



## ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Denise Batchelor  
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### **Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at the Woburn Sands Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Woburn Sands, starting at 8.00pm**

Present:      PCllrs              S Smith (Chair)              G Clough  
   P Garratt                      G Harris  
   A Jordan                      A McKay

In Attendance:              Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)

#### **2272 To Receive Apologies of Absence**

Apologies were received from PCllrs McQuillan, Marshall and CBCllr Baker.

#### **2273 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### **2274 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Following clarification, it was **RESOLVED** that the July and September minutes be changed to record the information included under Item 2249. With these amendments it was then **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 be signed as a true record of events.

#### **2275 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council**

There were no members of the public present.

#### **2276 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report**

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

**2259** PCllr McKay had drafted a response on behalf of the Parish Council regarding the lack of consultation for the proposed new development at Marston Vale. Once agreed, this would be sent to the Monitoring Officer to express the Council's concerns.

**Action: PCllrs**

**2259a** PCllr Harris had emailed David Hopkins at MKC and shared the feedback from the traffic and parking survey and asked that Aspley Heath residents be consulted regarding the re-painting of yellow lines on Hardwick Road. MKCllr Hopkins advised they were considering options and would consult with Aspley Heath residents.

**Action: MKC**

**2259b** Super Fast Broadband was also being investigated. The BT Community team advised rural areas were attracting more funding. Gigiclear would be asked if they would get involved with providing SFBB.

**Action: JB**

## **2277 Chairman's Report**

Actions carried forward:

**1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road**

PCllr Clough had presented details of the petition to Central Beds Council Traffic Management Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> July. Two speed devices had been installed but both were in poor locations where the parking or road layout necessitated low speeds. It was unclear why the Parish Council had not been consulted on suitable locations. Speeding was of increasing concern to residents as identified in the Neighbourhood Plan investigations. PCllr Clough would contact CBC to ask for the speed devices to be moved to a more suitable location. There was also worry over cyclists using Church Road as a speed trial and PCllr Clough agreed to email CBC to ask if cycles would trigger the speed devices. The Clerk would investigate whether Church Road was registered as a speed trap on Strava.

**Action: CBC/GC/DB**

**2260** Following the resignation of PCllr Jones the vacancy was posted on the website. A copy would need to go on the notice board and Facebook.

**Action: AJ/SS**

**2261 To Agree the Meeting Dates for 2022**

The list of proposed dates was agreed with the exception of the Annual Meeting which would be planned for a Thursday in April. The Clerk would check with Woburn Sands Town Council over the booking of the Memorial Hall.

**Action: DB**

**2179** PCllr Jordan had checked the website for accessibility issues and would pass the certificate to the Clerk so a statement could be added to the website.

**Action: DB**

## **2278 Roads and Footpaths**

Actions carried forward:

Although the fencing repairs were unlikely to happen in the short term this would remain on the agenda. (Reviewed July 2020)

**Action: CBC**

**2140a To Discuss Resident Complaints regarding Parking and Traffic on Hardwick Road**

Yellow lines were to be re-painted on Hardwick Road but MKC did not see this as a priority, so no date was given for this. PCllr Smith agreed to contact MKC again.

**Completed**

**2263** CBC were to be asked to continue the maintenance of Bishop's Walk particularly the regular clearing of leaves in November.

**Action: DB**

**2263a** BOAT at the top of Church Road – PCllr Harris had contacted both CBC and Bedford Estate. CBC had reviewed all trees along the byway with 10 trees being removed; not all of these were due to vehicle erosion. John Hunter from Bedford estate had noted the deliberate driving of vehicles into the banks. There was concern that more trees would have their roots undermined. It was difficult to gauge exactly what types of vehicle were using the byway. The byway had been investigated and was found to be only 2m wide,

the rest was the Duke of Bedford's land. Therefore, after discussion, it was agreed that PCllr Harris would contact Bedford Estate and ask that measures be taken to regulate use by narrowing the accessible land to the 2m wide strip. There were also reports from the Greensand Trust that e-trail bikes were accessing the byway and Sandy Lane and members were asked to be vigilant and report through 101.

**Action: GH/PCllrs**

## 2279 Lights

### **Actions carried forward:**

#### **2117** Light outside 57 Church Road.

PCllr Garratt had drafted a new letter asking the contractor asking for full payment and insurance details. The Clerk would send this and also contact the Council's insurance provider to see if they could offer some legal advice.

**Action: DB**

## 2280 Planning

### **Actions carried forward:**

**2249** A Member advised that some residents were concerned that the Parish Council were not communicating with them over their planning applications. The draft letter regarding the planning process and the Parish Council's role was discussed. It was felt that information should be made available on the website and in the newsletter rather than sent to individual residents after an application was received. The Clerk would forward the information again. Members were asked to read the document and suggest any necessary amendments for final agreement.

