



ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October 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
P Garratt G Harris
A McKay S McQuillan
C Southgate

CBCllr Baker

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)

1 resident

2017 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from PCllrs Jordan and Shirville.

2018 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda

PCllrs Clough, Harris and McKay declared an interest should 69 Church Road be discussed. There were no other declarations of interest.

2019 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th September 2019 be signed as a true record of events.

2020 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council

Actions carried forward:

1648 The timescale provided by the developer for the light to be reconnected had now passed. A letter was to be sent to the developer asking for an update again. It was also felt that should no response be received, then legal action would have to be taken. Due to the length of the ongoing problems it had been agreed to see if a temporary solution could be found. The Chairman had tried to contact the residents to ask if permission could be given to install temporary lights. PCllr McQuillan had found costs for lights but there was a lot of work required to install these and a supply was required. (May 17)

Action: Developer/SM/JT

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

A meeting was planned for 4th November at Aspley Guise Village Hall. The Clerk would contact Susan Lynch to let her know the Councillors who could attend.

Action: DB

A resident from Church Road expressed his concerns about parking on Church Road at its narrowest point close to 27 and 40. Photos had been circulated to Members so they could see the extent of the problem. The resident was unable to leave his drive on a regular basis due to cars parked on the road, it was noted that these were not residents' cars but visitors and/or building contractors. An emergency vehicle on a 999-call had recently been blocked. The addition of parking bays partially located on the pavement were discussed but this would not solve the problem at particularly narrow points of Church Road. Double yellow lines were discussed and although the Council had previously rejected these it was felt that in this situation, they would be the only possible solution. CBCllr Baker was asked for his advice on implementing these and he responded that they would be expensive to install and CBC would not look favourably on them unless there was a proven need which did not include the resident being able to leave his property. Evidence from the emergency services would help to strengthen the case along with photos and the support of residents through a signed petition. A statutory consultation would take approximately 8 weeks. PCllr Garratt agreed to liaise with the resident. In principle Members agreed to the addition of double yellow lines and noted the potential £1500 cost.

Action: PG

2021 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

Actions carried forward:

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. (Jun 19)

Action: CBCllr Baker

2008 The overgrown drain in Sandy Lane had been reported to CBCllr Baker so that a clearance could take place before too much rain was received. The location was advised.

Action: JB

2008a 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. (Sept 19)

Action: JB

CBCllr Baker provided an update on the Local Plan. This had not been accepted by the Inspector and needed substantial amendments particularly with regard to new homes at Junction 13 of the M1. It was thought the draft plan would not be completed until late 2020. Grants were now available from Ward Councillors; Members were still hopeful of a donation for the planned defibrillator.

Central Beds Council would uphold the appeal for 102 Church Road. CBCllr Baker advised Members to take photos of the trenches so they could be assessed with regard to the size of the proposed development and location. CBCllr Baker agreed to check whether a Planning Officer had visited the site.

Action: CBCllr Baker

2022 Chairman's Report

Actions carried forward:

1994b Funding had been made available to the Parish for a defibrillator. A suitable location for the defibrillator would be assessed. A power supply would also need to be investigated. 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 was to be set up in the entrance porch of the church by an interested parishioner. (Jul 19)

Action: SS

1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road

A new date towards the end of November was proposed for further speeding checks. PCllr Smith would email possible dates. (Jul 19)

Action: SS

2009 It was reported that full fibre was planned for all of Aspley Heath. Further confirmation was required. (Sept 19)

Action: AS

PCllr McQuillan offered to design a tree for the Christmas Tree Festival running from 6th to 8th December.

Tom Price had agreed to speak to Members about a Neighbourhood Plan and would be available before the next meeting on Wednesday 27th November at 7pm.

2022a To discuss the plans for a new website following withdrawal of current website in March 2020

An email had been circulated to Members with a proposal from another Parish Council who was working on behalf of several Town and Parishes to find a new provider for the website. Members felt that the proposal was a good one and asked if PCllrs Jordan and Harris could look over the details. If no other proposal was found it was agreed that the proposal from EyeLid Productions be accepted and an order placed by 20th November in order to receive the reduced price of £320 for the set up and transfer of the site. Additional costs would also be necessary for hosting and support in the region of £230.

Action: AJ/GH/DB

2023 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 had stated that CBC had installed the posts and he would chase.

The fence on both sides of the car park was falling apart and Bedford Estates had acknowledged that further works to the fencing would be carried out as part of an overall fencing update.

