

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held at Steeple Morden Cricket Pavilion on Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: N Badger (Chairman), K Austin, M Carroll, C Upchurch, O Parsons, M Bird, A Gear
District Cllr Williams
In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) with eighteen members of the public.

1 Election of Chairman

As retiring Vice Chairman Cllr Badger opened the meeting and asked for nominations for Chairman. He advised that Cllr Clayton did not want to stand for re-election. Cllr Badger was proposed by Cllr Ausitn which was seconded by Cllr Upchurch. There were no other nominations. Cllr Badger accepted the position of Chairman.

2 Election of Vice –Chairman

Cllr Badger proposed Cllr Parsons, which was seconded by Cllr Bird. There were no other nominations. Cllr Parsons accepted the position.

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

Apologies received from Cllrs Clayton, Traverse-Healy and County Cllr Kindersley. There were no declarations of interest.

4 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public

4.1 Road Surfacing

A resident advised that he had received a letter confirming that the resurfacing of Hay Street and Cheyney Street would take place from the 5th -7th June weather dependent. The Chairman thanked the resident for the update adding that the resurfacing was due to a lot of people pointing out the issues with the road surface on the County Council website which put the village higher on the maintenance list.

4.2 School Bus

It was noted that the bus was again turning around in Craft Way. This had been an issue previously. The Clerk was asked to write to the School and ask them to remind the contractor of the turning arrangement (at the crossroads). **-Clerk**

4.3 Traffic Speed on Hay Street

Concerns were raised over the speed. Cllr Bird confirmed that the Parish Council applied for any traffic calming they could, including using parish money, but the decision was down to the County Council on what was allowed. An application had recently been resubmitted for a 20mph zone and Councillors were hopeful this time for success.

5 To approve the minutes of

5.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on the 8th April 2024

On a proposition by Cllr Gear, seconded by Cllr Bird, the minutes as circulated were taken as read and then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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

The Chairman explained the committee structure to attendees.

- 6.1 Planning –all Councillors_ The Chairman expressed his thanks to Cllr Traverse-Healy for his excellent planning knowledge.
- 6.2 Recreation ground and Car Park Bookings -Cllrs Badger & Parsons
- 6.3 Environmental –Cllr Parsons
- 6.4 Village Hall Representative –Cllr Upchurch
- 6.5 Mobile Warden Scheme –Mrs G Belson
- 6.6 Police Panel Meetings –Cllr Bird
- 6.7 Townlands Charity Trustees -Cllrs Clayton & Upchurch
- 6.8 Finance, Grants & Utilities Working Group –Cllrs Clayton, Gear & Bird
- 6.9 Traffic Calming/MVAS Leader –Cllr Austin
- 6.10 Village IT Co-ordinator –Cllr Bird. He advised that there had been 13,941 visitors to the website over the past year
- 6.11 Litter Pick –Mrs G Belson
- 6.12 Social Media -Cllr Badger
- 6.13 Major Repairs and Renovations –Cllr Carroll
- 6.14 Business Community Liaison -Cllrs Parsons & Gear
- 6.15 Queens Jubilee Trophy/Awards -Cllr Upchurch

7 Finances

- 7.1 To receive the financial statement and to approve the payment of bills

MD LANDSCAPES	
Grasscutting April 24	720.00
FINDING FITNESS LTD	
Monkey challenge wall	7140.00
WOLELEY UK LYF	
Manhole cober replacement	136.80
SOURCE4B	
Water services Rec Ground	119.30
Water services Allotments	169.31
MR M BIRD	
Expenses relating to WiFi	572.37
CAPALC	
Membership 2024/25	501.73
MR N BADGER	
Battery for Defibrillator (inc £39.00 VAT)	234.00
MRS C UPCHURCH	
Engraving of trophy	10.00
TOTAL	9603.51

Agreed. Proposed Cllr Bird, Seconded Cllr Gear

- 7.2 Annual Audit 2023/24

The Annual Return had been circulated to Councillors.

- 7.2.1 Internal Audit

The Internal Audit was underway. The report would be circulated when received.

- 7.2.2 Agreement of Governance Statement 2023/24

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

- 7.2.3 Agreement of Accounting Statement 2023/24

The accounting statement was agreed and signed by the Chairman.

- 7.3 Agreement of Proposal for upgraded email service

Cllr Bird proposed that the Parish Council upgrade their email service to the Premium Plus FlexMail package from Netwise for an additional £110.00 per year. This would give more storage capacity. This was seconded by Cllr Gear with all Councillors in agreement.

Cllr Bird stated that there were some Councillors who still forwarded the emails to personal addresses. He would speak to those concerned.

8 Planning

8.1 To consider Planning Applications

8.1.1 Planning Ref 24/01592/PRIOR

Hillside Farm Barn, Brook End -Erection of agricultural machinery washdown building
Some concerns were raised over the loss of some trees but it was noted a tree work application would also be made

Recommendation -Support

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

9.1 LHI Panel Meeting

Cllr Parsons advised that he had attended the panel meeting, along with Cllr Gear, to support the application for additional traffic calming in Odsey. They had made some relevant points and felt that 50% of the panel were understanding. A decision would be made by the County Council later in the year.

9.2 Response from Football Club

Following the discussion at the last Parish Council meeting, regarding the Reading Room, a positive response had been received from the Football Club. This would be followed up at the June Parish Council meeting.

9.3 Premises Change of Use

It was advised that a resident was running a café from a private dwelling. It was suggested that Planning Permission should be sought. Cllr Williams asked that she be sent an email with the details adding that any communication with her was confidential.

10 Date of next meeting -10th June 2024

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

Chairman

Date