



## ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2020 remotely starting at 8.00pm

Present: PCllrs S Smith (Chair) G Clough  
G Harris P Garratt  
A McKay S McQuillan  
C Marshall C Southgate

CBCllr Baker

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)

#### 2122 To Receive Apologies of Absence

Apologies had been received from PCllr McQuillan.

#### 2123 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### 2124 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be signed as a true record of events.

#### 2125 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council

There were no members of the public present.

#### 2126 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

#### 2127 Chairman's Report

Actions carried forward:

##### 1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road

Lynne Roberts, the new official SpeedWatch coordinator had gained several volunteer helpers. In order to gain the views of residents a questionnaire would be available via the newsletter, the website and Facebook. Survey Monkey was suggested as an easy to use way to gain views. There was concern that parking at the top of the woods was very busy and there were also campers staying overnight. There were no signs advising that this was not allowed, CBCllr Baker was to ask the question. The woods were advertised on a cycling website and there were logoed vans parking up which looked like they were offering services to cyclists, promoting their businesses. (Jul 19)

**Action: JB**

**2009** Full Fibre (FTTP) There was no further update. However, a resident had asked how much a private connection would cost and was advised it would be £12,000 to install. PCllr McQuillan advised on a scheme in Scotland where residents requested individual quotes but could receive substantial discounts when asking for the work communally when approaching the supplier. It was suggested that this scheme be investigated further to see if the same scheme was running. (Sept 2020).

**Completed**

**2022a** The Clerk had asked the Partnership Team a CBC to help progress a .gov domain name for the website.

**Action: DB**

### **2127a To discuss Remembrance Day**

As there would be no parade this year the Chairman had sourced large poppies to put on street furniture. PCllr Smith would forward the invoice for these to be paid next month.

### **2128 Roads and Footpaths**

#### **Actions carried forward:**

**21514a** The felling work had been completed in the woods but log collection was still ongoing for another week. The Longslade Lane car park would not reopen until mid November. The pathways are now being assessed for damage and repair will be undertaken, including cycle tracks. Bob Holland's replacement in December will be Dan Doyle. John Creasey is currently the Ranger responsible for the woods.

A plan of all wooden posts had been sent to CBCllr Baker so that they could be replaced by CBC. The poor condition of the BOAT to Aspley Heath Lodge was attributed in part to the logging lorries during last forestry works. PCllr Harris was to gain an update on the pathways which needed work and also the replacement for Bob Holland. (Reviewed July 2020)

**Action: BE/JB/GH**

### **2128a To Discuss Resident Complaints regarding Parking and Traffic on Hardwick Road**

CBCllr Baker would be asked to provide the name of the officer at Milton Keynes Council to contact regarding these issues. The Clerk would forward resident comments to PCllr Harris for summarisation in the report on the SEMK.

**Action: JB**

#### **Actions carried forward:**

**2116a** Residents had complained about the parking on Hardwick Road and the build-up of traffic caused by this. There were also plans for the Quaker Group to hold services at the churchyard which would also increase parking in the area. There was also a lack of parking at Nonna's. It was felt that residents' views should be sought so that these could be fed back to Milton Keynes and Central Beds Councils and an officer be asked to investigate solutions.

**Action: PCllrs**

### **2128b To discuss parking on pavements in Church Road**

A resident had complained about the notice on their car stating they had not left enough room for pedestrians. Councillors felt that notes should be put on cars inconsiderately but that one should be sufficient.

### **2128c To consider a contractor for the clearing of Bishop's Walk**

### **2129 Lights**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2117** The light outside 57 Church Road had been hit by a builder's lorry, as witnessed by the Clerk. A quote had been sent to the resident so they could contact the builder for payment. The Clerk was asked to write a witness statement as the resident was disputing the incident. PCllr Garratt was drafting a letter to go to the building company and would send along with the witness statement. The Clerk was asked to get the light fixed as the nights were now getting darker.

**Action: DB**

A light was out on Church Road opposite Narrow Path. The Clerk had reported this to the contractor.