Action: Bedford Estates/CBC

1933 Holly Walk Steps – The Rights of Way Officers from Central Beds Council had checked the steps and agreed that repair work was needed. The Clerk had informed CBC that nothing was known about the pipe that faced onto Holly walk. (Feb 19)

Action: CBC

1996 Bishops Walk steps had been cleared. (Jul 19)

Completed

2023a To discuss concerns with parking close to 27 and 40 Church Road

2024 Upgrade Project/Enhancement of the Heath Action: Delete item

2025 Lights

Actions carried forward:

2012a To Discuss Street Light Adoption by Central Beds Council

The Chairman had still not received answers to questions raised. (Sept 19)

Action: CBC

2026 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

2013 A response had been sent to CBC for the proposed extension to 69 Church Road. A separate response had also been sent regarding the inaccurate and inadequate information received with the application. (Sept 19)

Completed

A sub-group for planning was officially created with PCllr McQuillan leading the group; other Members would be PCllrs Shirville, Harris, McKay.

The planning application for 18 Sandy Lane would be sent to PCllr McKay for a draft response.

Action: AM

2026a To discuss the planning application for 57 Church Road

PCllr Harris would prepare the response on behalf of the Planning

group. Plans were circulated and discussed. It was noted that potential works to trees needed to be made clear.

Action: GH

2026b To discuss the planning application for 102 Church Road

Although there was a covenant on this land, it was acknowledged that this could be bypassed through the payment of a fine. Several revisions had already been made in this manner to the covenant. The application was objected to and Members of the Planning sub-group agreed to meet on 5th November, time and venue to be confirmed, to discuss findings from their research of the site and compile a report before the deadline.

Action: PCllrs

2027 Village Matters

Actions carried forward:

1893a The Clerk had contacted the owners of Croyland Cottage who had agreed cut their hedge back.

Action: DB/Residents

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

Confirmation had now been received and the Royal Oak was now an Asset of Community Value (ACV). (May 19)

Completed

2000b The Facebook page had been updated and current news was being added. (Jul 19)

Action: AJ

2000c A Welcome Pack for new residents was being put together by the Clerk. Information was being added and a draft would be made available at a future meeting. (Jul 19)

Action: DB

2014 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.

Completed

2014a The increase in overnight camper vans staying at the top of Church Road close to the woods, as well as the increasing levels of rubbish and the fires, had been reported to Bedford Estates. Paul Williams had advised the fires were started by young people from outside the local area.

Completed

It was asked whether Councillors would like to have their photos added to the noticeboard so that residents could identify them more easily. Most Members were happy with this and PCllr Jordan would be asked to collate the photos for the board.

Action: AJ

Items for the next newsletter items were discussed and the following agreed; John Baker, Piers' obituary, defibrillator, Christmas tree festival, planning, Facebook, Neighbourhood Watch, micro library. The Clerk would also send Councillor roles to PCllr Clough.

2028 Finance

a. To approve payments to be made in October

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1075	£132.00	Clerk's salary October
S McQuillan	1076	£185.45	Repairs to gate posts in Sandy Lane
Central Beds Council	1077	£62.37	Election fee – May 2019
PMG Landscapes – S Pearce	1078	£144.00	Clearance of Bishops Walk
Poor's Coal Charity	1079	£100.00	Donation
The Royal British Legion	1080	£17.00	Wreath for Remembrance Day

The above payments were agreed for payment.

b. To agree the financial statements for September

Actions carried forward: 2001c 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. The mandate had now been completed. The Clerk had investigated the rates available. (Jul 19) Completed

The financial statements were agreed.

2029 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
1843	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1844	Central Beds Council	New Homes Bonus information	
1845	BATPC	Beds Parishes website closure – March 2020	
1846	Central Beds Council	Notice of Garden waste collection	Starts 2 nd March 2020
1847	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	Newsletter - August	
1848	Beds Police	Crime statistics - September	
1849	Central Beds Council	Confirmation of Royal Oak PH being deemed an Asset of Community Value	
1850	Central Beds Council	Notice of consultation on Public Space Protection Orders	Closing date 23 rd December
1851	Central Beds Council	Draft Local Plan update	
1852	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	Newsletter - September	
1853	Stondon Parish Council	Suggestion for website construction and hosting	
1854	Susan Lynch	Invitation to meeting on Oxford to Cambridge proposed corridor	Monday 4 th November 7pm Aspley Guise Village Hall

The meeting closed at 10.15pm.

Signed:
Chairman