



ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th January 2021 remotely starting at 8.00pm

Present: PCllrs S Smith (Chair) G Clough
G Harris P Garratt
A Jordan A McKay
S McQuillan C Marshall
C Southgate

CBCllr Baker

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)
4 residents

2146 To Receive Apologies of Absence

There were no apologies.

2147 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda

PCllr McQuillan declared an interest in 10 and 12 Silverbirches Lane.

2148 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

An amendment to minute number 1861b was to be made, changing the following sentence 'The application referred to the replacement of quoins but there had not been any on the house originally' to 'The application referred to the addition of quoins that had not been on the house originally'. With this amendment made it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 25th November 2020 be signed as a true record of events.

2149 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council

One resident was unable to speak to the Council due to technology issues. Any questions or comments he had could be sent to the Clerk who would forward them to the Council for answering.

A resident asked what the nature of PCllr McQuillan's interest was in 10 and 12 Silverbirches. He had sent in questions to the Chair previous to the meeting and asked for a copy of the Code of Conduct. The resident was advised that PCllr McQuillan had declared an Interest in these properties as a neighbour. Interest was not given for every meeting as this item was not discussed every meeting. The resident

was informed that all items discussed remained on the agenda until they had been completed. The resident felt that the Council had acted improperly and repeatedly accused PCllr McQuillan of not declaring an interest in the relevant planning application. PCllr McQuillan stated that she had acted properly throughout.

CBCllr Baker asked to speak and advised the resident that the Parish Council could not make decisions regarding Planning Applications and could only forward its view to CBC. This held the same weight as an individual resident's response. He further stated that Interests only had to be given if a decision was being made and not if an item was only noted or left on the agenda. The Monitoring Officer at CBC could be contacted if the resident felt that they had concerns with a Councillor or the Parish Council.

The resident asked about Interests declared in the November meeting. There was some confusion over whether this was the 2019 or 2020 meeting.

As the resident had used more than his allotted time he was muted. The Chair gave a response to the resident's previously submitted questions which included the statement that PCllr McQuillan had not been involved in the Parish Council's response to CBC on 29/11/2019 regarding the planning application and was also not a decision-making body. The Chair started to read a statement but a power-cut occurred as this began.

Due to this power cut in Aspley Heath all of the Councillors lost power and connection to the Zoom meeting and the meeting was halted.

When the power came back on at 8.31pm the Chair had not managed to re-join. Therefore, PCllr Clough as Vice Chair took charge of the meeting.

2150 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

Actions carried forward:

2138 CBC had confirmed they would maintain the surfacing on the Bishop's Walk steps and add noses onto each step. There was no date given for these works.

Action: JB

CBCllr Baker praised Councillors for their constructive engagement with the South Milton Keynes South Expansion meeting. The official consultation on the proposed plans and documents would open on 8th February for 10 weeks.

CBCllr Baker had met with cycling volunteers to gain their views of the current situation with regard to the woods. He had also talked to Officers at CBC to confirm the planning application for the old Steetley site was still valid. There were 42 parking spaces planned which was not felt to be enough. He suggested that the Parish Council review their comments on the application and also inform Bedford Estates of their

concerns. CBCllr Baker also stated that CBC were unlikely to confirm this application due to the lack of parking. CBCllr Baker was hopeful that the tree posts in the car park at the top of Church Road would be re-fitted and the crater would be repaired however, the huge amounts of mud would not be addressed. PCllr McKay asked if there was any leverage in asking Bedford Estates to contribute to the BOAT repairs as it was their users of the Woods that were causing the problems. PCllr Harris advised that the Longslade and Danesborough cycle tracks had been put in and the consequence was the huge additional numbers of cycle users. Bedford Estates were said to be concerned over the numbers. John Hunter was looking at different options moving forwards. CBCllr Baker felt that the opening up of the Fuller's Earth site in its current state might be an option but volunteers would be needed to collect money. Bedford Estates would also need to agree this. It was reported that users of the woods were knocking on residents' doors to use their toilets. CBCllr advised the Council of the new CBC App 'Fix My Street' and advised that any problems should be reported through the app.

The Chair had now joined the meeting.
The meeting was returned to Agenda Item 2149 so the Chair could continue reading a statement (this is attached below as Appendix 1).

2150a To Discuss Funding from Ward Councillor Grant Budget

CBCllr Baker advised that any grant awarded would need to be match-funded by the Parish Council. He asked that suggestions be forwarded to him and the most appropriate would be considered.

Action: PCllrs

2151 Chairman's Report

Actions carried forward:

1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road

PCllrs Clough and Jordan were thanked for their hard work on analysing the Traffic and Parking Survey responses from residents. A report had been distributed which included an executive summary that highlighted the key points and which PCllr Clough advised Members of in the meeting. Copies of the report including the summary were to be placed on the website and on Facebook.

PCllr Jordan advised that cannabis had been found in the woods and that dogs had eaten it and needed medical treatment. It was felt that this should be added to the report. The report would be forwarded to the Neighbourhood Plan group and use this to inform their future plans.

