

## **STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Cricket Pavilion on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024 at 7.00pm**

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

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

Apologies were received and accepted from County Cllr Kindersley and District Cllr Williams.

Cllr Traverse-Healy declared a non-pecuniary interest under Item 9 as an allotment holder.

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

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

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

##### **2.1.1 Cllr Kindersley request for Hybrid meetings**

A discussion took place on the request which was unanimously refused. Councillors agreed that they wanted the County and District Councillors to continue to attend meetings in person.

#### **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 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

On a proposition by Cllr Austin, seconded by Cllr Gear, 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**

It was reported that the PCC had received clearance to fit the external Wi-Fi link with some conditions attached, mainly that the antenna remains below the roof apex. Parts were now being ordered. The Chairman added that the PCC were very grateful as due to the absence of a permanent vicar Wi-Fi would help with the Church services.

##### **5.2 Update on the Waggon and Horses -ACV Bid**

The ACV had now entered the protected period as the full moratorium had expired on the 17<sup>th</sup> March. The property owner could now sell without having to comply with the moratorium again. It was noted that the tenants were working very hard to keep the pub going. The Chairman encouraged people to take part in a community evening if arranged.

##### **5.3 Agreement of Date/Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting**

The Chairman advised that he would not be available for the meeting scheduled for the 13<sup>th</sup> May but was happy for the AGM and APM to go ahead without him in attendance. A report would be provided. He added that he did not want to be re-elected Chairman at the AGM.

It was agreed that the AGM and Annual Parish Meeting would go ahead as planned on the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

##### **5.3.1 Nominations for Jubilee Trophy for presentation at meeting**

Nominations had been gathered. It was confirmed that the presentation of the trophy would be made at the start of the Annual Parish Meeting.

## 6 Finances

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

MD LANDSCAPES		
Grasscutting March 24		95.00
Car Park resurface/play area		2558.00
STEEPLE MORDEN BOWLS CLUB		
Energy for EV chargers		211.44
SOUTH CAMBS DISTRICT COUNCIL		
Emptying of eurobin 2024/25		1076.40
TOTAL		3940.84

Agreed. Proposed Cllr Badger, Seconded Cllr Gear

The Clerk had circulated the Receipts and Payments summary for 2023/24 in which she had adjusted the Section 106 balance to account for recent expenditure. The summary was discussed with Cllrs Bird and Gear prior to the meeting.

## 7 Recreation Ground/Conservation Area

### 7.1 Recreation Ground Checks

Cllr Badger advised that there were no outstanding issues.

### 7.2 Update on Play area repairs

All the work had now been completed. It was noted that there were still a lot of bollards around which Cllr Badger confirmed were to keep people off of the ground where there was grass seed. The RoSPA annual inspection was due soon.

### 7.3 Car Park Floodlight Repair

This was in hand with Cllr Bird. Two electricians had been asked to quote for replacing the low cost units with something more robust.

### 7.4 Disabled Toilet Access

This was dependent on Item 8.2.1 as part of the building.

### 7.5 Replacement Manhole Cover

Anglian Water had confirmed that the drain cover was on parish land and therefore the responsibility was with the Parish Council. A local handyman had agreed to rebuild the foundation walls and replace the cover with one suitable for heavy traffic.

## 8 Parish Council Projects 2023/24

### 8.1 Car Park Resurfacing -Update

This had been completed, was well done and looked good. The Chairman suggested that the same process be carried out every 3-4 years in future too.

### 8.2 Pavilion/Reading Room Decoration (May 2024)

The Clerk had confirmed the decoration of the outside of the Pavilion with the contractor.

#### 8.2.1 Quotations for replacement Reading Room Roof

Cllr Carroll stated that this was a big issue that needed the sports clubs participation. The Chairman reminded the meeting of the attempts to get the clubs interested in a new facility, without success, adding that this might be the turning point due to the cost of repair which would be in the region of £25,000 for the roof and other requirements. Cllr Bird advised that temporary fixes had been put in place while the way forward was decided. It was pointed out the Pavilion, which was owned by the Cricket Club, was scheduled for external decoration later in the year as confirmed under item 8.2.

