



## ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Denise Batchelor  
Tel: 01525 717905  
Email: clerk@aspleyheath.org.uk

### **Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in the Council Offices at the rear of the Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall starting at 8.00pm**

Present: PCllrs S Smith (Chairman) G Clough  
G Harris A Jordan  
S McQuillan A Shirville  
C Southgate

CBCllr Baker

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)

2 residents

#### **2003 To Receive Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from PCllrs Garratt and McKay.

#### **2004 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda**

PCllrs Clough and Harris declared a non-pecuniary interest relating to the planning application for 69 Church Road which would be discussed under Item 2013. There were no other Declarations of Interest.

#### **2005 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be signed as a true record of events.

#### **2006 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council**

Actions carried forward:

**1648** A date within 8-10 weeks to have the streetlight in Sandy Lane reconnected had been given by the developer. The Council would check after this date and if the light was not functioning they would take further action. Two residents attended the meeting to express their concerns with the streetlight on Sandy Lane which had still not been connected. A resident reported that UK Power Networks had no record of the light behind disconnected. They had also failed to find the power cable on their last visit to the site. The residents were advised of the progress the Parish Council had made but agreed that further action was needed. It was agreed to contact Western Power to see if they had any record of the position of power cables on Sandy Lane. It was also felt that the developer responsible for the disconnection should be sent a letter advising him that legal action would be taken if connection was not made. Legal advice was to be sought on how to progress this issue. PCllr McQuillan agreed to draft the letter and would also contact an electrician to see if a temporary solution could be found. Mr Towriss would contact the residents concerned to advise of progress and get

agreement to temporary lights being installed (May 17)

**Action: Developer/SM/JT**

**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 agreed to follow this up. A resident was concerned that the area for biking activity in the woods was being extended southwards to two further areas that had been felled of trees. A trail linked the two with orange paint marks. The Chairman agreed to check the area and would speak to the Greensand Trust. (May 19)

**Completed**

**1978** 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. No further information had been received from CBC. (Jun 19)

**Completed**

## **2007 To Receive an Update from Susan Lynch of CPRE on the Oxford to Cambridge corridor**

Susan Lynch was not able to attend the meeting. The Clerk would contact her to see if she was able to attend a future meeting.

**Action: DB**

## **2008 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report**

Actions carried forward: (Jun 19)

**1979** 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**

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.

**Completed**

A new bin and a replacement lid had been agreed as asked for previously.

White lines had been agreed outside Charlewood House.

Litter picking had been carried out on Woburn Road.

CBCllr Baker had been given a fund in order to give community grants to his parishes. It was hoped that CBCllr Baker would be able to help with purchasing a cabinet for the defibrillator.

The glass recycling collection had been doubled in Woburn and rubber lining had been added to the bins to reduce noise.

The licence for Nonna's had been extended to seven days a week; 10am to 11pm and a noise management plan agreed. In addition, Nonna's were entitled to hold live music events on their premises for 12 days per year, four of these could be held outside. The overgrown drain in Sandy Lane had been reported to CBCllr Baker so that a clearance could take place before too much more rain was received.

**Action: JB**

The meeting with the Conservation office had been agreed for Friday at 11am.

The appeal for 102 Church Road was not on the website and CBCllr Baker had not seen any appeal documents.

Members expressed their concerns over the site plans provided with the plans for 69 Church Road and asked if Planning officers were checking these. The documents were not representative of the area and CBCllr Baker was asked to report this to the Planning department.

**Action: JB**

## 2009 Chairman's Report

Actions carried forward:

### **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. (Nov 18)

**Action: Remove**

**1994a** The Chairman was asked if dates could be added to outstanding items on the agenda. This was agreed but would take some time to update. (Jul 19)

**Completed**

**1994b** Funding had been made available to the Parish for a defibrillator. A cabinet would be needed to house the defibrillator at a cost of approximately £600. It would also require power for a thermostat and a light. Residents at Aspley Heath House had kindly agreed to site the defibrillator outside their entrance. A power supply would need to be investigated. Members agreed to the costs associated with the purchase, connection and power, it was hoped that CBCllr Baker would also be able to help with funding. Community sessions for CPR training were also proposed and Councillors agreed this would be a good idea. An article would be put in the next newsletter and any interested resident could contact the Clerk. PCllr Smith would continue to investigate connection. (Jul 19)

