



## ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Denise Batchelor  
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### Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in the Council Offices at the rear of the Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall starting at 8.00pm

Present: PCllrs S Smith (Chair) G Harris  
A Jordan S A Shirville  
C Southgate

CBCllr Baker

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)

1 resident

#### 1975 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from PCllrs Clough and McQuillan.

#### 1976 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest.

#### 1977 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 be signed as a true record of events.

#### 1978 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council

Actions carried forward:

**1700** CBC had been unable to forward the connection of the street light in Sandy Lane. The matter had now been passed on to the developer to organise reconnection with the contractors.

**Action: Developer**

**1964** A resident expressed his concern over Aspley Woods and the organised leisure activities within them that affected the tranquillity and also the increased number of pests in the woods. PCllr Harris had contacted the Greensand Trust and advised that the orange marked posts did mark the boundary of the bike jump area which was the same size as previously. There was no change to the boundary however, a number of trees had been felled which made the area look different. Chris Spitzburger the new ranger advised he was working closely with the *Woburn Burn Crew* who were a voluntary cyclist group that seemed to be respectful of other users. Pest control was part of the responsibility of the Greensand Trust and the Bedford Estate who were aware of increased numbers particularly squirrels and Muntjac deer. PCllr Harris agreed to follow up in a couple of weeks. The pale green marked posts identified permissive bridle paths and would include multi directional signage information.

**Action: GH**

An update from Central Beds Council advised that there was no enforcement issue with the fencing on the old Scout Hut site. However it was thought that the fence was on the public highway, the Parish Council would report to CBC. CBCllr Baker advised that CBC would use the Land Registry to identify the owner of the land.

**Action: DB/CBC**

### **1979 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report**

CBCllr Baker had been approached by a resident of Sandy Lane about the non-functioning street light. The Parish Council was already fully aware of the light and had been trying to reorganise the re-connection for some time.

CBCllr Baker had attended the Local Plan meeting and was disappointed to find no mention of Aspley Heath, Woburn, etc in the document despite major proposed developments by Junction 13 of the M1.

No response had been received from Planning regarding issues with applications. CBCllr Baker agreed to chase if a response was not received in the next few weeks.

It was reported that the trees on Woburn Road needed cutting back as they were obstructing the path, the Parish asked CBCllr Baker to report this and organise necessary tree works.

**Action: CBCllr Baker**

A Councillor asked what main issues CBCllr Baker had been advised of by residents in the Parish. He stated that planning and speeding on Church Road were the two biggest problems.

Although Woburn Sands was not in the Ward it was reported that there were increasing levels of violence affecting the High Street which would also impact on Aspley Heath. It was asked whether CBC would be able to offer some input into reducing the number of licenced premises in the area or supporting a Bar Watch initiative. CBCllr Baker replied he would only be able to report on his ward and not Woburn Sands. It was hoped that MKC and CBC would be able to work together on this issue.

CBCllr Baker was asked about progress with SuperFast Broadband as Open Reach had now completed all the work however, they had not connected Church Road to cabinet 21 but to the cabinet by the Exchange. This meant that SFBB was not being received by many residents still. CBCllr Baker agreed to contact the relevant officer at CBC to progress.

**Action: CBCllr Baker**

### **1980 Chairman's Report**

Actions carried forward:

**1856** The 'Tommy' silhouette had been moved next to WWI graves in the churchyard. The Church Warden had kindly agreed to bolt the silhouette into place so it could not be moved.

**Action: St Michaels Church**

**1901a To Consider an Application for the Highways Rural Match Funding Scheme**

PCllr Hobbs had designed an initial drawing for a new crossing across Hardwick Road. The details were agreed and the application had been submitted to CBC. If the crossing received funding then there would be a consultation with residents. A response from CBC was still being waited on.

**Action: CBC**

**1966a** It was agreed that suitable wording would be added to the website regarding the recent passing of Piers Wilmott. PCllr Smith agreed to draft some wording.

**Action: SS/DB**

The new Code of Conduct had been agreed and the Chairman asked that all Members make time to read through the document fully. The recent Crime Statistics report had an incident for Aspley Heath logged under sexual conduct. This was to be investigated further although it may have been linked to the naked walker in the woods.

**1981 Speeding and Parking on Church Road**

Actions carried forward:

**1948** A Speedwatch session was carried out and there was little speeding noted however, the presence of the volunteers was felt to reduce speeding. A permanent speeding sign was also discussed but was not felt to be required at the present time.

**Completed**

**1967a** The Church was putting out additional cones so the passing places were larger. PCllr Jordan offered to continue monitoring the parking on Church Road.

