



## ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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To: All Councillors

17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

The Next Meeting of Aspley Heath Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 at 8pm at the **Woburn Sands Town Council Offices, next to the Memorial Hall, High Street, Woburn Sands**

**2457 To Receive Apologies of Absence**

**2458 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda**

**2459 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**2460 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2434** CBCllr Baker had gotten a response from the Fire Officer about checking all roads in Aspley Heath for accessibility by emergency vehicles but this had not been forwarded to the Clerk. CBCllr Baker agreed to send. (Nov 2022)

**Action: JB**

**2434a** Following a meeting of Parish Councillors it was agreed that the yellow lines opposite Narrow Path be reduced. This was expected to take place in early February. PCllr Clough had met with the CBC Highways office and had paced out a large area further down Church Road where a passing place was being considered. Positions for double yellow lines were also discussed where there were significant problems with traffic. Any further works would only take place after a new petition was made. (Nov 2022)

**Action: CBC/GC**

**2434b** It was acknowledged there were no passing places near the Church but at least one was required. However, the introduction of yellow lines might cause problems elsewhere and further views were to be sought. The leafleting of residents living close to this area was suggested. (Nov 2022)

**Action: PCllrs**

**2447** A resident informed the Parish Council that Barclays Bank in Woburn Sands was closing in April. The Parish Council were unaware of this and asked the resident if he could forward the contents of the letter so a response could be sent to Barclays urging that the bank remain open.

**Action: Resident/DB**

**2447a** Residents reported that a black cab was parking by the entrance to the woods and selling

coffee. This had led to huge problems with traffic, parking and people walking into the woods with cups and littering. CBC had said the trader had a license for Woburn Road and was applying for a new license for the top of Church Road. The Parish Council discussed the issues and felt a complaint needed to be made. This would be sent to licensing at CBC and all other relevant departments, copying in John Baker. A resident reported that CBC had said residents could not complain to them about the trader.

**Action: SS/DB**

**2447b** The huge increase of used coffee cups in the woods would need to be reported as they were polluting the area. The Clerk would contact CBC.

**Action: DB**

## 2461 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

### Actions carried forward:

**2259** Proposed new development at Marston Vale – O&H Planning Application. CBC were not happy with the proposed plan as the traffic flow had not been modelled appropriately. (Sept 2021)

**Action: O&H**

## 2462 Chairman's Report

### Actions carried forward:

#### **1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road**

The 'Twenty's Plenty' signs had been delivered but the correct brackets had not yet arrived. A resident had offered to help put the signs up, PCllr Smith would contact them. (Sept 2022)

**Action: SS**

#### **2436a To Advise of a vacancy for the Three Parishes Fuel Charity (Poor's Coal Charity)**

This would be added to the noticeboard. (Nov 2022)

**Action: SS**

#### **2436d To Discuss a Tree Planting Event**

This was agreed in principle but more information was needed from CBC. The Clerk would ask for more details. (Nov 2022)

**Action: DB**

## 2463 Roads and Footpaths

### Actions carried forward:

**1514a** Although the fencing repairs were unlikely to happen in the short term this would remain on the agenda. A resident had been injured by fencing that had fallen down and had not been repaired. This would be reported to Bedford Estate and Greensand Trust as the lack of maintenance was now a health and safety issue. PCllr Harris agreed to walk the path to help provide detailed information to BE and GT. PCllr Smith would report the increasing amount of waste at the top of Church Road to Greensand Trust. A letter drafted by PCllr Smith would be sent to CBC. It was noted that the abandoned car had now been removed. (Reviewed July 2020)

**Action: GH/SS**

**2263a** BOAT at the top of Church Road – No response had been received from Francine Rainbow the Rights of Way Officer. (Sept 2021)

**Action: CBC**

**2370a To Discuss a Resident's Concern with the Pavement at the Junction of Silverbirches Lane and Church Road**

A photo had been sent to CBC Highways but no response had been received by them yet. PCllr Smith had sent the email twice and now CBCllr Baker would investigate the lack of reply. (May 2022)

**Action: JB**

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

The CBC Rights of Way Officer had visited the site and it was hoped that a new sign would be installed soon. No response had been received from the CBC Officer Francine Rainbow. PCllr Smith agreed to email Chris Nichol copying in CBCllr Baker. (May 2022)

**Action: SS**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2437** It was agreed that a small group be set up to review parking issues and yellow lines which would provide feedback to CBC. This would consist of PCllrs Clough, Jordan, McKay, McQuillan and Sandys-Wood. (Nov 2022)

**Action: GC**

## 2464 Lighting

### 2464a To consider the new pricing structure for street lighting maintenance

## 2465 Planning

**Actions carried forward:**

**2426** PCllr Smith had written to the Tree Officer regarding the re-installation of a Holly Hedge at 23 Church Road as this was part of the original Planning Conditions. The owners had been asked to reinstate the hedge behind the picket fence on Church Road. This was felt to be in a different location to the hedge removed and would cause problems with visibility. It was agreed that the hedge should be reinstated on the Narrow Path section of the boundary. PCllr Smith agree to contact CBC with this information. (Oct 2022)

**Action: SS/CBC**

**2452** It was agreed that new wording be added to the Planning section of the website to state that the Parish Council would not email CBC unless they objected to any plans. This would limit the number of emails sent and time spent on applications that were supported or not opposed in any way.