**Action: DB**

### **2130 Planning**

**Actions carried forward:**

**1861b** 12 Silverbirches Lane. Councillors were concerned with the procedures carried out on this application. The website was not updated and the Enforcement Officer was not aware of the recent decision. There were no details of the enforcement provided. The application referred to the replacement of quoins but there had not been any on the house originally. The Conservation Officer was not aware of this issue either which was particularly worrying as the house itself was featured in the Aspley Heath Conservation Area booklet written by CBC. PCllr McKay had received a poor response from the CBC Officer, Richard Proctor who would not provide any further information. The Clerk had checked emails for the original information given to CBC. (Jul 19)

**Action: CBC**

**2090** It was noted that 47 Church Road were installing new windows and render for which, permission had not been sought. There were concerns with the alterations and also the side elevation windows not being obscured. The Enforcement Officer had been contacted but no response had been received within the designated 21 days. CBCllr Baker would chase the Officer.

**Action: JB**

**2118 Tree Applications** Charlewood Lodge – PCllrs Smith and Marshall would comment on but there was concern about the removal of a tree in the Conservation Area.

**Action: SS/CM**

### **Application updates**

102 Church Road – granted. The house closest to 102a had been moved further away and overlooking windows were now obscured.  
2 Silverbirches Lane – granted  
23 Church Road – granted. The Tree Officer felt that the loss of trees was not significant in the overall tree cover in the Parish.

**New Applications since the last agenda**

Aldermans Place – erection of a double garage. The owner had taken pre-application advice and reduced the size of the garage. The Council had no objections.

**2130a To Discuss the Milton Keynes South East Expansion**

Discussion took place and PCllr Harris agreed to collate the views ready to send to Neil Sainsbury at Milton Keynes Council. The concerns of residents regarding parking and additional traffic in Hardwick Road would be added to the report.

Actions carried forward:

**2118a** Members discussed the proposed plans and decided that a Zoom meeting would be held to gain the views of all Councillors. An email would be sent to find a suitable date. There was no further news on the East-West rail link to consider. A comment was made that additional roads would hinder MKC's plans to be more sustainable as this would encourage more cars.

**Completed**

**Under agenda item 2130a**

**2131 Village Matters**

Actions carried forward:

**2000c** The Welcome Pack was completed and sent to Councillors. Copies would now be printed off to give to new residents. (Jul 19)

**Completed**

**2038c To Discuss Further a Neighbourhood Plan**

PCllr Clough had contacted all members of the working group and had updated them with the progress so far as well as providing a 'road map'. The average cost of a Neighbourhood Plan was £7000 but as Aspley Heath was smaller than most communities it was thought the cost would be much lower. The first step was to plan a questionnaire and distribute to residents. A response rate of 27% was considered good but it was hoped the residents in Aspley Heath would be much more responsive. The inaugural meeting of the group was to be held as soon as CBC released the project plan; Tom Price was still working on this.

**Action: CBC**

**2119** A resident had contacted the Council about an overhanging branch to his property. It was interfering with BT lines. PCllr Smith would find a tree contractor to progress this work.

**Action: SS**

**2132 Finance**

**a. To approve payments to be made in October**

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1135	£138.36	Clerk's Salary - October
Poor's Coal Charity	1136	£100.00	Donation

The above payments were approved.

**b. To agree the financial statement for September**

The financial statement had been circulated before the meeting and was agreed.

**c. To discuss information received from NatWest on switching bank account**

The Clerk advised that NatWest had sent letters advertising a bank switching service with incentives. The Co-op and the Metro Bank were offering £1250 to switch accounts to them. The Clerk would investigate further and check that both accounts were suitable, sending the information to the Chairman as well.

**Action: DB**

**2133 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting**

	From	Subject	Action
1922	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1923	NatWest	Information on switching bank account	On agenda
1924	Central Beds Council	Garden Waste Suspension 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov – 1 <sup>st</sup> March	Add to Facebook
1925	Central Beds Council	Consultation on Leisure facilities and Being Active	
1926	Central Beds Watch Scheme	Crime Statistics - September	

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

**Signed: .....**  
**Chairman**