



## ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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### Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 in the Council Offices at the rear of the Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall starting at 8.00pm

Present: PCllrs S Smith (Chair) J Hobbs  
S McQuillan C Southgate  
P Temp

CBCllr Wells

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)

1 resident

#### 1924 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from PCllrs Clough, Shirville, Towriss and Willmott.

#### 1925 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda

PCllr Temp declared a non-pecuniary interest in the Planning Application for 23 Church Road

#### 1926 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019 be signed as a true record of events.

#### 1927 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council

Actions carried forward:

**1700** Connection was still awaited for the street light in Sandy Lane. CBC were now taking this on and a connection date was being sought from UK Power Networks.

**Action: Contractor/CBC**

New fencing around the former Scout Hut site was reported to have exceeded the site's boundary. Central Beds Council were aware of this and an enforcement notice had been issued.

It was asked whether plans for a crossing on Hardwick Road would be made available for residents. This was still very much in the planning stages and there was no guarantee that the scheme would go ahead as CBC would have to agree any proposed plans. Residents would be informed if there was funding for the crossing.

## 1928 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

CBCllr Wells was asked how often the bins at the top of Church Road were emptied and advised this happened every other week. The green bins and the dog waste bins were full and it was asked whether additional bins could be installed. At least one bin past the parking area close to the cottage was required.

The contract for the proposed Woburn Estate Trail Centre in Aspley Woods was with the solicitors.

As part of The Great British Spring Clean, CBC would dispose of all waste collected and would announce the total weight of rubbish collected. Members would take part in the clean and asked if CBCllr Wells could pick up some litter pickers.

Works to the A421 were proceeding and the temporary bridge was now up. The Cranfield Road bridge would be closed for 12 months with the re-build starting in May. It was acknowledged that the diversion signs would need to be placed more carefully. There would also be a closure of footpaths over the A421 with a new bridge being built to replace them.

The budget for CBC was to be raised by 1% following a public consultation. This would mean a Council Tax charge of £1500.64 for a Band D property. £14.8million of efficiencies were to be found in the next financial year as CBC would not be cutting any services.

A public consultation on the Expressway would take place during 2020-2021 with work due to start in 2025. Highways England would announce the route this summer.

## 1929 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 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.

**Action: DB/CBC**

## 1930 To discuss an email regarding grant funding from Living Heaths Working Woodlands

Actions carried forward:

**1915a** Members discussed this and felt that the tree works in the Sandpit were the only works that could be considered at present. An application for the funding of the tree works was to be made.

**Action: DB/SS/CS**

## 1931 Speeding and Parking on Church Road

Problems with parking were ongoing but had increased with the recent

arrival of several Broadband vans and vans associated with the nearby renovations. Another Speedwatch session would take place in the Spring. PCllr Smith would check availability in April.

It was also noted that parking problems were also caused by church traffic and funerals. Although cones were sometimes put out to ensure a pull in place was available, this did not always happen. There had been some angry exchanges witnessed. The Chairman agreed to speak to the Vicar again to state how serious the situation was.

**Action: SS**

## **1932 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**

## **1933 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**

## **1934 Upgrade Project/Enhancement of the Heath**

**Actions carried forward:**

**1845** A health and safety form for the installation of a new bench in Sandy Lane had been signed and returned. PCllr Shirville agreed to organise the plaque which was to be engraved with the words '1918 – 2018 We will remember'.

**Action: DB/SS**

## **1935 Lights**

## **1936 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.

**Action: CBC**

**1920a To discuss the planning application for 23 Church Road**

Comments had been sent to CBC. No decision had yet been made.

**Completed**

**1920b To discuss the planning application for 102 Church Road**

Objections had been sent to CBC. No decision had yet been made.

**Completed**

Two new applications had been received:

**29 Church Road**

The plans were discussed and it was noted as the extension was to the rear of the property then there was no impact on the road. Comments were due by 21 March.

**41 Church Road**

It was noted that work had already started on the site. With regard to the plans Members were concerned with the significant alteration to the look of the house and the loss of the unique architectural design. There were also issues with parking. Comments were due by 26 March.

**Action: JH**

## **1937 Village Matters**

Actions carried forward:

**1862** At present it was agreed that the current website be maintained. Members agreed that the domain name for the Council's email would be transferred to the Council at a cost of £40 for 2 years. The possibility of gaining a .gov email address was to be investigated. Additional email storage had been proposed at a cost of £3 per month but it was felt this was not necessary.

**Action: PW/DB**

**1893 Sandpit trees.** Members agreed that all high and medium priority works be carried out as soon as possible. The works were planned for 6 March.

**Action: RGS**

**1893a** The owners of Croyland Cottage had been contacted. PCllr Smith offered to send photographs of the overhanging Holly hedge on Church Road to the Clerk.

**Action: SS**

Speakers for the AGM were discussed. PCllr Southgate agreed to speak about Neighbourhood Watch. Mr Ballard would be invited to speak on behalf of the Poor's Coal Charity and it was suggested that Mr Holland could report on Aspley Woods. Other proposals for speakers were welcomed. It was suggested that a small survey could be produced to ask residents what their concerns were.

**Action: DB/PCllrs**

## 1938 Finance

### a. To approve payments to be made in February

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1045	£121.20	Clerk's salary February

The above payment was agreed for payment.

### b. To agree the financial statements for January

The financial statement for January was agreed.

Actions carried forward:

#### 1893d To consider cheque payments for Sandpit expenditure due to issues with Sandpit Charity bank account

PClIr 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**

## 1939 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
1773	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1774	Beds Police	Crime Statistics - January	
1775	Beds Police	Invitation to Community Priority Setting meeting – 13 <sup>th</sup> March	
1776	CPRE	New office address	
1777	Beds Police and Crime Commissioner	February newsletter	
1778	Beds Police	Crime Statistics – early January	
1779	Central Beds Council	News Bulleting – funding of 12 Community Safety Officers	
1780	Charity Commission	Receipt of Annual Return	
1781	Central Beds Council	Great British Spring Clean information	
1782	Bob Holland – Aspley Woods User Group	Minutes of meeting 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Re-send to PClIrs
1783	Beds Police and Crime Commissioner	Letter from Kathryn Holloway regarding funding	
1784	NatWest	Changes to products/services leaflet	
1785	Love Woburn Sands	Project Report 2018	

Actions carried forward:

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

**Completed**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

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