

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held at Steeple Morden Cricket Pavilion on Wednesday 24th May 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), K Austin, N Badger, S Traverse-Healy, M Carroll, C Upchurch, O Parsons, M Bird, N Sharkey

In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) with three members of the public.

1 Election of Chairman

Cllr Clayton opened the meeting and asked for nominations for Chairman. Cllr Clayton was proposed by Cllr Bird which was seconded by Cllr Upchurch. There were no other nominations. Cllr Clayton accepted the position of Chairman stating that this would be the last year he would stand as Chairman adding that younger Councillors should take over the role. He would be happy to guide as necessary.

PRESENTATION OF JUBILEE SHIELD

The Chairman presented the shield for 2023 to Desma Goddard thanking her for all the work she had done in the village especially in association with the newsletter.

2 Election of Vice –Chairman

Cllr Clayton proposed Cllr Badger, which was seconded by Cllr Traverse-Healy. There were no other nominations. Cllr Badger accepted the position. The Chairman also proposed that Cllr Parsons be elected deputy Vice -Chairman, which was seconded by Cllr Traverse-Healy, so that he could become more involved with the day to day running of the council.

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

Apologies received from District Cllr Williams.

Cllr Bird declared a non pecuniary interest under Item 9.1.2 as a neighbour. -

Cllrs

4 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public

There were no issues raised.

5 To approve the minutes of

5.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on the 10th April 2023

On a proposition by Cllr Upchurch, seconded by Cllr Traverse-Healy, the minutes as circulated were taken as read and then approved as a true record and would be signed by the Chairman.

6 Election of Working Groups, Structures and Terms of Reference and Membership

6.1 Planning –all Councillors.

6.2 Recreation ground and Car Park Bookings -Cllrs Badger & Parsons

6.3 Environmental –Cllr Parsons

6.4 Recreation Ground Cllrs Badger & Parsons

6.5 Village Hall Representative –Cllr Upchurch

6.6 Mobile Warden Scheme –Mrs G Belson

6.7 Police Panel Meetings –Cllr Bird

6.8 Townlands Charity Trustees -Cllrs Clayton & Upchurch

6.9 Finance Working Group –Cllrs Clayton & Bird

6.10 MVAS Leader –Cllr Austin

6.11 Village Website Co-ordinator –Cllr Bird

- 6.12 Litter Pick –Mrs G Belson
 6.13 Social Media -Cllr Badger
 6.14 Major Repairs and Renovations –Cllr Carroll

7 Finances

7.1 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 April (inc £1.76 VAT)		£ 36.71
PRO CLEANING		
Disabled toilet clean April 2023		£15.95
THE PRINTWORKS(ROYSTON)LTD		
Newsletters May 2023	£60.00	
Outstanding payments 21/22 (7months)	£380.00	£440.00
MD LANDSCAPES		
Grass verge cut April 2023		£660.00
PLAYSAFETY LTD		
RoSPA Play Inspection 2023 (inc £20.60VAT)		£123.60
PENNON WATER SERVICES		
Recreation ground water (inc £138.09 VAT)	£828.49	
Allotment Water	£112.57	£941.06
WAVE		
Sewage water charge		£1139.15
MR N BADGER		
Reimb for Coronation memento mugs (inc £51.30VAT)	£ 307.80	
Bin bags	£ 10.20	
Refreshments for APM	£ 26.72	£344.72
MRS C UPCHURCH		
Reimburse for Jubilee trophy engraving		£ 8.00
TOTAL		£3749.19

PROPOSED Cllr Austin, SECONDED Cllr Bird
 Agreed. Proposed Cllr Traverse-Healy, Seconded Cllr Austin.

7.2 Annual Audit 2022/23

The Annual Return had been circulated to Councillors.

7.2.1 Internal Audit

The Internal Audit had taken place with no major issues raised. The report would be circulated once received.

7.2.2 Agreement of Governance Statement 2022/23

It was agreed that all sections could be answered yes and signed by the Chairman.

7.2.3 Agreement of Accounting Statement 2022/23

The accounting statement was agreed and signed by the Chairman.

7.3 Power of Competence

As adopted at the Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting on the 27th February 2023 Steeple Morden Parish Council exercises the General Power of Competence as it meets the criteria.

8 **RoSPA Play Area Inspection Report 2023**

The report has been circulated.

Cllr Badger advised that he had awarded each point raised in the report into a traffic light system with amber suggesting remedial work and repairs. He had asked for quotations for those tasks which could not be carried out easily. Both Cllrs Badger and Austin had already carried out three of these repairs.

The Chairman suggested that everything highlighted for work be done as there were funds available and would mean that the Parish Council would not have to worry in so much in the near future. It was proposed that £2-3,000 be allocated for expenditure which was agreed by all Councillors. The quotations would be circulated once received.

Cllr Badger stated that the biggest issue was rotting wood and the soil underneath the ramp.

9 Planning

9.1 To consider Planning Applications

9.1.1 Planning Ref 23/01730/PRIOR

78-80 Flittons Farm -Conversion of an agricultural building to 1 residential dwelling (Class 3)

Cllr Traverse-Healy reiterated the importance of meeting the criteria for the conversion of an agricultural building. Councillors agreed to support with this comment.

Recommendation -Support providing the criteria is met for the conversion of an agricultural building to a residential dwelling.

9.1.2 Planning Ref 23/01536/HFUL

16 Station Road -First floor side extension over existing garage

A discussion took place on the affect this could have on the neighbouring property as the extension may obscure some daylight being in such close proximity. The extension was also not in keeping with the village. Councillors agreed to object on these grounds.

Recommendation -Object

Concern over the proximity to the neighbour which would be overbearing and may cause problems with daylight and overlooking of property.

The extension was also not in keeping with the village.

9.1.3 Planning Ref CCC/23/035/VAR

Station Quarry, Station Road – Extraction of chalk and restoration to a beneficial afteruse at Station Quarry.

This is a section 73A application to vary condition 7 of permission ref. FMW/080/19 to allow, in the event that the existing conveyor is out of order and/or under repair, mineral and mineral waste arising from Station Quarry to be transported to Plantation Quarry via a single lorry in accordance with the approved Operational Management Plan dated and received April 2023.

Cllr Parsons expressed his concern over health and safety issues of lorries interacting with the public. He observed that the conveyor belt, which worked perfectly well with Omya, had not operated since the new owners bought the site. A discussion took place on the location. Cllr Traverse-Healy pointed out Health and Safety was not a planning consideration as it came under another executive.

After further discussion it was agreed to object to the application

Recommendation -Object

Not sufficient safety requirements in place for the pedestrians, riders and cyclists using the area. There were too many crossing points which needed to be controlled. It was questioned whether the proposed lorry transportation, instead of the existing conveyor system, was a move to save money on maintenance and repairs.

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

10.1 Parish Council emails

Cllr Bird asked Councillors to check their Councillor email boxes to see how many old no longer needed emails were in there and delete them. He offered to his help to do this if needed. It was suggested that he set up an automatic removal of the emails after one year.

-Cllrs

11 Date of next meeting -to be agreed

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.30pm

Chairman

Date