

## **STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Cricket Pavilion on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.00pm**

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

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

##### **2.1 County Council**

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

He referred to the recent news that Royston tip was in future only for Hertfordshire residents. At the present time the cost to Hertfordshire County Council to deal with Cambridgeshire rubbish was £411,000. Cambridgeshire County Council was currently in negotiations with Hertfordshire County Council regarding some kind of agreement to allow residents of South Cambs with a postcode of SG8/SG7 to use the tip. There was already an agreement in place between Hertfordshire and Essex. Cllr Kindersley added that the tip could be used until the 31<sup>st</sup> May under the present arrangement.

A discussion then took place on potholes. Cllr Kindersley referred to the managed decline in funding which was not helped by the long dry Summer and cold winter. There were currently dragon patchers working their way around the villages repairing 500 potholes per day which was an uphill struggle. The Chairman asked if there was a budget for each village to which Cllr Kindersley replied that there was not. The Chairman then asked if the Parish Council would be able to fund the pothole repairs in the village which he felt residents would support. Cllr Kindersley agreed to find out the position from County Highways as this would benefit both parties. A discussion on pothole repairs and equipment used took place with the Chairman advising of the new JCB machine which he suggested the County Council investigate. He would forward details to Cllr Kindersley.

**-JC**

At the recent County Council meeting the busway through Coton Orchard –the Cambridge to Cambourne route was agreed, This would now go before a Government Inspector as to whether or not this was a good plan. There was a concern over the lack of public access at Coton Orchard but the way officers presented the case included biodiversity to go alongside the project. Cllr Kindersley added that the concern was that the planning permissions for Bourn airfield and northern Cambourne depended on the delivery of a high quality transport route. There would be consequences if this did not go ahead. The Government Inspector would now make the final decision.

Cllr Traverse-Healy asked if the bus route could be an on road bus. Cllr Kindersley advised that the GCP had assessed this and reported that it would not work. He also believed that the planning consent for Bourn airfield specifically referred to a Guided Busway.

At the same County Council meeting a motion asking for the County Council to organise a referendum on the Making Connections Project was defeated. Cllr Kindersley reminded the meeting that the results of the 24,000 responses to the consultation were not yet available. Cllr Kindersley suggested that the delay could be due to the officers being overwhelmed by the number of responses, they were anxious not to release information before the local elections and the officers needed time to formalise the next stage.

Cllr Traverse-Healy queried the cost of £411,000 Hertfordshire paid for Cambridgeshire rubbish and asked how they knew this cost. He suggested that the County Council ask for an audit.

Now that the surface water assessment had been carried out at the Quarry Cllr Traverse-Healy believed that the planning application had been rejected. Cllr Kindersley would ask for an update. **-SK**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kindersley for his report.

## 2.2 District Council

Cllr Williams had sent her apologies.

## 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 13th March 2023

Cllr Upchurch expressed her concern over a comment made in the planning representation for planning application 23/0074/FUL. She reminded Councillors that the comment that the ***if the land is no longer required for milking parlour purposes the land should be returned to its natural state*** was discussed but at the time not agreed that the comment be included in the feedback to the Planners.

Councillors discussed the wording of the comment and agreed that the sentence was not intended to stop an application for a house but to make sure, that when no longer required, the mobile home is disposed of.

Following the clarification on a proposal by Cllr Badger, seconded by Cllr Traverse-Healy, 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 Annual Parish Meeting Agenda

A draft agenda had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was noted that there would be an update made on the expansion of Tween Town wood. As in previous years an invitation would be sent out to the village groups and organisations with a written report requested for the website.