**Action: SS**

### **1994c To discuss a Micro Library**

A Micro Library had now been set up in the Parish. Books were being placed in wicker baskets on the back pew of the Church. It was agreed that notices would be made and put up within the Parish to inform residents the scheme was now up and running. (Jul 19)

**Action: SS**

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

A new date was to be proposed for further speeding checks later this year. (Jul 19)

**Action: SS**

It was noted that the new Openreach cabinet (no21) which is halfway up Church Road has now been properly activated after many months of delay. This enables residents, who are beyond this cabinet, to now also have access to Superfast broadband with downlink speeds in excess of 30 Mbps. This level of service has already been available for a couple of years to those residents living lower down the road and nearer to the exchange. This still relies on copper cables to all properties and the much better, FULL FIBRE, which would provide speeds of up to 1000 Mbps, is not yet available.

It was noted that all of Milton Keynes is being upgraded to FULL FIBRE and that this service is already available in all of the villages to the East, South and West of Aspley Heath, Aspley Guise and Woburn Sands.

It was agreed that the Chair would contact Aspley Guise Parish Council and Woburn Sands Town Council to seek their views and judge whether some combined approach could be developed.

**Action: SS**

## **2010 Roads and Footpaths**

**Actions carried forward:** (Sep 15)

**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.

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.

Members were not happy with the lack of work and the Clerk was asked to contact Paul Williams again. CBCllr Baker would be copied into the email so he could help progress these works.

**Action: PW/SS/JB**

**1933 Holly Walk Steps – The Rights of Way Officers from** Central Beds Council had checked the steps and agreed that repair work was needed. Members knew nothing about the pipe that faced onto Holly Walk. PCllr Smith would give details of the address to the Clerk so that the resident could be asked about the pipe. (Feb 19)

**Action: CBC/SS/D**

**1996** It was reported that Bishops Walk steps were covered in leaves. The Clerk would contact the contractor to have them cleared. (Jul 19)

**Action: DB**

## **2011 Upgrade Project/Enhancement of the Heath**

### **2012 Lights**

#### **2012a To Discuss Street Light Adoption by Central Beds Council**

Questions had been asked about this proposed scheme by the Chairman. She was awaiting a further response from CBC regarding information requested.

**Action: CBC**

## 2013 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. (Jul 18)

**Action: CBC**

**1999** Nonna's had put in an application to extend their licensing hours to 11pm seven days a week. Members discussed the application at length as they were concerned about the increased violence and noise on the High Street from licensed premises and did not want to add to these problems. However, Members felt that they wanted to support Nonna's request to be able to serve alcohol seven days a week and so extend their opening hours for the restaurant. After much discussion and a vote, Members decided they would support the extended hours but asked that Nonna's be aware of residents' concerns and keep noise levels to an absolute minimum. The Clerk would prepare a response. (Jul 19)

**Completed**

Plans were discussed for the proposed extension to 69 Church Road. PCllrs Clough and Harris took no part in the discussions under their roles as Parish Councillors. Members listened to residents' views on the plans and received information on concerns. There were concerns with the size of the extension and the encroachment onto the attached dwelling. Members were concerned with the quality of documentation provided with the plans to consider the proposals and felt that the information was either significantly out of date, inaccurate or incomplete. PCllr McQuillan was asked to contact the Planning Officer and ask for an extension as there was insufficient detail to make an informed judgement and further information would need to be supplied.