Action: GC

There was concern that parking at the top of the woods was very busy and there were also campers staying overnight. There were no signs advising that this was not allowed, CBCllr Baker was to ask the question. The woods were advertised on a cycling website and there were logoed vans parking up which looked like they were offering services to cyclists, promoting their businesses.

PCllr McKay asked if CBCllr Baker could investigate the status of parking bays which were partly on the pavement. (Jul 19)

Action: JB

2022a The Clerk had gained information on gaining a .gov domain name for the website. Provisional costs were £40 for the domain name and £50 per year. These were deemed reasonable and the Clerk was asked to seek further information.

Action: DB

2139a To agree the purchase of poppies for Council owned lampposts

Councillors agreed to the purchase of poppies at a cost of £60. Many residents had given positive comments about the poppies.

Completed

2152 Roads and Footpaths

Actions carried forward:

1514a PCllr Harris would liaise with Dan Doyle. It was hoped that CBC would put in the posts. A plan of all wooden posts had been sent to CBCllr Baker so that they could be replaced by CBC. The poor condition of the BOAT was also hoped to be repaired by CBC. It had been filled in recently but was already starting to erode. Although the fencing repairs were unlikely to happen in the short term this would remain on the agenda.
(Reviewed July 2020)

Action: CBC

2140a To Discuss Resident Complaints regarding Parking and Traffic on Hardwick Road

Yellow lines were to be re-painted on Hardwick Road but MKC did not see this as a priority, so no date was given for this.

Action: MKC

2116a Residents had complained about the parking on Hardwick Road and the build-up of traffic caused by this. There were also plans for the Quaker Group to hold services at the churchyard which would also increase parking in the area. There was also a lack of parking at Nonna's. It was felt that residents' views should be sought so that these could be fed back to Milton Keynes and Central Beds Councils and an officer be asked to investigate solutions.

Action: PCllrs

(To be merged with Agenda Item 2140a)

2153 Lights

Actions carried forward:

2117 The light outside 57 Church Road which had been hit by a builder's lorry had now been repaired. The owner of the company had offered to pay 50% of the costs. This offer was discussed but Members felt that the full amount should be paid as otherwise the taxpayer would be forced to pay for some of the repair. The Clerk would contact the owner.

Action: DB

2154 Planning

Actions carried forward:

1861b 12 Silverbirches Lane. Councillors were concerned with the procedures undertaken to remove the enforcement notice. The website had not been updated. The Enforcement Officer was not aware of the recent decision. There were no details of the enforcement provided. The application referred to the addition of quoins that had not been on the house originally'. The Conservation Officer was not aware of this issue either which was particularly worrying as the house itself was featured in the Aspley Heath Conservation Area booklet written by CBC. PCllr McKay was to write up a one-page summary of all the concerns regarding this application which CBCllr Baker would take to the Head of Planning

at CBC.

Action: AM/JB

2090 It was noted that 47 Church Road were installing new windows and render for which, permission had not been sought. There were concerns with the alterations and also the side elevation windows not being obscured. The Enforcement Officer was finally looking at the case, CBCllr Baker asked to be copied in on emails.
The resident had had two trees cut down without planning permission. CBC were now investigating this

Action: CBC

2142 10 Silverbirches Permission to erect the structure over the gate to the property had not been sought. The Enforcement Team at CBC had contacted the resident and advised that they would not chase a planning application but would note that none had been given. This would be accessible to interested purchasers if the property was sold.

Completed

2130a To Discuss the Milton Keynes South East Expansion

Minutes had been sent to all Councillors following the meeting. A complaint had been made to MKC regarding an interest that had not been disclosed. A summary would be added to the next newsletter.

Action: GC

An amendment to the previous minutes for Agenda Item 1861b was to be made. The new wording should read 'The application referred to the addition of quoins that had not been on the house originally'.

Application updates

An enforcement notice had been given to 12 Silverbirches for the building of a wall at the back of car decking.

71 Church Road

(PCllrs Clough, Harris and MacKay declared an interest and took no part in discussions). This would be discussed next month.

Enforcement Officers at CBC had been advised.

New Applications since the last agenda

2155 Village Matters

Actions carried forward:

2038c To Discuss Further a Neighbourhood Plan

PCllr Clough had contacted all members of the working group and had updated them with the progress so far as well as providing a 'road map'. The average cost of a Neighbourhood Plan was £7000 but as Aspley Heath was smaller than most communities it was thought the cost would be much lower. The first step was to plan a questionnaire and distribute to residents. A response rate of 27% was considered good but it was hoped the residents in Aspley Heath would be much more responsive. The inaugural meeting of the group was to be held as soon as CBC released the project plan; Tom Price was still working on this.

Completed

(To be moved to Agenda Item 2156)

2119 A resident had contacted the Council about an overhanging branch to his property. The

tree had been leaning over and was entwined with the resident's BT lines and was considered dangerous. It had now been cut down at a cost of approximately £300.

Completed

It was suggested that the tree in the Jubilee Garden may need some repair work. Members were asked to have a look at the tree to discuss potential works.

