



## ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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To: All Councillors

23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

The Next Meeting of the Aspley Heath Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at the **Woburn Sands Town Council Offices, to the side of the Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall, High Street, Woburn Sands at 8pm**

Signed:

**2867 To Receive Apologies for Absence**

**2868 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda**

**2869 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**2870 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2814** Anti-social behaviour at the Royal Oak Pub. A resident had forwarded the email from CBC which stated CBC would speak with the landlady and advise residents that they needed to act respectfully when leaving the pub. It was hoped that residents would meet with the landlady to discuss the issues; PCllr Wilson would help facilitate this.

**Action: JW**

**2871 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2800** CBCllr Baker advised that the closure of BOAT 33 would be referred to the next Traffic Management meeting at CBC and asked if a Parish Councillor would attend to represent the Parish Council's views.

**Action: PCllrs**

**2872 Chairman's Report**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2858** Comments would need to be made on the Community Governance Review. PCllrs Jones and McKay would collate reasons for Aspley Heath needing 9 Councillors due to its unique circumstances.

## 2873 Roads and Footpaths

### Actions carried forward:

#### 2370b To Discuss New Signage for Sandy Lane to Restrict Unnecessary Access

The Clerk had contacted Francine Rainbow who had stated that the work had been ordered and that Chris Nicholl would be seeing this through. No action had been taken by CBC yet. The Clerk would contact Chris again to see if this was being actioned and copy in CBCllr Baker. The location and wording of the sign would need to be agreed. Several vehicles were accessing Sandy Lane every day and causing problems with erosion of the BOAT and access. The Chair and the Clerk would email Chris Nicoll at CBC again as no response had been made. The Clerk would email CBCllr Baker with the details for this along with a resident's concerns listed under item 2859a.

Action: SS/DB/CBC

**2831** Leaves were starting to appear on Bishop's Walk. A dry day was being waited for in the next two to three weeks and then a working group would clear the path.

Action: PCllrs

**2859** The black paint was coming off of the road where it had been painted over the yellow (unofficial) lines. CBC would either need to re-paint them or burn off the yellow lines.

Action: DB

## 2874 To Discuss a Resident's Complaint about the Road Surface on Sandy Lane (BOAT 27)

### Actions carried forward:

**2859a** A resident advised of the ongoing problems with the road surface on Sandy Lane, also known as BOAT 27. The resident advised that there was a Traffic Restriction Order (TRO) on the Lane which prohibited vehicles except for access. CBC had previously made two repairs at the top of the lane, close to the Sandpit area after the TRO had been put in place. The Parish Council had been advised that several accidents had occurred at the Sandpit, as it was frequently used by children, and there was a genuine concern that an ambulance would not be able to access Sandy Lane if there was another heavy rainfall. Francine Rainbow and Chris Niccoll had been out to Sandy Lane and had stated there was an urgent requirement for a quote from a road repair contractor. Zaria Bettles had then said that CBC would not repair the road as it was too expensive even though two residents of Sandy Lane had offered to contribute £4000 towards the repairs. The residents had asked CBC for a breakdown of the costs but had received no reply. The Parish Councillors had looked at BOAT 27 before the meeting and agreed that repairs were needed. CBC's argument that they didn't need to repair the road did not stand because all vehicles accessing the road were only using it for access. CBC had also repaired the BOAT after 1999 when the TRO came into force. CBCllr Baker asked for a letter from the Parish Council stating all the problems so that he could chase CBC. It was also noted that the Parish Council had repeatedly asked for a sign to be placed at the Aspley Woods end of Sandy Lane to advise drivers that it was a no-through road and only to be used for access to two properties. CBC had not responded to these repeated requests. The BOAT had significantly deteriorated in the years that this sign had been asked for.

Action: DB

## **2875 To Consider the CBC Parking Restriction Proposal for Church Road and Prepare a Response**

### **Actions carried forward:**

**2859b** A resident asked what was happening with the request to CBC to lower the speed limit to 20mph. PCllr Wilson advised that quite a number of residents had asked for a lower speed limit due to the narrowness of the pavement in places which meant there was only enough room for one resident to walk on it, meaning the road was often used by pedestrians. Another resident had provided a large document on problems with speeding traffic, congestion and pedestrian issues on Church Road and would forward this to PCllr Wilson. Two passing places on Church Road had been measured by CBC. They advised that a consultation would be needed from residents. The Parish Council wanted all residents on the road to be consulted as the location of the passing places would affect all of them.

**Action: JW/GC/AM**

## **2876 Lighting**

### **Actions carried forward:**

**2756** Three streetlights had been reported stolen to the police. The Clerk had put in the claim to the insurance company and the new lights had been ordered through the regular contractor. It was hoped these would be installed during the second week of November. A resident had the old lights stored in his shed but these would not be used by the Council as advised by the lighting contractor.