**Completed**

**1982 Roads and Footpaths**

**Actions carried forward:**

**1514a** The bollards at the top of Church Road were rotting away and there was a huge puddle forming outside the gates. A quote had been received by CBC to fill in the hole and an order placed. Paul Williams would also be chased for the Estate's contribution. Chris Nicolls had advised that funding would be sought during the new financial year for the works.

**Action: CBC**

The fence on both sides of the car park was falling apart but it was felt that Bedford Estates would not carry out any further works to the fencing. Paul Williams from Bedford Estates had responded that work on the footpaths had been completed. However, Members were not happy with the level of work. PCllr Smith agreed to chase.

**Action: SS**

**1933 Holly Walk Steps** - The steps were under the remit of Central Beds Council. PCllr Smith had emailed Chris Nicoll to ask that the steps be assessed for safety.

**Action: CBC**

**1983 Upgrade Project/Enhancement of the Heath**

**1984 Lights**

## 1985 Planning

Actions carried forward:

**1861b** An enforcement notice for a house in Silverbirches Lane regarding its brickwork being smoothed over was still in force. CBC were awaiting a non-material amendment from the resident.

**Action: CBC**

**1971** Additions to 3a and 3b Church Road were objected to by the Parish Council. A resident commented that no correspondence had been sent to them although they lived opposite the site. The Clerk was advised by CBC Planning department that no notice was required.

**Completed**

A new planning application had been received for 57 Church Road.

## 1986 Village Matters

Actions carried forward:

**1893a** PCllr Smith had now sent photographs of the overhanging Holly hedge on Church Road to the Clerk who had contacted both houses regarding their overhanging hedges. The Clerk advised that it was now bird nesting season and that it was possible nothing would be done until August.

**Action: DB/Residents**

**1953c** A Smart car with a flat tyre had been parked on Sandy Lane for some time. PCllr Southgate had chased this up and the car was illegally parked. PCllr Southgate had reported the car online to the DVLA.

**Action: DVLA**

**1972** There was an overhanging laurel outside 102 Church Road which was partially obstructing the pavement. The Clerk had contacted the owner.

**Action: DB/Resident**

**1972a To Discuss Designating buildings in the Parish as an Asset of Community Value**

Members discussed the Royal Oak and the current owner's plans to sell the pub. The current lessee and the consortium wanting to buy the pub were both supportive of a proposal to make the premises an Asset of Community Value (ACV). CAMRA had provided information and would also offer support, stating that the interior was of a historic pub. PCllr Jordan was happy to lead on this and would send in the relevant forms to progress. It was noted that the Fir Tree were also interested in becoming an ACV.

**Action: AJ**

It was thought that the hedges in the grounds of 1 Silverbirches were overhanging on three sides; in Heath Lane, Silverbirches Lane and Church Road which was forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. The Clerk would contact the residents.

**Action: DB**

## 1987 Finance

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

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1060	£156.00	Clerk's salary June
HMRC	1061	£99.00	Clerk's PAYE April - June
D Batchelor	1062	£57.64	Clerk's allowance April – June, Stamps and Thank You Gift for Internal Auditor
Came & Company	1063	£341.20	Insurance July 2019 – July 2020 (amount to be confirmed after Item 1987c)
BATPC	1064	£139.00	Affiliation fees 2019/20
S Smith	1065	£28.00	Printing of 300 flyers of support for the Stables, Wavendon
Woburn Sands Town Council	1066	£24.00	Hall hire for Annual Meeting – 1 <sup>st</sup> May

The above payments were agreed for payment.

**b. To agree the financial statements for May**

The financial statements were agreed.

**c. To agree the Insurance Renewal for 2019/20**

Members discussed the options and agreed that they would prefer the three-year long-term agreement. The renewal was approved at a cost of £341.20 per annum.

**d. To receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2018/19**

The Internal Audit report was read and noted. There was no action required with no issues identified.

**e. To Approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19**

The Annual Governance statement was read out in full and **APPROVED** by Members. The Statement was duly signed.

**f. To Approve the Accounting Statements for 2018/19**

The Accounting Statements for 2018/19 were **APPROVED** and signed.

**g. To Complete and Sign the Exemption Certificate for 2018/19**

The Exemption Certificate was completed and signed.

**1988 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting**

	From	Subject	Action
1807	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1808	Came & Company	Insurance renewal information	
1809	Central Beds Council	Road closure for Church End, Eversholt 24-26 July	
1810	Beds Police and Crime Commissioner	Newsletter - May	
1811	PCC	Newsletter - June	

1812	Beds Police	Crime statistics - May	
1813	Central Beds Council	Planning Enforcement Notice (not confirmed) The Square	
1814	Beds Police	Poster of local teams	
1815	Central Beds Council	Review of licensing policy	Comments by 1 <sup>st</sup> September
1816	Central Beds Council	Town and Parish Council Conference – 16 July 6pm Beadlow Manor	

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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