Action: PCllrs

2155a To Receive an Update on Crime Figures

No crime had been reported in the Parish in the last month. PCllr Southgate would be attending a Crime Safety meeting at CBC.

2155b To Discuss the De-listing of a Community Asset

It was reported that the Royal Oak had been sold to a private buyer. The Parish Council discussed the de-listing of the pub as an Asset of Community Value and agreed that it would seek re-listing. CAMRA would also offer their support. PCllr Jordan agreed to liaise with the new owners.

Action: AJ

2155c An East/West Rail meeting would take place shortly. PCllrs Southgate and Marshall agreed to attend. The Clerk would forward their names.

Action: DB

2155d It was reported that a Johnson's Sweepers van had unloaded concrete waste onto Church Road. It was felt that this should be reported to CBC as it was fly-tipping. PCllr Marshall agreed to progress the reporting. It was also advised that the Environment Agency could be informed. CBCllr Baker felt that Bedford Estates should also be updated.

Action: CM

2156 To Receive an Update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

An update on the Group's progress was delivered by PCllr Clough. A template had been received from Tom Price at CBC. Two meetings had been held so far and PCllr Clough was the Chair for the time being. In the third meeting on 15th February a Project Plan was to be drafted along with a proposed budget which would be submitted when seeking grant funding. Other Parish Council Plan's were to be looked at in order to get further information on likely costs. It was thought that the whole process would take approximately two years.

2157 Finance

a. To approve payments to be made in December and January

Payee	Chq	Amount	Description
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	No		
D Batchelor	1145	£72.76	Clerk's Allowance Oct – Dec, stationery, stamps and gift for Internal Auditor
S Smith	1146	£60.00	Poppies for lights
The Print Cellar	1147	£170.00	Printing of winter newsletter x 400 copies
JANUARY CHEQUES			
D Batchelor	1148	£300.00	Clerk's salary - January
Cultivation Ltd	1149	£45.00	Jubilee Gardens maintenance – Nov & Dec
Forde & McHugh	1150	£355.44	Street lighting maintenance 01/04- 30/9/2020
Forde & McHugh	1151	£480.00	Repairs to street light damaged by lorry

It was agreed that a cheque would be written out for the tree works so that payment could be made promptly when the invoice arrived.

b. To agree the financial statements for November and December

Actions carried forward:

2132a To discuss information received from NatWest on switching bank account

The process of transferring the Parish Council's bank account to the Co-op had been started by the Clerk and the switching service applied for. The Clerk would forward the necessary paperwork to the Chair who would arrange for all signatories to complete.

Action: DB/SS

2158 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
1938	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1939	BATPC	Affiliation fees invoice (Due April 2021) Beds Bugle - January	
1940	Central Beds Council	Coronavirus support leaflet	
1941	Central Beds Council	2021 Budget consultation	Running until 27 January 2021
1942	Central Beds Watch Scheme	Crime Statistics - December	
1943	Beds Police & Crime Commissioner	Newsletter - November	
1944	Central Beds Council	COVID19 Bulletin	
1945	East West Rail	Winter newsletter	
1946	Greensand Trust	Greensand County volunteering project	
1947	Central Beds Council	De-listing of The Royal Oak as an Asset of Community Value	Re-apply
1948	Milton Keynes Council	MK Futures 2050 slides from briefing	
1949	Central Beds Council	New Leader of CBC – Richard Wenham	
1950	Central Beds Council	Community Safety virtual drop-in sessions: Thursdays 7-8pm and Tuesdays 10am-12pm	
1951	London Luton Airport	Flight path proposals and consultation	Ends 5 th February

1952	BATPC	HM Land Registry survey for Parish and Town Councils	Ends 26 th February
1953	Cloudnext	Information regarding .gov domain	
1954	NatWest/Co-op	Application received from Co-op for account switching	

The consultation on London Luton Airport’s proposed new flight path(s) would be looked at by interested Members.

PCllr Smith agreed to look at the Land registry survey.

Action: SS

A resident asked if he could ask a further question, this was allowed by the Chair. He apologised for his perceived harassment of the Parish Council. He asked whether the planning application for 10 Silverbirches had been discussed and if a response had been submitted. He was advised that the application had been received after the November Council meeting and a response had been submitted to CBC in early January by the Planning Subcommittee. The Members present at this meeting were PCllrs Harris, McKay and Marshall.

The meeting closed at 9.34pm.

Signed:
Chairman

Appendix 1
Statement read by the Chair regarding Agenda Item 2149

With regard to your allegation of a vendetta by AHPC against yourself Mr **** and your partner. AHPC categorically refutes this accusation. If a planning application is identified as not following the approved plans, or a tree is removed without permission we are obliged to look into this. Enforcement notices may be considered by the CBC until the matters are resolved. This has been the case on several occasions affecting the Heath. We are lucky to live in a wonderful conservation area, with the associated restrictions it has upon buildings and trees. We as a Council help to ensure it remains so. As far as we are concerned this matter and line of questioning has finished. Any further questioning and harassment towards and regarding the integrity of this council with regard to these matters will not be tolerated. Further communication should be taken up with the CBC Monitoring Officer.