



ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the **Annual Aspley Heath Parish Meeting** held on Wednesday 1st May 2019 in the Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall, Woburn Sands at 8.00pm.

Present:	PCllrs	S Smith (Chairman)	G Clough
		A Shirville	
		C Southgate	P Temp
		J Towriss	
	CBCllr	B Wells	

In attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)
?? Residents

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Councillors introduced themselves to the residents.

Apologies were received from PCllrs Hobbs and Morris.

- Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting – Weds 25th April 2018**
It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2018 be signed as a true record of events.
- Matters Arising**
There were no matters arising.
- To receive information from Mr B Holland on the work of the Aspley Woods User Group**
- To receive information from Mr P Ballard on the Poor's Coal Charity**
Mr Ballard provided information on the work of the Poor's Coal Charity for the past year as a member of the board representing Aspley Heath. The Charity was using the new name of The Three Parishes Charity in the hope of attracting more applications. The origin of the charity was the Duke of Bedford providing wood for needy parishioners. £1450 had been paid out in the last year with 17 out of 19 applications agreed with a payment of £90 made to 15 residents and a half payment made to two. Four applications had been made by residents of Aspley

Court. Some residents were giving their winter fuel payments to the charity.

Residents were asked to contact the charity if they knew of people that would benefit from the charity. Notices would be put up in June to encourage people to apply. Anyone living in Aspley Heath, Wavendon and Woburn Sands with an income of £15,000 a year or less was eligible. A very simple application form would need to be completed.

The Chairman advised Mr Ballard that the Parish Council would advertise the charity on its website, noticeboard and also in its newsletter. Residents thought that the doctor's surgery would be a good place to advertise as well as all local noticeboards.

The Chairman thanked Mr Ballard for his report.

5. **Report from Central Bedfordshire Councillor; Budge Wells**

CBCllr Wells gave a full account of the activities of Central Beds Council. The Local Plan was introduced as a scheme to identify where new houses will be built. This was an 18-month process and would be voted on by the Council then forwarded to the Secretary of State. Approval was expected by the end of 2018. Several new villages were planned with 5000 homes proposed near to Marston Vale, 4000 north of Dunstable and 1500 east of Biggleswade. So far 6275 comments had been received and the Plan would be modified where necessary.

The A421 dualling from J13 of the M1 to the boundary of Milton Keynes was going ahead at a cost of £31 million with £25 million funded by the Department of Transport. A data cable would need moving at a cost of £1.1 million before any works to the road could take place. A completion date of late 2020 was proposed.

The route for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway was being assessed by the Infrastructure Commission and would be announced this summer. The Aspley Guise Triangle development had been removed from the Local Plan as the location of the Expressway corridor was awaited. One million new homes were to be built along this corridor.

The first station along the East/West Rail link was currently being built at Oxford Parkway. A high-speed service was planned with 1 train per hour each way with 91 crossings to accommodate. Ridgmont had been identified as the ideal location for the Central beds stop.

The new Household Waste Recycling Centre had opened at Thorn turn along with the ability to collect commercial waste as well as a new Highways depot. Four new Tidy Tips had been opened in Central Beds which were all state of the art and receiving many positive comments from residents.

The Brogborough Road was closed for Junction 13 repairs but was now open. The A507 to Ampthill was closed and would reopen 6th May.

Potholes were currently being repaired across the area.

CBCllr reported that 148 planning applications were currently being reviewed within the Ward.

CBCllr Wells agreed to take questions from residents.

The Chairman asked whether the Central Area Growth Board was involved with the Local Plan. CBCllr Wells advised that it could not affect the Plan but may be able to influence the review. The Chairman advised that he and PCllr Hobbs had recently met with a Planners from CBC. He felt they were under a lot of pressure to agree to developments to meet housing demand. He also questioned whether there were enough Planners to cope with the workload and look thorough each application thoroughly.

Residents were concerned with the effect the A421 dualling would have on traffic in the area especially lorries. It was asked whether a width restriction could be put in place. CBCllr Wells advised that an HGV ban was in operation locally and should residents spot a lorry they should phone the company and report the infringement.

It was asked whether speed restrictions could be put on Church Road. Central Beds current policy was to install tables to prevent faster speeds and these would need to be funded, match funding was available and Section 106 monies could also possibly be used. Although this was possible it would require extensive road alterations and the agreement of the Parish Council. PCllr Smith advised that the SpeedWatch group was awaiting the repair of the speeding equipment. Once this had been completed they would start monitoring Church Road and speeding notices would be issued wherever necessary. Data collected from speeding residents could help to inform any future decisions.

Parking outside the church was still an issue and users had been seen removing cones to park their cars. PCllr Temp had met with the vicar who had assured him that cones were being set out to stop parking. Some residents had received abuse from others parking outside the church. Yellow lines had been considered previously but Members had felt that this would only move the traffic to a different part of Church Road.

There was also worry that skateboarders were putting themselves at risk as they were using Church road to skate down at high speeds.

6. Report from the Chairman Sally Smith covering the activities of the Parish

The Chairman reported on a quiet year for the Parish. However, there was a fair number of planning applications and associated building works which meant lots of traffic.

A new design for the newsletter had been implemented which allowed more information to be included. Residents' views on future content were welcomed. Speeding concerns would continue to be reported. Litter picking initiatives would also be included and residents were encouraged to attend and help with the planned 'Spring Clean'.

Under new GDPR rules a Data Protection Officer would be required for the Council.

The Milton Keynes South east expansion would affect travel in the area. Comments could be made via the Milton Keynes Council website and plans viewed.

The Parish Council portion of the Council Tax for 2018/19 would remain the same as there was no increase to the Precept. A 7% increase would be sort by the Police and 4.4% from CBC with 3% allocated for Adult Social Care.

7. Update from Councillor Chris Southgate on Neighbourhood Watch

8. Accounts for year ending 31 March 2019 (unaudited)

The accounts were made available for residents to review. There were no questions.

9. Planning Report from Councillor Jack Hobbs

A planning report had been prepared by PCllr Hobbs and was read out by the Chairman.

There were no questions.

10. Questions

The Chairman thanked the many residents for attending.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Sally Smith
Chairman

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