



ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd January 2019 in the Council Offices at the rear of the Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall starting at 8.00pm

Present: PCllrs S Smith (Chair) G Clough
J Hobbs S McQuillan
A Shirville C Southgate
P Temp P Willmott

CBCllr Wells

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)

2 residents

1910 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from PCllr Towriss.

1911 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda

PCllr Willmott declared a non-pecuniary interest in the proposed development at 102 Church Road.

1912 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th November 2018 be signed as a true record of events.

1913 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council

The Open Forum commenced with concerns about the proposed development planned at 102 Church Road. A second set of plans had been received but the changes made were questioned as the plans were very similar to the previous ones. It was noted that the roof line had been lowered although it was still a three-storey building and that the position of the ramp to the underground parking had moved. Residents and Councillors discussed the plans and had numerous concerns about over development of the site, tree protection, bin storage, movement around the site, driveway access, gradient of the ramp, etc. Residents asked about the Council's intentions regarding the application and were advised that the plans would be discussed

under the relevant agenda item but they were inclined to object to them.

The Council were asked if they were aware of letters being delivered regarding a neighbourhood referral scheme. Most Members were not aware but some had received a letter and this seemed to be a community-based scheme to recommend local companies, traders, etc. The Council had no part to play in the scheme.

A resident asked when the steps in Holly Walk would be repaired as he reported the risers were now higher than the actual steps and were causing a trip hazard. Central Beds Council had been made aware of the problem and the Rights of Way team was to be contacted for a date for repairs to be made. Actions were recorded under Item 1917a.

Actions carried forward:

1700 Connection was still awaited for the street light in Sandy Lane. The Clerk was asked to get quotes for connecting the light and once these were considered acceptable an order would be placed to get the light connected.

Action: Contractor/DB

1914 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

The Cranfield Road bridge was to be closed for 14 months from May 2019.

Views were being sought on the Council's budget for 2019/20, a total increase of 4% was being proposed to include necessary provision for social adult care.

The waste collection contract was due for renewal and 7 responses were currently being evaluated. An 8-year contract would commence in October 2019 and as part of this CBC would be purchasing their own vehicles at a cost of £7million.

CBCllr Wells was advised that letters from the Planning department did not include any dates for comments to be received by the Parish Council.

1915 Chairman's Report

Actions carried forward:

1856 The 'Tommy' silhouette had been moved next to WWI graves in the churchyard. PCllr Willmott agreed to concrete the silhouette into place so it could not be moved.

Action: PW

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

PCllr Hobbs had designed a scheme for a new crossing across Hardwick Road. The details were agreed and the application was to be submitted to CBC.

Action: DB/CBC

1915a To discuss an email regarding grant funding from Living Heaths Working Woodlands

The works for this project were quite limited but Members were asked to put forward any ideas for the scheme at the next meeting.

Action: PCllrs

1916 Speeding and Parking on Church Road

Actions carried forward:

1796 A speed check session had been carried out during the week of 9th December. It was noted that several drivers were speeding but that the SID had some impact on slowing them down. Another session was to be planned for the Spring.

Completed

1917 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. CBCllr Wells asked to be copied in to emails with Chris Nicolls. PCllr Hobbs was to ask CN if all works could be completed at the same time. Paul Williams would also be chased for the Estate's contribution.

Action: CBC/PW/JH

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 and PCllr Willmott stated he would contact Paul Williams again to express this. There was also a report of a new fence.

Action: CBC/PW/PW

1797a Sandy Lane – The hole had been filled in with gravel and had been tarmacked. PCllr Hobbs would check that all works had been completed.

Completed

1917a To Discuss Holly Walk Steps

The steps were under the remit of Central Beds Council. PCllr Hobbs agreed to chase the Council to make sure that the steps were made safe for users. There had been a number of complaints from residents about the safety of the steps.

Action: JH/CBC

1918 Upgrade Project/Enhancement of the Heath

Actions carried forward:

1845 The new bench for Sandy Lane was to be chased.. PCllr Shirville agreed to organise the plaque which was to be engraved with the words '1918 – 2018 We will remember'.

Action: DB/SS

1919 Lights

Actions carried forward:

1619 Numbers for Parish Council owned street lights were to be put in place by PCllr Willmott. The map had now been forwarded to the lighting contractor.

Completed

1784 The street light on Heath Lane opposite the Mount was awaiting repair by UK Power Networks. The Clerk had chased UKPN for a connection date. They had advised the work would be chargeable and felt that the lighting maintenance contractor should repair. However, the contractor had stated the work was beyond their capability. The Clerk would contact UKPN again.