**Action: SS**

## **2877 Installation of CCTV**

### **Actions carried forward:**

**2741** PCllr McKay was awaiting the final quote for the installation of two CCTV cameras. It was agreed that PCllr McKay proceed with the works so the cameras could be installed as quickly as possible. The funding for this had already been agreed.

**Action: AM**

## **2878 Planning**

### **Actions carried forward:**

#### **2834 10 Silverbirches Lane**

CBC had extended the date for comments as it had not put up the relevant notice in Silverbirches Lane. The Parish Council had already objected to the plans and a response sent to CBC. It was noted that the resident's agent had sent their comments in about the Parish Council's objections. The Parish Council would send an amended response. PCllr Harris had offered to draft this.

The resident had applied for a Certificate of Lawful Development which demonstrated they had not received one for the previous application. The original planning application had lapsed so they could not rely on this for any future works. The Parish Council continued to object to the new application on grounds of excessive height. Other houses in the same part of the road were much smaller and would therefore be overlooked. The Council objected to the Certificate of Lawful Development as due process had not been carried out. The response would be sent to the Clerk by 28<sup>th</sup> October

**Action: GH/DB**

## **New Planning Applications**

## **Recent Planning Applications**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2878** 1 Sandy Lane – no objections at this stage but PCllr McQuillan would check.

**Action: SM**

**2879 Village Matters**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2687** CBC had rejected the Parish Council's request for a 20mph Speed Limit on Church Road. Feedback from residents was overwhelmingly for a reduced speed limit. Many had said they had to walk on the road as the pavement was too narrow. It was agreed to respond to the Highways Officer as soon as possible with information from the Neighbourhood Plan which supported a reduced speed.

**2843** CBCllr Baker stated that CBC had refused the 20mph speed limit. He advised that the Council should respond to the report stating their objections. CBC's Road Safety Policy should be referred to. The next Traffic Management meeting had had a change of date but this had not been put on CBC's website.

**Action: PCllrs**

**2762** PCllr Wilson was continuing to gather residents' views. Topics discussed included the Neighbourhood Plan and the narrow paths that meant residents often had to walk in the street.

**Action: JW**

**2863** It was hoped that more residents would sign up to HomeWatch. PCllr Smith would contact the previous co-ordinator to assess the status of the scheme. PCllrs Sandys Wood and Clough would look at the Facebook page.

**Action: SS/ASW/GC**

**2880 To Note the Parish Council's Response to the Community Governance Review**

**2881 To Discuss Concerns with a Planned New Bike Jump Area in Aspley Woods**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2863a** Members were very concerned about these plans as there was no mention of much needed parking and toilet facilities. PCllr Harris agreed to draft a letter to send to the Clerk for forwarding to Dominic Smith at the Bedford Estate asking for an on-site meeting to discuss the issues

**Actions: SS/LJ**

**2882 To Receive an Update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2850** The referendum would take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. A quote would be sought to print copies of all Neighbourhood Plan documents to give to the team and to have spare copies available for residents to borrow; ten copies were suggested initially. Members agreed to this expenditure.

**Action: GC**

## 2883 Finance

### Actions carried forward:

**2837** It was agreed that a new mandate be created for the Sandpit Charity account. The signatories to be added were PCllr Smith, PCllr Sandys Wood and PCllr Harris (the same as the main Council account). It was agreed that PCllr Jones be added to the list of signatories. PCllr Smith would contact the bank.

**Actions: SS/LJ**

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

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1405	£235.77	Clerk's Salary - January
St Michael's Church	1406	£300.00	Donation
Forde & McHugh	1407	£31.87.20	Three new street lights (Insurance)
Forde & McHugh	1408	£108.00	Repair to streetlight – 40 Church Road

### b. To Agree the financial statements for November and December

## 2884 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
2444	NatWest	Bank Statements	
2445	Central Beds Watch	Crime Stats – November and December– no crimes reported	
2446	Charity Commission	Annual Return for Sandpit Charity	
2447	Central Beds Council	Update on winter gritting salt scheme	
2448	CPRE	December newsletter	
2449	Central Beds Council	Leisure Strategy Parish Schedules – request to check information held	
2450	Central Beds Council	Pensions Regulator - Complete declaration of compliance	Respond by 30/1
2451	Milton Keynes Council	MK City Plan 2020 (Regulation 19) consultation	Respond by 16/2
2452	Woburn Sands Town Council	Thank you for library donation	
2453	Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner	Funding for 2026-27 – consultation – closes 16 <sup>th</sup> January	
2454	Central Beds Council	Budget consultation 2026-27 Plus Slides from T&PC Meeting on Budget update	Respond by 3 <sup>rd</sup> February
2455	Central Beds Council	Town and Parish Council update - November	
2456	Central Beds Council	Confirmation Precept forms received	
2457	Central Beds Council	Waiting Restrictions on Church Road - consultation	Respond by 12/2