declared a Pecuniary interest under item 9.1.1 as the applicant.

2 County and District Councillors' reports

2.1 District Council

Cllr Williams advised that there was currently a key amnesty for those tenants sub letting. This was an opportunity to hand in their keys without consequences.

Batteries were again being collected with the blue bin refuse collection. Cllr Williams advised that they should be left in a separate bag on top of the bin.

The District Council budget for 2023/24 was to be discussed at a meeting on the 24th February where it looked as if the District Council tax would be increasing. Cllr Williams would prepare a report for circulation following that meeting.

Cllr Upchurch pointed out that she was unable to report a full dog waste bin as the number on the bin was no longer in use. Cllr Williams was aware that District Council telephone numbers had been changed so would report back as this was unlikely to be the only bin with the incorrect number. If stickers with the new details were available Councillors offered to stick them onto the bins. Cllr Bird reminded Cllr Williams that issues with bins could also be reported on line so that information should also be on the sticker.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Williams for her report.

2.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report where the main topic had been potholes. He stated that both the extreme heat of the Summer and cold of the Winter had contributed to the problems with the road surface. On a more positive note it had been reported by County Council colleagues that some roads in other counties were much worse. Cllr Kindersley added that the key message was to keep reporting potholes on the County Council website.

Cllr Bird asked if there were any plans to purchase another dragon patcher. Cllr Kindersley said he would find out but reminded the meeting of the limited budget for potholes adding that it was hoped during the Summer the repairs would catch up.

Cllr Kindersley advised that the County was carrying out flood alleviation works on Station Road by the Station.

All authorities had now agreed their council tax with a £12 per household to go towards the bus services.

Cllr Traverse-Healy advised of a current planning application for the former Omya site which had recently been sold. The Parish Council had asked for an extension to the consultation period to give time to look at the proposal. It was noted that the current permission for the site had a condition that vehicles leaving the site had to turn left towards the A505 and not towards the village.

The '20s Plenty' details were still awaited. Cllr Kindersley advised that some people were enraged at having to drive at 20mph. The feedback was that it was more acceptable near a school which is what the Parish Council would be looking for.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kindersley for his update.

3 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public

3.1 Morden Magpies

The Club Chairman was in attendance and invited to speak under agenda item 7.6.

4 To approve the minutes of

4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th January 2023

On a proposal by Cllr Traverse-Healy, 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 Replacement of Bogs Gap Lane bin

Cllr Austin reported that South Cambridgeshire District Council operatives had now been out and repaired the bin.

6 Finances

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

E-ON

Reading Room electricity February 23	DD	£ 39.00
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DRAX POWER

Street light electricity (inc £1.81VAT)		£ 37.92
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PRO CLEANING

Disabled toilet clean Jan 2023		£15.95
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MD LANDSCAPES

Prepare ground in play area and seed		£600.00
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MR M BIRD

Reimb for EV expenses (inc £47.15VAT)		£282.84
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TOTAL

		£975.71
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Agreed. PROPOSED Cllr Austin, SECONDED Cllr Parsons

7 Recreation Ground/Conservation Area

7.1 Recreation Ground Checks

The Chairman advised that everything was in order although there were some areas of the play area needing attention especially equipment made with wood. He had taken some photographs and was obtaining advice. The Clerk advised that the annual RoSPA inspection would be carried out in April.

7.2 Update on EV Charger installation

The installation was now in place awaiting the Parish Council declaration of a Power of Competence. The price charged for the electricity would be agreed once the Parish Council was in the position to offer the service. Cllr Bird suggested installing some posts on the grassed area nearby to prevent the area from becoming too muddy.

7.3 WiFi for Village Hall/Recreation Ground Update

Cllr Bird reported that all premises now had signs to advertise the WiFi which was working. Details were on the website. He advised that this was a free service provided by County Broadband adding that they wanted to use Steeple Morden as a case study and asked for permission. Councillors agreed with the request. Cllr Bird would confirm.

-MB

He then advised that the Code of Practice for the CCTV had been updated as the cameras were now connected to the internet and could be accessed remotely by the agreed persons. Signs were on display as to who to contact regarding and issues.

The updated document had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting and comments incorporated. On a proposal by Cllr Upchurch, seconded by Cllr Carroll, the updated CCTV Policy was agreed.

