

## **STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Cricket Pavilion on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.00pm**

**Present:** Councillors: N Clayton (Chairman), N Badger, M Bird, S Traverse-Healy, M Carroll, C Upchurch, N Sharkey, K Austin  
District Cllr Williams,  
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 Cllr Parsons and County Cllr Kindersley. There were no interests declared.

#### **2 County and District Councillors' reports**

##### **2.1 District Council**

Cllr Williams referred to the request for the information on the conservation area which she had also followed up with the Planning Officers. The officers were aware that the request had first been made in 2018 and agreed that at the next Planning committee they would have a progress report.

The District Council had decided to stop the trial food waste collection from the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. Cllr Williams stated that she was not happy with this decision. Letters were being sent out to residents on the 15<sup>th</sup> March. Lack of budget was given as a reason. The District Council was hoping that the Government would fund this initiative. She added that from April there would be a trial of a four day week for the refuse collectors but to make the collections within four days would require extra crews.

A discussion took place on the current four day week working arrangement for other staff. Cllr Williams advised that the view was that most staff was happier although 18% were finding it more stressful and continued to work five days. Cllr Williams stated that the staff in the Cambourne office had been compressed onto one floor and were being encouraged to work from home.

Councillors expressed their interest in staff recruitment and whether this had improved with the four day week. Staff retention figures again since the trial were questioned. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Chief Executive and enquire about these figures as the information should be in the public domain. **-Clerk**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Williams for her report.

##### **2.2 County Council**

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report. He had sent his apologies for this meeting.

#### **3 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

#### **4 To approve the minutes of**

##### **4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on the 13th February 2023**

On a proposal by Cllr Bird, seconded by Cllr Badger, 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 22nd February 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.

##### **4.3 The Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting held on the 27th February 2023**

On a proposal by Bird, seconded by Cllr Badger, 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**

There were no matters arising for discussion.

## 6 Finances

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

E-ON			
Reading Room electricity March 23	DD		£ 39.00
DRAX POWER			
Street light electricity (inc £1.64 VAT)			£ 34.26
PRO CLEANING			
Disabled toilet clean Feb 2023			£11.96
THE PRINTWORKS(ROYSTON)LTD			
Newsletters February & March 2023			£140.00
LDB ELECTRICAL (BEDS)			
EV Charger installation costs (inc £947.60VAT)			£5685.60
MRS S WALMESLEY			
Salary & expenses Jan-March 2023			£1410.63
TOTAL			£7321.45

Agreed. Proposed Cllr Traverse-Healy, Seconded Cllr Upchurch

### 6.2 Appointment of Internal Auditor 2022/23

It was agreed that LGS Services be appointed internal auditor as in previous years.

## 7 Recreation Ground/Conservation Area

### 7.1 Recreation Ground Checks

Cllr Badger reported that the posts and rails had now been repaired.

He then referred to the three year grasscutting contract which had expired. The tenders should have been requested for 2023-2025 during the winter. Cllr Badger proposed that as it was too late now to go out for tender, to ask MD Landscapes to continue cutting the grass in the village for a further year. The specification for tenders would then be diaried out for the end of 2023. All Councillors in agreement. The Clerk would contact MD Landscapes, explain the position, and ask for a quotation for 2023.

**-Clerk**

### 7.2 Update on EV Charger installation

Cllr Bird advised that the chargers had been live since the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 and to date three vehicles had taken short charges.

## 8 Parish Council Projects 2021/22

### 8.1 Car Park

Cllr Carroll had circulated 4 options for the scope of works. He reminded Councillors that when this was last discussed only one contractor was interested. He had made contact with that contractor again who would revise his quotation which was likely to be £30,000 plus.

Councillors were reminded that over the past three years the potholes had been filled and levelled off and as far as was aware there had been no complaints. Councillors were also reminded of the Section 106 money held for 'community outside space' which could be used towards this project. If the money was not spent it would be lost. The Clerk was asked to check the time limit. If the Parish Council used the funds towards a new high specification surface then a restriction on lorries would have to be introduced.

