



ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th July 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 A Jordan
A McKay S McQuillan
A Shirville C Southgate

CBCllr Baker

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)

1 resident

1989 To Receive Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from PCllr Harris. PCllr Jordan had advised she would attend the meeting slightly late.

1990 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1991 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

There were to be amendments made to Item 1972a which would be discussed under that item in the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** that once the amendments were made the minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th June 2019 would be signed as a true record of events.

1992 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council

Actions carried forward:

1700 A date within 8-10 weeks to have the street light 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.

Action: Developer

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.

Action: SS

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.

Action: CBC

1993 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.

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.

Action: CBCllr Baker

The problem with overflowing rubbish bins had been caused by Central Bedfordshire Council's new waste team not knowing where the bins were. CBCllr Baker asked Councillors to keep an eye on the bins and report if extra bins were still required. PCllr Smith advised that one bin by the woods did not have a lid. The bin outside the Chinese takeaway on Church Road had been knocked over. Members felt that a replacement was not necessary at this time.

(PCllr Jordan arrived at this time)

The kissing gate had now been fixed.

CBCllr Baker advised that any drains requiring clearing out should be reported to him and he would action.

The Local Plan was being re-written.

The Planning Officer had not responded to the Parish Council's request for a meeting. Members were concerned that Planning were not taking the Conservation Area document into consideration when granting new applications in the Parish. CBCllr Baker would attend the meeting with the Planning Officer and would chase for a date.

1994 Chairman's Report

Actions carried forward:

1856 It had been reported that The 'Tommy' silhouette would be unable to be secured. It was felt that the silhouette should be safe where it was but the Clerk would check the insurance.

Completed

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.

Action: CBC

1966a Wording had been added to the website regarding the recent passing of Piers Wilmott.

Completed

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.

Action: DB

The Chairman asked if PCllr Garratt would be interested in carrying out the Friends of St Michael Role. PCllr Garratt agreed to this and a revised list of roles would be sent out by the Clerk.

1994b The Chairman advised that there was funding available to Parishes to provide a defibrillator. Members responded positively and PCllr Smith agreed to apply for the funding initially to see what connection and installation was required.

Action: SS

1994c To discuss a Micro Library

The Chairman introduced the idea of having a micro library in the Parish. These libraries were popping up all over the County and minimal space was required, sometimes in unused phone boxes. Members were interested in the proposal but were unsure where the library would be situated; the entrance to the church was suggested. PCllr Smith would check with the vicar.

Action: SS

1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road

The Chairman would check to see if more training courses were available and it was suggested that another session would take place in the autumn.

Only two cones had been put out recently by the church. PCllr Smith would give feedback to the church on the success of extra cones.

Action: SS

1996 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. 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 PCllr Smith agreed to chase. It was felt that CBCllr Baker should be copied in to 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.

Action: CBC/SS/DB

It was reported that Bishops Walk steps were covered in leaves. The Clerk would contact the contractor to have them cleared.

Action: DB

1997 Upgrade Project/Enhancement of the Heath

1998 Lights

1999 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

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.

Action: DB

2000 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 advised that it was now bird nesting season and that it was possible nothing would be done until August.

Action: DB/Residents

1953c A Smart car with a flat tyre had now been moved following a report to DVLA that it was illegally parked. A number of cars had been clamped by the DVLA across the area as they were untaxed.

Completed

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.

Action: DB

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.

Action: CBC

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.

Action: Resident

As there were several issues with hedges these would be condensed in the next agenda to one item.

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

Action: DB

2000b It was suggested that a Facebook page be set up for the Parish Council. Members agreed this would be a good idea and residents could be informed quickly about issues. PCllr Jordan agreed to start the process.

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.

Action: DB

2000d Other local Parishes were putting information into the Hogsty End newsletter. The Chairman would investigate further to see if any costs were involved.

Action: SS

It was reported that SuperFast Broadband was to be installed on 4th August.

2001 Finance

a. To approve payments to be made in July

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1067	£132.00	Clerk's salary July
The Print Cellar	1068	£216.00	Newsletter printing x300 copies
BATPC	1069	£139.00	Affiliation fees 2019/20
Cultivation Ltd	1070	£18.00	Maintenance - June

The above payments were agreed for payment.

b. To agree the financial statements for June

The financial statements were agreed.

The balance in the Council's Business Reserve account was £16,633.59. 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.

Action: DB

2002 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
1817	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1818	Mazars	Confirmation of return of Annual Governance paperwork	
1819	BATPC	Beds Bugle - July	
1820	Beds Police and Crime Commissioner	Newsletter - July	
1821	PCC	Newsletter - June	
1822	Beds Police	Crime statistics - June	
1823	Central Beds Council	Notice of temporary closure of BOAT and footpaths for Women's British Open Golf tournament	
1824	Central Beds Council	Outstanding Declaration of Interest forms	
1825	Central Beds Council	Presentation from Town and Parish Council Conference held on 16/7	

The next newsletter would be produced in the autumn and Members were asked for ideas for the next edition. Ideas included hedges and help to cut them down, a Community Fun Day/event possibly to help reinstate the SSSI pond.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Signed:
Chairman