



ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Denise Batchelor
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Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 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)
2 residents

2134 To Receive Apologies of Absence

There were no apologies although CBCllr Baker advised he would join the meeting at approximately 8.30pm.

2135 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda

PCllr McQuillan declared an interest in any discussion regarding 12 Silverbirches Lane.

2136 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A few small changes were to be made to the minutes that did not affect the content. With these amendments made it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th October 2020 be signed as a true record of events.

2137 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council

A resident congratulated the Council on the new website. A question was asked about the Danesborough Hill Fort site and a possible noticeboard. He was concerned that the board would need funding and the additional information may attract more visitors who would park on Church Road.

The chairman reported that the idea with regard to funding of the board would be possibly shared by the local parishes.

The concerns re the increase in footfall and visitors to the woods, to see the information board and fort, would not be welcome at this time when everywhere was so busy and this was noted by the Chairman as a valid concern.

2138 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

The Members attending the MKSE meeting were lauded for their comments and for their agreement to link the H10 with Newport Road. MKC were pleased to get support from the parish Council.

CBCllr Baker congratulated the Council on a prudent Precept for 2021/22.

A Milton Keynes Cabinet meeting would take place the following week to discuss MK Futures 2050. CBCllr Baker asked if some Members from the Parish Council would attend remotely, PCllr Marshall agreed to represent the views of AHPC.

CBCllr Baker acknowledged the bottom part of Bishops Walk was dangerous and would check on the legal ownership of the path. PCllr Smith had sent photographs.

Action: JB

The email attachment sent regarding Hardwick Road was asked to be re-sent.

There was huge concern over increased parking and use of the woods during the latest lockdown, with driveways being blocked and cars parked close to junctions. Over 350 cars were reported as parked by the woods in one day. Unmarked police cars were visiting the woods more often. Cones put to stop parking had mostly remained in place. In the longer term the parking would cause further problems for the Parish and a solution was required. CBCllr Baker advised that under the current situation emergency powers could be used to install yellow lines for example but the Parish had to be clear whether they desired these. The condition of the BOAT was also raised and the poor access to Aspley Lodge.

It was also noted that Bishops Walk was being parked on to access a walk via Edgewick Farm.

CBCllr Baker had received no response from the CBC Officer regarding speed signs despite several emails.

2139 Chairman's Report

Actions carried forward:

1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road

The views of residents were to be sought in a survey which would go out on various media and feature in the newsletter planned for distribution the following week. The survey would be tested by Councillors first. A £5 boost for advertising the survey on Facebook was agreed.

Parking at the new cycle hub was sorely needed but Bedford Estates had no plans to progress this in the next year.

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

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

Action: DB

2139a To agree the purchase of poppies for Council owned lampposts

Councillors agreed to the purchase of poppies at a cost of £60. Many residents had given positive comments about the poppies.

2140 Roads and Footpaths

Actions carried forward:

1514a

The pathways had now been flattened. Dan Doyle would be viewing the woods over the next couple of weeks and PCllr Harris hoped to link up with him to share the Council's concerns.

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

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

A letter had been sent to Milton Keynes Council regarding the problems faced on Hardwick Road. No response had been received yet.

Action: MKC

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

2140b To discuss parking on pavements in Church Road

Letters would continue to be placed when needed on vehicles blocking pavements, politely requesting they ensure there is enough room for pedestrians and pushchairs to pass safely.

2140c To consider a contractor for the clearing of Bishop's Walk

PCllrs Smith and Southgate had cleared Bishop's Walk. Central Beds Council was no longer providing funding for this.

2141 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 letter had been sent to the resident concerned. The Clerk was asked to get the light fixed as the nights were now getting darker.

Action: DB

2129 The light on Church Road opposite Narrow Path had been repaired.

Completed

2142 Planning

Actions carried forward:

1861b 12 Silverbirches Lane. PCllr McQuillan took no part in the following planning section of the meeting. Councillors were concerned with the procedures undertaken to come to the conclusion to remove the enforcement notice. 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 offered to write up a one-page summary of all the concerns regarding this application which CBCllr Baker would take to the Head of Planning at CBC.

Action: AM/JB

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 was finally looking at the case, CBCllr Baker asked to be copied in on emails. The resident had had two trees cut down without planning permission. CBC were now investigating this and PCllr Southgate agreed to forward information to the Clerk to send to CBC.

Action: JB/CS

2118 Tree Application: Charlewood Lodge – application refused. The tree could be pruned but not removed.

Completed

Application updates

3 Silverbirches

The wall had been objected to.

10 Silverbirches

Permission to erect the structure over the gate to the property had not been sought. CBC would need to be notified. The height was also above the 2.4m limit permitted. PCllr Marshall would collate the relevant information and forward to the Clerk to send to the Enforcement Team at CBC.

Action: CM/DB

New Applications since the last agenda

Actions carried forward:

2130a To Discuss the Milton Keynes South East Expansion

Minutes had been sent to all Councillors following the meeting. A complaint had been made to MKC regarding an interest that had not been disclosed. A summary would be added to the next newsletter.

Action: GC

2143 Village Matters

Actions carried forward:

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

An update on Broadband was received from Mr Shirville. He reported that Aspley Heath was not defined as a rural community by the fibre installers so would not receive heavily discounted full fibre.

2143a To Receive an Update on Crime Figures for October

There were no crimes reported for October although there had been some for neighbouring parishes – Woburn Sands 7, Woburn -2, Aspley Guise -7 and Ridgmont -4.

2143b To Agree the Content of the Winter Newsletter

The newsletter was ready to go but a response had not been received from the printers yet. It was unsure whether the Food Bank plea for selection boxes would be seen in time for 1st December collection.

2144 Finance

a. To approve payments to be made in November

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1137	£138.54	Clerk's Salary - November
St Michael's Church	1138	£300.00	Donation
George Wells Foundation	1139	£300.00	Donation
Swallowfield Lower School PTFA	1140	£300.00	Donation
Fulbrook Middle PFTA	1141	£300.00	Donation

Woburn Sands TC (library)	1142	£600.00	Donation
DECEMBER CHEQUES			
D Batchelor	1143	£138.36 TBC	Clerk's Salary - December
HMRC	1144	£TBC	Clerk's PAYE Oct - Dec

The above payments were agreed.

b. To agree the financial statement for October

The financial statement was agreed.

c. To agree the Precept for 2021/2022

The proposed budget for 2021/22 had been circulated and was discussed. Members felt that a 2.5% increase in the Precept was necessary to cover the increased activities of the Council. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to increase the Precept by 2.5% for 2021/22, this would raise the Precept from £8106 to £8308.

Actions carried forward:

2132a 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. It was decided to progress transferring the account to the Co-op. The Clerk would start the transfer process.

Action: DB

2145 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
1927	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1928	BATPC	Beds Bugle - November	
1929	Central Beds Council	Precept Request letter for 2021/22	
1930	Central Beds Council	Consultation on the Draft Milton Keynes Sustainable Construction Supplementary Planning Document	Response by 4/1/2021
1931	Central Beds Watch Scheme	Crime Statistics - October	
1932	Beds Police & Crime Commissioner	Newsletter - November	
1933	Central Beds Council	COVID19 Bulletin	
1934	Poor's Coal Charity	Thank you for donation	
1935	St Michael's Church	Thank you for additional donation	
1936	East West Rail	Environmental Survey	
1937	Milton Keynes Council	Click & Collect Library opening hours	

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed:
Chairman