**-Clerk**

### 8.2 Pavilion/Reading Room Decoration

Cllr Carroll suggested that if the money was not spent on the car park then consideration should be given to improving these facilities. He had a contact who had offered to prepare a sketch of options to show the sports clubs. Cllr Bird expressed his concern over the condition of the changing room area which needed refurbishment. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the sports clubs had been invited on a number of occasions to let the Parish Council know what they want but there had been no feedback. Cllr Traverse- Healy acknowledged that the Parish Council had tried to progress a project but suggested the clubs be contacted one more time. The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Parish Council only had limited funds and the clubs would need to apply for grants and fund raise. Councillors had to be mindful that the funds held by the Parish Council is for the benefit of the whole village.

A discussion took place on the usage of the buildings and how the clubs had different ideas of what they would like to see.

After further discussion it was agreed that the sports clubs be given one last chance to come together with a coherent plan and confirm that they would be willing to put their efforts into obtaining grants etc. The Clerk was asked to prepare a letter, for the Chairman and Cllr Carroll's approval, and send with a suggested sketch of options arranged by Cllr Carroll.

**-MC & Clerk**

In the meantime Cllr Carroll would gather quotations for basic essential maintenance of the existing buildings.

**-MC**

The Chairman and Cllr Badger suggested that the offer of the Parish Council to work with the sports clubs on a new facility be advertised to residents through social media.

### 8.3 Reading Room Shed Lighting

It was confirmed that the sports clubs were happy with the existing lighting so this would not be followed up.

## 9 20s Plenty Initiative

Details of the scheme had been received and Cllrs Austin and Bird had already started work on the application. A questionnaire was ready to go out to residents with a plan of where the proposed restriction would go.

Councillors agreed the questionnaire be delivered to each home within the restriction zone. It was also agreed that support from the Primary School would be needed. The Clerk was asked to write to the Head teacher and ask that parents be made aware of the questionnaire which was also on the website.

**-Clerk**

## 10 Proposal for Solar Panels on Village Hall

The Village Hall Committee had withdrawn their request for support.

## 11 Planning/Tree work Applications

### 11.1 Planning Ref 23/00774/FUL

Land at Megs Farm, Brook End – Change of use of land for the siting of a mobile home  
A discussion took place on seasonal buildings. Cllr Traverse-Healy pointed out that Policy H19 covered this with Policy H14 covering future any change. Screening was also discussed.

The following recommendation was agreed with comments.

***Recommendation - Support following the Policy guidance of H19 and H14. Screening also requested on the east side between the proposed building and Grade 2 listed building. If the land is no longer required for milking parlour purposes the land should be returned to its natural state.***

### 11.2 Conservation Area Assessment Update

As reported by District Cllr Williams more information should be known at the next District Council Planning Committee meeting.

## 12 Annual Parish Meeting 2023

It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on the same evening as the Parish Council AGM. Due to the Coronation of King Charles III, and an additional bank holiday, the meetings would be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## 13 To consider correspondence received including;

### 13.1 CCC Civil Parking Enforcement

The Parish Council had been advised the CCC highway service operators would be working in the village either maintaining or installing regulatory equipment. This was part of a system of parking governance that allows the Highway authority to power to carry out parking enforcement using its own agents rather than relying on the Constabulary to provide that function.

The County Council had been asked about plans for Odsey. The officers had confirmed that outside the hotel there were some double yellow lines which were on the list to clean up and a redundant sign and post that needed removing. It was noted that the zig zag area on Hay Street outside the school was on the list.

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

**14.1 CCTV Cameras**

Cllr Bird advised that one of the cameras was not working and needed to be replaced. This was agreed. He referred to two lights in the car park which did not work suggesting that an additional light was needed. This would be an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting.

**15 Date of next meeting – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55 pm

Chairman

Date