7.4 Update on Recreation Ground Barrier Repair

The contractor appointed to carry out the repair was scheduled to collect the concrete posts from the Chairman the next day.

7.5 Reading Room Shed

Cllr Carroll had met with a member of the Cricket team who advised of a list of requirements for the shed. The Chairman had also met with another member who was

happy with everything. Councillors acknowledged that this was a Parish Council building and therefore there was a responsibility to make sure it was safe. Cllr Bird agreed to obtain a quotation for a light inside the shed and at the back. He would liaise with Cllr Carroll.

-MC & MB

Cllr Bird expressed his concern over the wiring in the Reading Room, especially if there was to be an additional requirement for the floodlights, and also the general condition of the building. He questioned the responsibility for maintenance and suggested the Footballers be spoken to about their muddy boots.

Councillors were aware that the decoration of the Pavilion and Reading Room would be part of the discussion at the March meeting when the Parish Council Projects item was resurrected.

7.6 Steeple Morden Magpies

7.6.1 Agreement for Maintenance of Pitches

A draft agreement had been prepared and circulated between Councillors and the Morden Magpies and was nearing completion. The Magpies Chairman advised that he had made his final changes to the document and returned it to the Clerk.

A discussion took place on fixtures and notification to the Parish Council for the website. This also needed the co-operation of the senior club too. The Magpies Chairman agreed to investigate.

Councillors agreed that once they were happy with the final draft, which would be circulated following the meeting, they would advise the Clerk who would confirm with the Magpies Chairman. The document would then be ready to sign. **-Clerk**

7.6.2 Proposal for Floodlighting

A discussion on switching took place with the suggestion that there could be an exterior switch on the pole that could isolate the new lights. This suggestion would be taken on board. There was also a discussion on replacement LED lights for existing which, the Magpies Chairman advised, were supplied a couple of years previously but not installed. He agreed to investigate what happened to those lights.

With the changes to the switching the proposal for additional floodlighting was agreed.

7.7 Update on Tree Planting

The update from the Tree Planting co-ordinator had been circulated to Councillors with some questions. It was agreed that the Chairman would meet up with the co-ordinator to go over the points raised as there were relating to future projects of the council.

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

Cllr Carroll would work on some proposals to start the discussion.

9 **Planning/Tree work Applications**

9.1 To consider Planning Applications

9.1.1 Planning Ref 23/00135/HFUL

37 Station Road –Demolition of existing single storey rear extension and construction of new single storey rear extension. Demolition of existing attached side outbuilding and construction of new attached side outbuilding. Construction of front extension and bay window. Replacement windows throughout. Existing property to be re-rendered.

Cllr Carroll left the meeting while the application was considered.

Recommendation -Support

9.1.2 Planning Ref 23/00194/CL2PD (For Information Only)

3 Plough Close –Certificate of Lawfulness Under S192 for a single storey rear extension

9.2 Conservation Area Assessment Update

The Clerk reported that the SCDC Planning Delivery Manager had agreed to see what he could find out about the original assessment. Cllr Williams offered to follow up with him. Clerk to forward the emails to her.

-Clerk

9.3 Highfield Farm, Litlington

The Clerk reported that she had been made aware of a planning application for a solar hub expected to be submitted sometime in March. Ahead of the submission the developers were making a presentation of the project in Litlington Village Hall on the 1st

March. The Clerk had asked the developer to include Steeple Morden when notifying residents as Highfield farmland was close to Odsey.

10 To consider correspondence received including;

10.1 Family Fun Dog Show

A request had been received to hold the event on the area outside the village hall. There was not date provided. Councillors agreed that the Clerk reply to the request, advising that this would be possible, and ask for more information so that the availability of the recreation ground could be investigated. **-Clerk**

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

11.1 Cheyney Close verge

Cllr Upchurch advised that she had been approached by a resident of Cheyney Close suggesting a memorial to the Queen now that the planning application for a mast had been refused by the Planning Authority. A discussion took place on the appeal process for the mast and the wiliness of the Parish Council to discuss other locations within the village with the applicant. A letter had been sent by the Parish Council to the Director of Planning as part of the consultation process. The Clerk was asked to reiterate this offer directly to Clarke Telecom. **-Clerk**

With regards to the suggestion of a memorial Cllr Upchurch agreed to ask the resident to put their suggestions in writing to the Clerk.

12 Date of next meeting – 13th March 2023

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Chairman

Date