**Action: SM**

## 2014 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 would contact the owners of Croyland Cottage to ask that their hedge be cut back as bird nesting season was now over. (Oct 18)

**Action: DB/Residents**

**1972** The overhanging laurel outside 102 Church Road had been cut back by CBC. The Clerk had previously contacted the owner. CBC were awaiting details of the owner, which the Clerk would provide after the meeting, so they could charge them accordingly. (May 19)

**Completed**

**1986** The Clerk had written to the owners of 1 Silverbirches about their overhanging hedges on Heath Lane, Silverbirches Lane and Church Road which was forcing pedestrians to walk in the road. (May 19)

**Completed**

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

The proposal to make the Royal Oak an Asset of Community Value (ACV) had progressed with forms being submitted. A verdict would take 6-8 weeks. (May 19)

**Action: CBC**

**2000a** PCllr Southgate asked if a list of all houses could be sent to her for Neighbourhood Watch purposes. The Clerk would action. (Jul 19)

**Completed**

**2000b** A Facebook page had now been set up for the Parish Council by PCllr Jordan. Members could now add information to the Facebook page about ongoing issues in the Parish. (Jul 19)

**Action: AJ**

**2000c** Another way to engage with new residents was suggested in the form of a Welcome Pack. The Clerk agreed to design the initial pack for Councillors to comment on at the next meeting. (Jul 19)

**Action: DB**

**2000d** The Chairman had investigated costs for including Parish Council updates in the Hogsty End newsletter. The cost would be £30 per issue. It was decided that Facebook would be used to notify residents of any updates in the Parish. (Jul 19)

**Completed**

It had been noted that grippers had been put down on the grass verge very close to the hedge at the top of Church Road. It seemed that a resident had done this. PCllr Smith agreed to ask the resident about the purpose of these.

**Action: SS**

**2014a** There had been an increase in overnight camper vans staying at the top of Church Road close to the woods. As well as that there was also increase levels of rubbish and a number of fires started. The Clerk would contact Paul Williams at Bedford estates to advise him of this.

**Action: DB**

**2015 Finance**

**a. To discuss approving a grant for St Michael's Church**

The Church had asked about a donation for help with their Churchyard. Donations would be discussed in the November meeting but it was thought that £300 would be made available.

**b. To approve payments to be made in September**

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1071	£264.00	Clerk's salary August and September
HMRC	1072	£99.00	Clerk's PAYE Jul - Sept
D Batchelor	1073	£25.00	Clerk's Allowance and Office Expenses Jul -

			Sept
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The above payments were agreed for payment. A payment of £190 was also agreed for PCllr McQuillan who had organised the gate posts to be repaired.

**c. To agree the financial statements for July and August**

<p>Actions carried forward:  <b>2001c</b> A Member asked if a better interest rate was available. The Clerk advised that a higher rate was possible if money was invested over several weeks or months but the mandate would need to be completed first before any action could be taken. The Clerk would investigate rates available. (Jul 19)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action: DB</b></p>
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The financial statements were agreed. The Business Reserve account had a balance of £16,639.33.

**2016 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting**

	From	Subject	Action
1826	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1827	Milton Keynes Council	Draft Milton Keynes East Development Plan Consultation	Comments by 16 <sup>th</sup> October
1828	BATPC	Notice of AGM – 17 <sup>th</sup> October	
1829	Beds Police and Crime Commissioner	Annual survey	
1830	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	Newsletter - July	
1831	Beds Police	Crime statistics - June	
1832	Central Beds Council	Leisure Facilities Strategy - survey	Comments by 23/8
1833	Central Beds Council	Confirmation of receipt of comments regarding Nonna's	
1834	Central Beds Council	Confirmation of (uncontested) election costs	
1835	Central Beds Council	Notice to withdraw support for Project Involve websites	
1836	BATPC	Autumn/Winter Training programme	
1837	Central Beds Council	Street Lighting Review	Comments by 8 <sup>th</sup> September
1838	Central Beds Council	Public Space Protection Order Consultation	Starts 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept Drop-in session 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2-4pm
1839	The Pensions Regulator	Notice of re-enrolment duties for workplace pension	Re-declaration of compliance completed 19/8
1840	Beds Police	Crime statistics – July and August	
1841	CPRE	Bedfordshire Matters magazine	
1842	BATPC	London Luton Airport – Swanwick Airspace Improvement Project	

Members were advised that support for the Council's website would be withdrawn by the Project Involve group in 2021. A focus group was being set up by several Town and Parish Councils to discuss possible proposals moving forward as the majority of Councils used the same website framework. The Clerk would keep Members updated of any progress.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

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