After further discussion it was agreed that a letter be prepared to send to the Football Club pointing out the temporary repairs and suggest a joint effort with the Parish Council for a replacement building. The club would be urged to get together with the Cricket Club to see what grants were available. Due to the condition of the Reading Room the Parish Council could only allow use of the building for one more season providing the clubs can demonstrate that they have plans for a new building and can demonstrate that grants were being applied for. Otherwise the building could close.

Cllr Bird and the Clerk to prepare a draft letter to be circulated to all Councillors for agreement.

**-Clerk & MB**

**8.3 Additional Posts for MVAS**

Cllr Austin stated that it was now 11 weeks since the PFHI application was submitted to the County Council. Apart from an acknowledgement he had heard nothing further.

**9 Allotment Compost Toilet Proposal**

The Allotment Society asked the Parish Council for permission in principle for the toilet which would widen the accessibility and participation of the community in the site. The project would be funded by the Society.

All Councillors were in agreement that the proposal proceed. Clerk to advise the Allotment Society.

**-Clerk**

**10 Planning/Tree work Applications**

**10.1 Planning Applications**

**10.1.1 Planning Ref 24/00984/FUL**

78-80 Flittons Farm, Station Road

Conversion of existing agricultural building to a dwelling house (Class C3 Residential)

-Retrospective

There were no comments made.

**10.2 Tree Works**

Cllr Upchurch had observed some tree works taking place in the conservation area of the village which she believed had not received permission from the SCDC Tree Officer. The resident had advised that they were not aware their property was in the conservation area. Cllr Upchurch suggested a reminder be put on the Facebook page that any tree work within the conservation area must receive permission from the SCDC Tree Officer. Cllr Badger agreed to arrange.

**-NB**

Cllr Upchurch added that in this particular case the Tree Officer had confirmed that all he could do was to issue a short five day notice and ask that two trees be planted for everyone one felled.

**11 To consider correspondence received including;**

**11.1 Engagement with Mitchells (Quarry Owners)**

Cllr Badger explained the history adding that the owners were very keen to work with the Parish Council. The previous owners, Omya, had a good relationship with the village. It was agreed that a representative from the Parish Council be elected to represent the Parish Council in engagement at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**11.2 CCC EV Charger Proposals**

Cambridgeshire County Council had circulated details of their proposal for a capital funding bid to secure £5million to deliver EV charging infrastructure for residents who did not have access to off street parking. The council was offering a fully funded opportunity for the installation of chargers in car parks which are either owned or leased by the Parish Council.

Cllr Bird thought that the proposal may be able to link with the Parish Council project but after investigation decided that this would not work.

**11.3 SCDC Street Trading Policy**

The Licencing Authority had undertaken a review of the Council's Street Trading Policy and the Parish Council had been consulted before it considered adoption. Views were requested by the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Details had been circulated to Councillors.

There were no comments made.

**11.4 CAPALC Membership 2024/25**

CAPALC had circulated details of their membership for the next year. Councillors agreed that it was helpful to be a member. The Clerk confirmed that the subscription would be renewed at the AGM.

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

### **12.1 Magpies request for letter relating to container and lights**

A new container, which would be funded by the FA, needed a letter from the Parish Council for permission to site at the rear of the village hall. A discussion took place on the new container which had replaced an old version on site for a long time. Cllr Austin explained the history confirming that the container was now owned by the Magpies. A discussion took place on permission where it was agreed that a one year rolling licence, with a charge of £1, be granted subject to the container being insured and kept in good condition.

A request for a letter giving permission for the new lighting was also made as Magpies would be able to claim 75% of the cost back. This was agreed.

The Clerk was asked to arrange both.

**-Clerk**

### **12.2 Email service for Parish Council**

Cllr Bird advised that the existing allowance, under the Netwise contract, was gradually being used up due to the expansion of the website and more emails. He suggested that the Parish Council upgrade to the Premium Plus Flex Mail package at £440.00 which includes up to 10 email accounts each of which can go to 10gb.

This would be an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting.

## **13 Date of next meeting – 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 AGM)**

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15 pm  
Councillors expressed their thanks to Cllr Clayton for all his work during his term as Chairman of the Parish Council.

Chairman

Date