A discussion took place on how to get more residents interested in attending. Cllr Badger proposed that the Parish Council could provide refreshments which was common at other Annual Parish meetings. This was seconded by Cllr Traverse-Healy and with a budget set for £60 was agreed by all Councillors. Cllr Badger agreed to source the refreshments. **-NB**

## 6 Finances

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

E-ON		
Reading Room electricity April 23	DD	£ 39.00
DRAX POWER		
Street light electricity March (inc £1.81 VAT)		£ 37.92
PRO CLEANING		
Disabled toilet clean March 2023		£19.94
THE PRINTWORKS(ROYSTON)LTD		
Newsletters April 2023		£70.00
CPRE		
Membership 23/24		£36.00
MR M BIRD		
Reimb for replacement CCTV camera (inc £10.47VAT)		£62.82
SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL		
Recreation ground waste collection 23/24		£1024.40
MR N BADGER		
Reimb for play area signs (inc £3.79VAT)	£22.74	
Grass rubber mats for swings (inc £4.83 VAT)	£28.99	£ 51.73
MRS V BELSON		
Reimb for litter picking materials (inc 4.08VAT)		£ 24.50
TOTAL		£1366.31

Agreed. Proposed Cllr Badger, Seconded Cllr Traverse-Healy

## **7 Recreation Ground/Conservation Area**

### **7.1 Recreation Ground Checks**

There was nothing to report.

### **7.2 Grasscutting 2023**

Cllr Badger advised that the cutting of the recreation ground had commenced for the season.

A contract for 2024-2026 would be up for tender towards the end of 2023.

### **7.3 Car Park Lights**

Cllr Austin advised that there had been a problem when the light was first installed. This had now been fixed.

### **7.4 CCTV Maintenance**

It was advised that a new camera had been put up which covered hours of darkness and a larger area. There was no need for an extra light.

## **8 Parish Council Projects 2021/22 (Update at APM)**

### **8.1 Car Park**

### **8.2 Pavilion/Reading Room Decoration**

Cllr Badger advised that he had been speaking with members of the various clubs and they were very keen to progress a new build project. Club members would be attending the Annual Parish Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## **9 20s Plenty Initiative**

Cllrs Bird and Austin had put together a very good survey to gather evidence for a 20mph zone. Councillors were asked for their approval to the proposed zone, and the survey analysis, so that an application could be made by the deadline date of the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023. All Councillors in agreement. Cllrs Bird and Austin to progress. **-MB & KA**

## **10 Broadband Link for Church**

Discussions had taken place with County Broadband over a second community link in the village from the Bowls Club which would provide a network for more facilities. The cost of the link would be £600.00 plus running costs.

It was proposed that the Parish Council pay for the link from the Bowls Club subject to agreement from the Church to paying the running costs. It was noted that the neighbouring resident would need to be involved as trees from the property may interfere with the connection. Cllr Bird had already made contact.

As the Church was involved clarification from CAPALC would be sought as to whether this would be permissible. The proposal would be discussed again at the next meeting once the expenditure had been clarified. **-Clerk**

## **11 Planning/Tree work Applications**

### **11.1 Planning Ref 23/01266/HFUL**

26 Hay Street –Removal of brick boundary wall to front of property, car port and shed.  
Construct a new brick garage  
**Recommendation Support.**

## **12 To consider correspondence received including;**

### **12.1 Coronation Gifts**

Cllr Bird had been asked by the Primary School if there were any plans for a commemorative gift for the children at the school. A discussion took place on how this could work and it was noted that Litlington Parish Council had arranged a gift for the children of Litlington. It was unknown what the Primary School had in mind. There was a mixed response from Councillors on the idea. After further discussion it was agreed that parents living in Steeple Morden and Odsey would be given the opportunity to register their child/children under the age of 10 for a commemorative gift at the village celebration on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. Once numbers of children were known a gift would be arranged.

The Clerk was asked to respond to the Primary School and ask what they suggest and costs. The school would be made aware that the children of Litlington would be having a

gift and of the plan for Steeple Morden/Odsey parents to register for a gift at the village celebration.  
-Clerk

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

#### **13.1 Jubilee Shield 2023**

Cllr Upchurch announced that the Jubilee shield for 2023 would be presented to Desma Goddard. She had received the majority of votes in the recent poll. The shield would be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### **13.2 Covid Vaccinations**

Cllr Austin reported that a provisional booking of the village hall had been made for the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023 for the spring booster vaccinations. He was waiting for confirmation that this would go ahead.

#### **13.3 Litlington Solar Farm Application**

Cllr Traverse-Healy reported that the application had now been submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council. The Clerk advised that to date she had not received any notification of the consultation period.

### **14 Date of next meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023 (AGM)**

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15 pm

Chairman

Date