Completed

1920 Planning

Actions carried forward:

1861b Members were concerned that a house in Silverbirches Lane was having its brickwork smoothed over which was not in the planning application. An enforcement notice had been issued. The Clerk would check what the situation was with this enforcement.

Action: DB/CBC

1906 An application for tree works at Oakwood for the pruning of trees had been questioned as the attached list showed trees to be felled. The Tree Officer at CBC had been informed but PCllr Smith would contact Mr Jones again for further clarification.

Completed

1920a To discuss the planning application for 23 Church Road

The plans for an additional dwelling were discussed. There was some concern with site access and it was agreed that a Site Management Plan would be required. There were no planning objections to the development although there was a question surrounding trees. Comments were to be forwarded to PCllr Hobbs and a response sent to CBC by 8th February.

Action: PCllrs

1920b To discuss the planning application for 102 Church Road

Members felt that the objections from the last application were all relevant to the current proposal and were minded to object to the plans. PCllr Clough agreed to draft a leaflet regarding the application which would be available for the Parish to read.

Action: GC

1921 Village Matters

Actions carried forward:

1862 At present it was agreed that the current website be maintained. PCllr Willmott stated that he had been paying for the domain name for the Council's email but would now be passing this on to the Council to organise. The possibility of gaining a .gov email address was to be investigated.

Action: PW/DB

1893 Sandpit trees. Members agreed that all high and medium priority works be carried out as soon as possible. The Clerk would chase the tree contractor as the works had not yet taken place.

Action: DB/RGS	
1893a	There were problems with overhanging hedges within the Parish. The Clerk would contact Croyland Cottage to ask if they would look at their holly hedge. Action: DB
1893b	Signage for Charlewood. The Clerk had contacted the resident to say that the Parish Council would not be able to provide a new sign for Bishops Walk. A conversation would take place with Charlewood to see if they would consider providing a clearer sign. Completed

1922 Finance

a. To approve payments to be made in January

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1040	£242.41	Clerk's salary December & January
HMRC	1041	£91.00	Clerk's PAYE Oct - Dec
D Batchelor	1042	£49.75	Clerk's Allowance and Office Expenses Oct - Dec
PMG Landscapes	1043	£204.00	Clearing of Bishops Walk - December
Forde & McHugh	1044	£177.72	Street lighting maintenance April – Sept 2018

The above payments were agreed for payment.

b. To agree the financial statements for November and December

Actions carried forward:	
1893d	To consider cheque payments for Sandpit expenditure due to issues with Sandpit Charity bank account PCllr Willmott had contacted NatWest who advised that any transfer of funds would need to be done by letter. As the interest in the Business Reserve account was negligible it was APPROVED that the account be closed and all funds moved to the Current Account. The Clerk would write up the letter and forward for signing. Action: DB/PW

The financial statements for November and December were agreed.

1923 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
1755	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1756	Beds Police and Crime Commissioner	2018 Newsletter	
1757	Armistice and Armed Forces Communities	Reminder to complete report on There But Not There Event	Report to be submitted
1758	Charities Commission	Sandpit Charity Annual Return	Complete by 31/1/19
1759	Beds Police and Crime Commissioner	December newsletter	
1760	Beds Police	Crime Statistics - November	

1761	Central Beds Council	GDPR Contact details request	Completed
1762	BATPC	Clerks Salary Scales for 2019/20	
1763	Central Beds Council	Becoming a Central Bedfordshire Councillor	
1764	BATPC	Section 137 Spending for 2019/20 - £8.12	
1764	Poor's Coal Charity	Thank you letter for donation	
1765	Swallowfield Lower School PTFA	Thank you letter for donation	
1766	Bob Holland – Aspley Woods User Group	Agenda for next meeting (24 th January) and minutes of previous meeting	
1767	Central Beds Council	Budget Consultation 2019	Closes 29 January
1768	Beds Police and Crime Commissioner	January newsletter	
1769	Maydencroft Ltd	Living Heaths Working Woodlands Scheme – Information on grants	
1770	Central Beds Watch	Crime Statistics - December	
1771	Central Beds Council	Updated A421 road closures	
1772	Central Beds Council	Invitation to meet Highways Area Custodian – 31 st January	

Actions carried forward:

1878 The proposed date for the Annual Meeting was 1st May which Members agreed. The Chairman would contact Woburn Sands to confirm.

Action: SS

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed:
Chairman