

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Cricket Pavilion on Monday 9th October 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), N Badger, C Upchurch, O Parsons, K Austin, S Traverse-Healy, M Carroll,
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 and accepted from Cllr Bird and County Cllr Kindersley,

2 County and District Councillors' reports

2.1 District Council

Cllr Williams reported that she was still experiencing issues with her email and so had printed copies of her report for Councillors.

There had been a full council meeting held on the 5th October where the four day week was again discussed. Cllr Williams was aware of the correspondence between the Parish Council and the SCDC Chief Executive, Liz Watts, since the last meeting.

Cllr Williams expressed her concern over an independent report by the 'Bennett Institute' where she believed information had been removed.

The Chairman advised that Ms Watts had agreed to attend a Parish Council meeting to discuss the four day week. He asked Cllr Williams for a briefing of what had been removed from the report, so that questions could be asked, which she agreed to do.

The Clerk was asked to invite Ms Watts to the January 2024 Parish Council meeting or, if that was not suitable, the February meeting. Once confirmed residents would be advised of the time and date so that they had the opportunity to hear from Ms Watts directly on the four day week initiative. The Chairman pointed out that a working group of Councillors would meet beforehand and prepare a structure for the meeting to ensure that everyone was polite, civil and respectful.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Williams for her report.

3 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public

There were no comments made.

4 To approve the minutes of

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

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

5 Matters arising and carried forward from last meetings

5.1 Broadband Link to Church

The Chairman advised that the PCC were to meet soon, This was likely to be a long process.

5.2 Agreement of position of Whitebeam trees on Cheyney Street

Cllr Badger had arranged a further meeting with the tree planting co-ordinator. The Clerk advised that the Local Highway Officer had said that re-planting was not compulsory. The Parish Council did not have to replant if a suitable site could not be found.

5.3 CAPALC Review of Financial Regulations

Cllr Bird had prepared a response which the Chairman and Clerk were reviewing.

-JC & Clerk

5.4 Co-option of Councillor

The South Cambridgeshire District Council Returning Officer had given the go-ahead to co-opt. This would be advertised with co-option taking place at the November Parish

Council meeting. The Chairman reported that he had been approached by an interested resident.

5.5 Response from SCDC Chief Executive re-4day working week

This was discussed with Cllr Williams under her District Council report.

5.6 Feedback on Cambridge Carbon Footprint Session

Cllr Parsons reported that the session he attended was interesting. This did not have to be led by the Parish Council and could be a community group. He would see if the follow up course dates were suitable for him. If not he would advertise on social media to see if a community representative was interested **-OP**

6 Finances

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

E-ON

Reading Room electricity October 23 DD £ 5.00

DRAX POWER

Street light electricity September 23 (inc £1.76 VAT) £ 36.71

THE PRINTWORKS(ROYSTON)LTD

Newsletters £60.00

MD LANDSCAPES

Grasscutting September 23 £170.00

EW PEPPER LTD

Rent of allotment land 2023/24 £400.00

PKF LITTLEJOHN

External Audit 2022/23 (inc £42.00 VAT) £252.00

CLEAR INSURANCE MANAGEMENT LTD

Insurance premium 23/24 (yr3 of 3) £961.99

STEEPLE MORDEN VILLAGE HALL

Contribution to village hall floodlights 2023/24 £250.00

SALARIES

Salaries and expenses July-September 2023 £1127.83

HMRC

PAYE July-September 2023 £273.80

MR N BADGER

Topsoil for patching recreation ground £95.00

TOTAL

£3632.33

Agreed. PROPOSED Cllr Badger, SECONDED Cllr Austin

6.2 Internal Audit Report 2022/23

No further update.

6.3 Conclusion of Audit 2022-23

The external audit had been completed with the comment that Box 11, Trust Funds, had been incorrectly answered. A copy of the accounts and audit report had been displayed on the village notice board and website as per the requirements.

7 Recreation Ground/Conservation Area

7.1 Recreation Ground Checks

Cllr Badger had obtained a quotation for the removal of a dead tree which needed immediate attention. The quotation of £150.00 from Top Tree Fellas was agreed.

He advised that a bench by the football pitch had been removed earlier and the container in the car park removed over the weekend. There had been no replies following the last meeting regarding a request for a donated bench. The Football Club was looking at what could be done to repair their Millennium bench. Cllr Badger added that there were other usable benches in the recreation area. **-NB**

7.2 Update on Play area repairs

This and the grass repair were in hand.

7.2.1 Outdoor Gym Equipment

Cllr Upchurch had sought the views of a local fitness coach who was very much against anything which had moving parts due to the risk of injury. It was recognised that static equipment could be found and this would be followed up.

