

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Cricket Pavilion on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: O Parsons (Chairman), C Upchurch, M Carroll, K Austin, S Traverse-Healy, M Bird, A Gear,
In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) with two members of the public.

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

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

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Clayton, Cllr Badger and County Cllr Kindersley.

There were no interests declared.

2 County and District Councillors' reports

Neither Councillor were in attendance.

3 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public

3.1 Hay Street resurfacing

A resident advised that he had approached CCC Highways about the resurfacing and been told that there was nothing in their schedules. He had since received an email from them confirming the resurfacing which would take place in the Spring of 2024.

3.2 January Parish Council meeting

The resident referred to the discussion with the Chief Executive of South Cambridgeshire District Council, Liz Watts, and feedback from the issues raised.

Cllr Traverse-Healy advised that Ms Watts had confirmed that they could not tell whether new employees came from the public or private sector which was a concern as this should have been picked up in the recruitment references. Questions were still being asked, and these would be collated. It was agreed to wait until further details were released by the District Council before seeking answers.

4 To approve the minutes of

4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th January 2024

On a proposition by Cllr Traverse-Healy, seconded by Cllr Upchurch, 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

This was still with the Ely Diocese.

5.2 Update on the Waggon and Horses -ACV Bid

There was no further update.

5.3 Prosperity Fund Eligibility

This was an action for Cllr Williams to find out.

5.4 Tree Planting update

The whips and the trees on Station Road had been planted. There was a little bit of tension with residents about the location so in future a notice would be put on the village Facebook page so everyone was aware.

6 Finances

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

THE PRINTWORKS(ROYSTON)LTD

Newsletters £45.00

MELANIE ARCHER

Disabled toilet clean x 4 £62.00

BROXAP LTD

Gym equipment for Recreation Ground (inc £1064.20VAT)	£6385.20	
Installation of Gym equipment (inc £410.80)	£2464.80	£8850.00
MR N BADGER		
Reimb for water fountain purchase (inc £117.00VAT)	£702.00	
Tree Guards (inc£7.50 VAT)	£ 44.99	
Sign for water fountain (inc £2.91VAT)	£ 17.45	£764.44
LITLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL		
Contribution towards SLCC membership	£ 50.00	
Contribution towards stationery	£ 8.00	£ 58.00
PAUL PROTHERO PLUMBING		
Installation of water fountains		£317.00
TOTAL		£10096.44
Agreed. Proposed Cllr Traverse-Healy, Seconded Cllr Austin		

A discussion took place on Section 106 expenditure. The Clerk explained the remaining allocation which needed to be used. A review of which projects coming up could be funded by the fund would take place. The Clerk to liaise with the SCDC Section 106 Officer.
-Clerk

7 Recreation Ground/Conservation Area

7.1 Recreation Ground Checks

Cllr Badger had advised in a report that all was in order.

7.1.1 Agreement to install a water fountain

A wall mounted water fountain had been found at a cost of £702.00 including VAT. Councillors agreed the cost. The Clerk was asked to find out if the Section 106 money could be used for this as the fountain would be mounted on the outside wall by the disabled toilet.
-Clerk

7.1.2 Cricket Nets

There had been some complaints about the condition of the nets which looked tired. As these were the responsibility of the Cricket Club the Clerk was asked to pass the message on.
-Clerk

7.1.3 Disabled Toilet Access

Cllr Badger had advised that he had received a suggestion that the Parish Council consider a RADAR key system which would give access only to people with the key which could be purchased. The cost of a lock would be approx. £250 plus installation. Councillors agreed that this would be a good idea but questioned other users, such as the Tennis club members, who would not qualify to purchase a RADAR key. After further discussion it was agreed to ask Cllr Badger to investigate whether there could be a dual lock whereby both disabled and others with a key could gain access to the toilet.
-NB

7.2 Update on Play area repairs

The repairs had started and it was intended to keep the area closed until the scheduled maintenance work was completed in a few days. The Clerk added that the RoSPA inspection would be taking place in April.

7.2.1 Outdoor Gym Equipment Installation

The outdoor gym equipment had been purchased and installed just over the budget set at the December Parish Council meeting. Councillors agreed the additional cost of £375.00 which would also come from the S106 earmarked fund.

The Chairman would remind Cllr Badger that a sign was needed for the area. **-OP**

7.2.2 Monkey Challenge (awaiting outcome of application)

A resubmission of the application had been made by the Clerk as agreed.

7.3 Car Park Floodlight Repair

Cllr Bird reported that the invoice for the first floodlight repair had not yet been received. There were now issues with the second floodlight which he was investigating.

8 Village Grasscutting 2024-2026

There had been one tender received from the current contractor, MD Landscapes. Details had been circulated to Councillors. It was noted that the contractor had been very helpful with other projects in the village too. On a proposal by Cllr Austin, seconded by Cllr Bird,

it was agreed to award the grasscutting contract for 2024-2026 to MD Landscapes. The Clerk to advise the contractor of the successful bid. **-Clerk**

9 Parish Council Projects 2023/24

9.1 Car Park Resurfacing -Section 106 Funding

Cllr Carroll advised that the plan was to fill in the potholes and level at an estimated cost of £1600 -£2000. It had been suggested that if the Parish Council waited a couple of months until the Hay Street surfacing workers the contractors could be asked for some planings.