**Action: DB**

New Planning Applications

Recent Planning Applications  
Sandy Cottage, 24 Sandy Lane  
St Michael's Church

## 2466 Village Matters

**Actions carried forward:**

**2267 To Discuss Homewatch**

PCllr Jordan had registered the scheme with Neighbourhood Watch (Sept 2021)

**Action: AJ**

**2340** It was agreed that a plaque be purchased to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's life and put on the board, PCllr Smith would organise this once the board was received. The company ordered from had had issues with sourcing wood for the noticeboard leading to a lengthy delay. (March 2022)

**Action: PNC/SS**

**2387 To Discuss the Bike Jump Area in Aspley Woods**

CBCllr Baker had repeatedly asked for a copy of the Risk Assessment. Bedford Estate had responded that they had not been given any risk assessments for the Bike Jump area. PCllr Harris would write a letter to send to the Greensand Trust asking for the risk assessment. Howard Hughes had confirmed he had seen the risk assessment. Funding for the Greensand Trust was being removed from April 2023. (July 2022)

**Action: GH**

**2440b To Discuss trees in the Sandpit**

Following the tree works, one tree was identified as needing to be inspected by camera to see if removal was necessary. The contractor had advised it was not dangerous. A tree contractor would be looking at the tree next week. (Nov 2022)

**Action: contractor**

**2440c To Discuss the Hedge in Church Road/Narrow Path**

It was noted that several hedges were encroaching onto Church Road with cars having to move into the middle of the road to avoid them. PCllr Clough agreed to collate the information and include in the Spring newsletter. PCllr Clough agreed to forward the previous letter regarding hedges to PCllr Marshall. (Nov 2022)

**Action: GC**

**2453a** A huge number of cars had parked on both Church Road and Woburn Road over the weekend. Runners had been forced into the road due to inconsiderate parking on both sides of Woburn Road. There was also concern over unsafe loading and unloading of bikes from the cars and crossing the road. CBCllr Baker had received numerous complaints. PCllr Clough had drafted a letter to Mark Conway of the Safety Advisory Group. It was noted that lots of correspondence had been sent to Bedford Estate and the Greensand Trust with no response. There was no Management Plan in place to deal with the huge numbers of users and the effect on the local community. The site was felt to be overloaded and CBC would be asked to visit at a weekend to see the impact.

**Action: GC**

**2453b** A resident on Sandy Lane had asked about implementing a turning circle outside their property using adjacent land. The Parish Council had no authority to agree or disagree to this and CBC would need to be contacted.

**2453c** A resident had mentioned that the rubbish collected after clearing away the Jubilee Garden was being left. They asked if the Parish Council could find a solution. The gardeners would be contacted to see if they could dispose of the rubbish.

**Action: SS**

**2453d** Some residents had complained to the Parish Council about lights installed onto a property in Church Road which were causing light pollution. The Clerk would investigate this further.

**Action: DB**

**2467 To Receive an Update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

## 2468 Finance

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

| Payee       | Chq No | Amount  | Description                         |
|-------------|--------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| D Batchelor | 1257   | £202.32 | Clerk's salary – February           |
| G Clough    | 1258   | £175.40 | NP Printing of questionnaires x 500 |

### 2468a To agree the financial statements for January

Actions carried forward:

**2132a NatWest bank account – new mandate forms needed.** The forms needed to be re-done as one signatory would be leaving the Council. It was agreed that more Councillors were needed as signatories to cover absences. It was **APPROVED** that all Councillors present; A Sandys-Wood, G Harris, S Smith, A McKay and C Marshall, would be signatories. New forms would be obtained and all would complete the necessary details. Once the main account was sorted the account for the Sandpit would be looked at. (Oct 2020)

**Action: SS/ASW/PG/GH**

**2443c To Agree the Precept for 2023/24**

A precept of £10,210 for 2023/24 was agreed last meeting and again this figure was confirmed. This meant a Band D contribution of £27.30, an increase of 19.5%. The Clerk would send the necessary form to CBC. (Nov 2022)

**Action: DB**

### 2469 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

|      | From                      | Subject   | Action |
|------|---------------------------|---|--------|
| 2163 | NatWest                   | Bank Statements   |        |
| 2164 | Central Beds Watch        | Crime Stats – January no crimes reported  |        |
| 2165 | Central Beds Council      | Voter ID required for upcoming elections  |        |
| 2166 | Central Beds Council      | Town and Parish Council bulletin - February   |        |
| 2167 | Barclays Bank             | Response regarding closure of Woburn Sands branch   |        |
| 2168 | Central Beds Council      | Road closures for King's coronation   |        |
| 2169 | Woburn Sands Town Council | Invite to Futures meeting – Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 5pm<br>Booking form for Hall hire AGM |        |
| 2170 | BATPC                     | Newsletter<br>S137 Allowance for 2023/24 £9.93  |        |
| 2171 | Central Beds Council      | Topic Session Invite – Design Guide – Weds 1 <sup>st</sup> March 6.30-8pm                   |        |