7.2.2 Basketball Net

It was suggested that an area by one of the football pitches would be a good location. Cllr Badger had asked some local youths who agreed a basketball net would be good idea. Another suggestion was for an outdoor table tennis table. Councillors noted that any location for these needed to be carefully considered due to noise.

The Chairman asked Cllrs Upchurch and Badger to compile a proposal with costs for the Parish Council to consider at the December Parish Council meeting. **-NB & CU**

7.2.3 Monkey Challenge

Cllr Parsons expressed his interest in this equipment and agreed to find out more from the promoter. **-OP**

7.3 New Signage for EV Charger area

Cllr Bird had provided a cost for two signs £98.60 which was agreed by Councillors. Cllr Austin advised that the South Cambridgeshire District Council Street lighting Officer, Helen Taylor, had made the traffic working group remove the mountings for the MVAS from streetlight SC20. Cllr Williams reminded Councillors that permission had been given to mount the equipment on the columns and agreed to take this up with Ms Taylor. **-HW**

8 Reading Room

8.1 Update on electricity Supplier

Cllr Bird had negotiated a new 12 month fixed rate tariff which took effect on the 15th September 2023.

9 Village Grasscutting 2024-2026

9.1 Agreement of Specification for Contractors

The specification had been circulated to Councillors ahead of the meeting. The specification was agreed with the addition of The Green to the grass verge requirement. The Clerk would send out to contractors asking them for their quotations. **-Clerk**

10 The Waggon and Horses -Asset of Community Value (Disposal of Asset)

The Parish Council had been advised that the owner of the pub had given notice of intention to sell the premises. As the pub is listed as an Asset of Community value the community are given a six week interim moratorium to express an interest in being treated as potential bidder.

A discussion took place on the potential for the land attached to the building. There was to be a village meeting on the 10th October to gauge interest from the village. The Chairman and Cllr Traverse-Healy would attend and urged other Councillors to attend too. The closing date for bids was the 29th October. **-Cllrs**

11 Parish Council Projects 2023/24

11.1 Car Park Resurfacing -Section 106 Funding

Update on Quotations for work to be carried out in Spring 2024. This would be brought back to the Parish Council at the December meeting.

11.2 Pavilion/Reading Room Decoration

Cllr Carroll would update Councillors at the December Parish Council meeting..

12 Planning/Tree work Applications

12.1 Planning Applications

12.1.1 Planning Ref 23/03263/HFUL

North Brook End House, 2 Guilden Morden Road -Alterations to access and the utilization and improvement of the existing gateway

It was noted that there was an offer in the application to replant trees. Councillors agreed that the application be supported with a reference to the offer.

Recommendation -Support

Offer to replant is encouraged.

12.2 Update on Quarry Application -Concerns over traffic

Cllr Traverse-Healy reported that the decision notice had been found on the County Council website. One of the conditions was that vehicles over 7.5 tons had to turn left out of Odsey and there was a restriction on the vehicles turning right when travelling from Royston. Other conditions were a request for a road safety audit on the junction with the A505 and a limit of the export of 60,000 tons each calendar year.

Cllr Parsons advised that Odsey residents were monitoring the traffic movements closely. It was agreed that the newsletter and social media ask for anyone observing the vehicles not following the requirements to report the incident to the Clerk with timings and photographs. **-NB**

13 To consider correspondence received including;

13.1 PTA Fireworks Event 2023

The event was to take place on Saturday 4th November on the conservation area. Cllr Badger confirmed that the grasscutting contractor would be cutting the area ahead of the event. Councillors agreed to give their permission for the use of the field. Clerk to confirm with the PTA. **-Clerk**

13.2 Proposed 40mph Speed Limit

Cambridgeshire County Council was publishing a proposal for a new 40mph speed limit on Ashwell Road, Guilden Morden and Trap Road between Guilden Morden and Steeple Morden. The Parish Council was asked for any comments.

Councillors agreed that this was a good idea. It was noted that Guilden Morden Parish Council had supported the proposal.

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

14.1 Overhanging Shrubbery

Cllr Carroll expressed concern over the shrubbery from houses overhanging some village footpaths. It was agreed that a reminder be put in the newsletter and on social media asking residents that this was their responsibility. **-NB**

14.2 Trees in Conservation Area

Cllr Upchurch asked that a reminder also be made to residents that permission to carry out tree works in the conservation area had to be sought from the South Cambridgeshire District Council Tree Officer.

14.3 Email storage

Cllr Carroll reminded Councillors to monitor their Parish Council inboxes and keep only essential emails. **-Cllrs**

15 Date of next meeting – 13th November 2023

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.10 pm

Chairman

Date