After discussion it was agreed to give the go ahead for the work now. Proposed Cllr Upchurch, seconded Cllr Bird with all Councillors in agreement. **-MC&NB**

9.2 Pavilion/Reading Room Decoration

Cllr Carroll had received one quotation of £4270.00 plus VAT. He reminded Councillors that he had contacted six contractors in total and this was the only response. On a proposal by Cllr Upchurch, seconded by Cllr Carroll the quotation from RJP was accepted. The contractor would be asked to carry out the work as soon as the weather improved. **-MC**

9.3 Odsey Traffic Island

The post had been reinstalled with reflective strips. Cllr Gear questioned the strips as they were uneven and not very visible. The Clerk was asked to go back to the Local Highway Officer and advise that these reflector strips were inadequate. Cllr Bird suggested that a working party of residents get together and wash the road signs occasionally as he had done in Steeple Morden. It made a big difference. **-Clerk**

9.4 Additional Posts for MVAS

Cllr Austin reported that he had submitted the application form for two posts and had received an acknowledgement advising that the application had been forwarded to the relevant officer.

10 Planning/Tree work Applications

10.1 Planning Applications

10.1.1 Planning Ref 24/00006/FUL (For Information)

Land at North Brook End Stud, North Brook End -Proposed agricultural building, relocation of permitted mobile home and creation of a bund

10.2 SCDC Planning Correspondence

The Clerk had circulated a letter from the Chairman of Bourn Parish Council, Cllr O'Brien, expressing the concerns of their Councillors over the SCDC Planning Department. Examples of his attendance at planning committee meetings were given. Cllr O'Brien stated that Bourn Parish Council was very concerned that they no longer had an effective role in planning decisions that affect their village. The opinions of other Parish Councils were being sought on a vote of no confidence.

A further letter had been received and circulated from the Leader of the District Council, Bridget Smith, pointing out details of planning engagement with Parish Councils.

A discussion took place on the content of the Bourn letter which Councillors had different feedback on.

Cllr Traverse-Healy referred to the cost of Planning Appeals which would be a factor when considering applications. The Clerk was asked to find out how much the District Council earmarked in the budget for unsuccessful appeals. **-Clerk**

This would be revisited at the next Parish Council meeting.

11 To consider correspondence received including;

11.1 Station Road Trees

A resident had approached Cllr Carroll and the Clerk pointing out that the streetlight at the end of Station Road next to the churchyard was obscured by two tall trees loaded with ivy. Cllr Carroll offered to report on the CCC website for their officers to follow up with the tree owner. **-MC**

11.2 Hay Street Flooding

A notice through the website had asked the Parish Council what action they could take to alleviate the flooding problem. The District and County Councils were aware of the problem but neither would take ownership.

Cllr Traverse-Healy advised that there was a long history of flooding in the area and suggested that the resident contact Cambridge or Anglian Water. The Clerk would pass the suggestion on. **-Clerk**

11.3 Quarry Footpath Diversion

Cllr Clayton had passed on details of email correspondence from the agent of the owner of Station Quarry. It referred to a proposed footpath and bridleway diversion on the quarry land. Councillors had not been copied in on the email so were unaware of the proposals. Concerns were expressed by Cllr Gear who used the footpaths regularly.

A discussion took place on a planning application from 2023 especially the use of lorries crossing the bridleway daily. It was noted that this would be a Health and Safety issue.

The Clerk to forward the emails to Councillors for further discussion at the March 2024 Parish Council meeting. **-Clerk**

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

12.1 20mph scheme

Cllr Bird advised that he was working on the application and looking at other schemes there had been a lot of information supplied relating to accidents and near misses. He added that there was no recorded incidents and urged some observations so that he could include these in his application. The Primary School Headteacher, and Chair of Governors, had both been contacted with no response. The Chairman would speak to parents and also ask Cllr Badger to put out an appeal for observations on Facebook.

Cllr Gear advised that there was a lot of talk on the Facebook page relating to speeding. She suggested that an appeal be put out for Community Speedwatch volunteers. Cllr Austin advised that the main issue was finding someone to lead a Speedwatch team. If someone could be found then he felt other volunteers would come forward. **-OP & NB**

12.2 A505 Junction

The Chairman and Cllr Traverse-Healy had both witnessed a large vehicle with a trailer turning right out of the Odsey junction which caused traffic from the Baldock direction to stop due to the obstruction. It was noted that signs had also been knocked down.

The Clerk was asked to report this occurrence, and the danger of large vehicles turning right, to Hertfordshire County Council Highways. The Chairman to provide details of the vehicle involved. **-OP & Clerk**

12.3 Parking at Ashwell Station

Cllr Gear advised that the premium parking outside the station was causing issues when dropping off and picking up. It was advised that the road was owned by Network Rail and there had been the same problems with vehicle movements at the station over the years.

13 **Date of next meeting – 11th March 2024**

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20 pm

Chairman

Date