**Action: DB/PCllrs**

**2229** The enforcement notice relating to the entrance gate had closed and no further action was required.

#### **2249** 12 Silverbirches Lane

Following a query raised by a resident the concern of losing two parking spaces was investigated. The comments were found to have been made regarding a recent meeting and relate to Beasley's description which mentions 4 parking spaces. There are 2 spaces on top of the room that is an enforcement issue. The other two spaces that Beasley mentions as part of a total 4 parking spaces are in the turning area which we are of the understanding that it is part of Silverbirches Lane and therefore, not a private parking zone. The minutes of July would be amended to show this information.

**Action: DB**

## New Planning Applications

## Recent Planning Applications

A video and documents regarding SEMK had been sent by PCllr McKay to all Councillors. Pollution on Newport Road was seen as a potential block to linking up the H10. However, members felt that the pollution would be worse on Hardwick Road. The decision would be signed off at the November meeting so objections would need to be sent in the next month. The upgrading of the link road by Frosts to a proper road was discussed as a feasible option. New housing developments and the issues with the train station were a major concern especially as Woburn Sands station was a prominent station on the Bedford to Cambridge line. It would be difficult for users to access with the closure of Newport Road. Members agreed to write to

CBC and MKC asking for a link road so access would not be via Hardwick Road; PCllrs Harris and Clough would draft the letter. Residents would also be informed and given the opportunity to also respond to CBC and MKC. A template would be drafted that they could use if they wished along with a petition and made available at the Neighbourhood Plan event on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Action: GC/GH**

## **2281 Village Matters**

Actions carried forward:

**2169** Overhanging Hedges - further properties had been identified and the owners would be contacted. There were some hedges blocking public footpaths and these needed cutting back. Landfall and 2 Silverbirches were identified and letters would be sent.

**Action: SM/SS**

**2266a** The New Resident Information Pack had been checked; the meeting venue would be amended and new Neighbourhood Plan details would be included. PCllr Garratt offered to deliver to new residents. to make sure it was up to date.

**Action: GC/PG**

**2266b** The Sandpit maintenance survey would be carried out in December at a cost of £575 + VAT.

**Action: RGS**

**2266c** It was noted that a lot of gardens had outdoor lights. There was no further action to be taken.

**Completed**

### **2267 To Discuss Homewatch**

There was a discussion about the need for new co-ordinators. It was suggested that one person could be responsible for sending out emails to all residents. An article would be included in the next newsletter to gauge interest in the co-ordinator roles.

**Action: GC**

### **2268 To Discuss Jubilee Garden Maintenance and Repairs**

The plinth for the information board had been repaired free of charge by a resident. The Chair expressed her thanks to the resident for his time. He had also offered to plant some bulbs in the garden and this was welcomed.

**Action: DB/SS**

It was agreed that a wreath be purchased for Remembrance Day for £22; the Chair would organise. The large poppies would be put up again from 1<sup>st</sup> November for two weeks. The Chair would source some eco tags to secure the poppies. Church Road would be closed between 10.30 and 11.00am on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

**Action: SS**

## **2282 To Receive an Update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2269** The questionnaire was now online and postcards had been distributed. It was asked if any Councillors could help. All responses from Saturday's event would be analysed and graphs produced. The results would inform the main questionnaire to be sent to all residents. CBC would be invited to a future meeting during the formulating of the questionnaire.

**Action: PCllrs**

## 2283 Finance

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

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1181	£179.83	Clerk's Salary - October
G Clough	1182	£384.00	NP – Survey Monkey – banners and postcards
S Smith	1183	£54.00	Methodist Church – hall hire – Sept, Oct & Nov

The payments for October were agreed and **APPROVED**.

### b. To agree the financial statements for September

Actions carried forward:

**2132a To discuss information received from NatWest on switching bank account**

The Clerk had forwarded the relevant forms to the Chair for completion.

**Action: SS**

The financial statements for September were agreed and **APPROVED**.

## 2284 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
2009	NatWest	Bank Statements	
2010	CPRE	October newsletter	
2011	Central Beds Watch	Crime Stats – September (no crimes reported in AH)	
2012	Central Beds Council	Parish and Town Council newsletter	
2013	Beds PCC	Slides from Parish Councils Conference on 5 <sup>th</sup> October	
2014	Central Beds Council	Notice of Councillor vacancy	
2015	Beds PCC	October newsletter	
2016	Central Beds Council	Garden waste collection – 18 <sup>th</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> October	
2017	Central Beds Council	Bike Recycling events – nearest one to AH is Flitwick Leisure Centre 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov 8am-2pm	

2018	RGS	Quote for tree survey £575 + VAT – early December	
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**Signed:** .....

**Chairman**

The meeting closed at 9.51pm.