

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Cricket Pavilion on Monday 10th June 2024 at 7.00pm

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

There were no Declarations made.

2 County and District Councillors' reports

Both County and District had submitted reports.

3 Comments and observations from parishioners and members of the public

3.1 Hay Street Resurfacing

The resurfacing work on Hay Street was acknowledged, Cheyney Street to follow although no date had been advised yet. The resident stated that he hoped now that the pavements could be repaired. Councillors were not confident that this would happen automatically and suggested areas of concern be reported on the County Council website.

The resident commented on the good condition of the grass on the recreation ground and around the village. The Chairman would pass on the comment to the groundsman.

4 To approve the minutes of

4.1 The Parish Council Annual General Meeting held on the 13th May 2024

On a proposition by Cllr Austin, 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

Cllr Bird had advised that there was a temporary installation of the antenna at a low level which produced a fluctuating signal. The Chairman added that a cherry picker was to be brought in to install higher. He thanked local residents for their help.

5.2 New email service for Parish Council

The new email service was now up and running. There had been a complete change to the configuration which users had now updated.

5.3 School Bus turning

The Clerk confirmed that she had sent a letter to the school asking them to remind the bus drivers that they should be turning at the crossroads and not in Craft Way. The Chairman was aware of another incident the previous week. This would be monitored.

6 Finances

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

MD LANDSCAPES

Grasscutting Rec and verges May 2024 815.00

RPJ SOLLUTIONS LTD

Pavilion decoration 2135.00

CURV 360

EV back office Feb-April 24 39.56

MR N BADGER

Reimb for sign (inc £4.93VAT)	23.55
CPRE	
Membership 24/25	36.00
ICO (DD)	
Renewal of data protection reg	35.00
SSE	
Streetlighting April 2024	190.58
TOTAL	3274.69
Payments Since the last meeting	
NETWISE UK	84.40
Upgrade to Email	
ANGLIAN WATER BUSINESS	182.19

Water sewage October 23-April 24

Agreed. Proposed Cllr Gear, Seconded Cllr Traverse-Healy

6.2 Internal Audit 2023/24

The Internal Audit had been carried out with no issues raised. The paperwork would now be forwarded to the External Auditor.

7 **Recreation Ground/Conservation Area**

7.1 Recreation Ground Checks

There was nothing to report.

7.2 Update on Play area repairs

An update was made under 7.5.

7.3 Car Park Floodlight Repair

Cllr Bird had advised that a recommended electrician had helped upgrade the car park and EV bay light sensors with a more reliable installation. The Chairman expressed his thanks to all those involved.

7.4 Replacement Manhole Cover

There was a query over the payment which was being investigated by the Clerk. **-Clerk**

7.5 Play Area RoSPA Report 2024

The report had been circulated. Councillors were pleased to observe that all comments this year were minor. The main comments were related to the signage for the outside gym equipment and vegetation around the cycle rack.

7.6 Removal of dead tree on Recreation Ground with TPO

It had been pointed out that there was a dead Sycamore tree with many branches very rotten. As the tree had a TPO, and was within the conservation area, permission from the SCDC Tree Officer would need to be sought. The Clerk to arrange. **-Clerk**

In the meantime it was suggested that tree be taped off with hazard tape as it was close to where people walk and to the play area. The Chairman agreed to arrange. **-NB**

8 **Parish Council Projects 2023/24**

8.1 Pavilion/Reading Room Decoration (May 2024)

The Pavilion external decoration had been completed with the contractor carrying out a really good job. The Cricket Club had thanked the Parish Council for arranging the decorating. Councillors were reminded that the contractor had quoted for the Reading Room external decoration later in the year. It was agreed that, as the current thoughts on the Reading Room did not affect the front of the building, the contractor be asked to carry out the decoration to the front wood leaving the brickwork. Cllr Carroll to liaise with the contractor., **-MC**

8.2 Reading Room Project

In the absence of Cllrs Bird and Clayton it was agreed to leave until the July meeting.

8.2.1 Response from Football Club

The football club had responded to the letter sent following the April Parish Council meeting. The Clerk was asked to forward the response to all Councillors. **-Clerk**

8.3 Additional Posts for MVAS

Cllr Austin reported that the application for the PFHI had now been forwarded by County Highways to the correct officer who advised that a response would be made. Cllr Austin and the Clerk would continue urging with the officer.

9 **Street Furniture**

9.1 Use of Odsey Notice Board

Cllr Gear had found the notice board in Odsey which had been obscured by shrubbery. It was still not completely clear. There were no notices on the board.

A discussion took place on whether the board was needed and if so it would be moved to a more convenient location. It was noted that most of Odsey residents were either members of the WhatsApp group or had email.

It was agreed to leave for the time being.

9.2 Seating on Recreation Ground

An elderly resident had pointed out that not all of the seating around the recreation ground was suitable for older people as some was too low. He asked if the two steel frame seats could be replaced by a higher standing version similar to the bench by the side of the playground area. If this was not possible he requested that the existing benches be raised approximately 6 inches higher.

Councillors agreed that benches should not be removed and agreed that the Recreation Ground Working group investigate new benches and report back to the next meeting with their proposals.

The Clerk would update the resident.

10 **Planning/Tree work Applications**

10.1 Planning Applications

10.1.1 Planning Ref 24/01677/FUL

124 Hay Street -Reconstruction of a 3 bedroom bungalow, installation of 1 no air source heat pump and 1 condenser unit and then the installation of roof mounted solar panels
Cllr Traverse-Healy noted that the Design and Access statement said that the address was in Royston District.

Recommendation -Support

10.1.2 Planning Ref 24/01733/HFUL

26 Station Road -Single storey front and side extension. Two storey side and rear extension following demolition of rear conservatory.

It was noted that the neighbouring houses were of a similar size.

Recommendation -Support

11 **Verge Grasscutting 2024 -timetable of cuts**

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the contract was for three cuts per year. Last year four cuts of the verges were made. To date two cuts had been carried out with the grass starting to grow again so it looked like there might need to be 4-5 cuts this season. Councillors agreed that subject to the weather further cuts be carried out in July, September and November 2024.

12 **Matters Arising from Annual Parish Meeting**

There were none.

13 **To consider correspondence received including;**

Correspondence received was discussed under agenda items.

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

14.1 Quarry Activity

Cllr Gear expressed her concern over recent activity at the quarry including excavating. She asked if any meetings had taken place with the owners since the Parish Council representatives were elected at the AGM. It was noted that a meeting was yet to be arranged. A planning application for the proposed changes was still awaited.

Cllr Parsons had also observed, and had a video, of an artic lorry with a double extension turning right onto the A505. It was suggested that this be reported to the County Council Planning Team as this was part of the planning condition granted.

14.2 Affordable Housing

Cllr Traverse-Healy had attended an event in Guilden Morden where there was a Social Housing provider who advised that the staircasing had now opened up for their shared equity properties in Steeple Morden. The Clerk was asked to find out if this had now happened. **-Clerk**

14.3 Disabled Toilet Handle

Following the meeting the Chairman pointed out that the handle needed to be replaced. A resident offered his help. A report on this would be made at the July Parish Council meeting.

15 Date of next meeting – 8th July 2024

There was no further business. The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40 pm

Chairman

Date