



ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th September 2022 at the Woburn Sands Town Council Offices, High Street, Woburn Sands.

Present: PCllrs S Smith (Chair) G Clough
G Harris S McQuillan
A McKay

CBCllr Baker

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)
1 resident
Mr Sandys-Wood

2404 To Receive Apologies of Absence

Apologies were received from PCllrs Garratt, Jordan and Mashall.

2405 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda

There were no Declarations of Interest.

2406 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Two amendments were required - Item 2355a – the quote was for £1680 by Stanton Trees and Item 2387 – G Harris had met with Howard Hughes. With these two minutes items amended, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 20th July 2022 be signed as a true record of events.

2407 To Co-Opt a New Councillor

A resident Adrian Sandys-Wood introduced himself to the Council and gave his reasons for wanting to become a Councillor. He was duly co-opted onto the Council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance.

2408 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council

It was commented that the Hogsty End had reported that discussions were taking place between CBC, Milton Keynes Council, Greensand Trust and Bedford Estate. CBCllr Baker advised that these were funding discussions regarding the end of the agreement with Greensand Trust who could not provide a list of work undertaken for the £25,000 received. The Access Agreement was to run until April 2023. Greensand Trust would only be funded by permit sales after this date when prices would be doubled.

The re-planting of felled trees in the woods, which Paul Williams had advised the Council about previously, had not occurred. There had also been further clearances which the Council had not been told about. However, it was noted that some re-planting had taken place in areas other than the felling site.

2409 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

Actions carried forward:

2259 Proposed new development at Marston Vale – O&H Planning Application. CBCllr Baker had met with consultants who could not provide any evidence for having considered traffic movements in the area. (Sept 2021)

Action: DB/PCllrs

The problem with the Parish Council not being invited to the relevant East/West Rail stakeholder meetings was hopefully solved as the Head of East/West Rail had assured CBCllr Baker they would be included in future meetings.

CBCllr Baker stated he would chase the progress on the H10 extension to Newport Road with Milton Keynes Council.

The fallen tree on Bishops Walk had now been removed.

CBCllr Baker had been discussing the overhanging branches in Sandy Lane with the local Fire Officer. He had reported this matter to CBC's Countryside Officers who would check all Aspley Heath's roads and liaise with residents about cutting back their trees and bushes.

Yellow lines had now been marked out but not painted. These were installed under an Experimental Order which would follow previously agreed locations. The final consultation of the public would take retrospectively. Residents in and around Church Road had been contacted by CBCllr Baker regarding an additional yellow line outside the pub to allow a passing place which would be installed within the next six months. It was noted that many local businesses were parking in Church Road and the area by the Church was a problem when events were held there.

Concerns were raised about conditions put on planning applications which were then disregarded in subsequent applications. It was felt that CBC were not following their own rules. It was asked whether Enforcement could actually enforce the planning conditions as this was setting a precedent in the Parish to get conditions overruled in a later planning application. It was asked if a Teams meeting could be arranged with Andrew Davie, the Director of Planning. CBCllr Baker offered to arrange this.

Action: JB

CBCllr Baker reported that he had had no response from Greensand Trust or Bedford Estate about the bike jump risk assessment and would now ask the Highways Officers to ask for it.

2410 Chairman's Report

Actions carried forward:

1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road

PCllrs McQuillan and Garratt had investigated 20mph signs. The 'Twenty's Plenty' signs were thought to be suitable and A3 signs were agreed upon. PCllr Garratt was tasked with finding approximately 30 signs so there would be spares available. Signs would go up once the poppies had been removed later in November.

Action: PG

2260 One resident had shown an interest in the Councillor vacancy. It was hoped that co-option would take place at the September meeting. (Sept 2021)

Completed

St Michael's Church was to run its annual Christmas Tree festival, with trees going up on 1st December. It was agreed that the Parish Council take part again and a sustainable option was discussed.

Action: SS

2410a Woburn Sands Town Council had been in contact regarding the upcoming Remembrance Day parade. PCllr Smith would organise the purchasing of the wreath and PCllr Sandys-Wood agreed to lay the wreath. Poppies would also be added to lampposts as per last year.

Action: SS/ASW

2411 To Agree the Dates of Meetings in 2023

The list of meeting dates for 2023 was agreed and would be added to the website.

Action: DB

2412 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 – A topological survey had been booked by CBC. Since this issue began three separate Rights of Way Officers had been involved so progress was incredibly slow. A response was still being sought from CBC. (Sept 2021)

Action: SS/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 would re-send the email. (May 2022)

Action: SS/CBC

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. (May 2022)

Action: CBC

It was reported that lots of rubbish had been dumped behind the cars in the parking area at the top of Church Road by the woods. PCllr Smith would contact CBC to report this.

Action: SS

2413 Lights

The light outside 68 Church Road was reported to be obscured by trees. These would be cut back soon.

Action: GC/AM

2414 Planning

New Planning Applications

Recent Planning Applications

2415 Village Matters

Actions carried forward:

2267 To Discuss Homewatch

PCllr Jordan had re-signed up for this scheme as membership had lapsed. She would be attending a webinar. All data held by Homewatch was stored by Neighbourhood Watch and the Police so there would be no issues with GDPR. (Sept 2021)

Action: AJ

2340 PCllr Smith would let the Notice Board company know the final lettering for the board. It was agreed that a plaque be purchased to commemorate Her Majesty the Queen's life and put on the board. (March 2022)

Action: SS

2355a Sandpit - Three quotes were received for the tree works and it was agreed that Stanton Trees carry out the work at a cost of £1680. This was scheduled for 7th October. (April 2022)

Action: Contractor

2387 To Discuss the Bike Jump Area in Aspley Woods

PCllr Harris would be meeting with Howard Hughes. The Council had concerns with the bike jump area still; these included the lack of parking, health and safety issues and there being no public toilets within a 5-mile radius. Emails had been sent to the Duke of Bedford, Greensand Trust and Central Beds on 24th August but no reply had been received. The request for a risk assessment had previously been refused. PCllr Clough would write a letter to send to the Greensand Trust asking for the risk assessment. (July 2022)

Action: GC

A tree was obstructing the sign in the Jubilee Garden and would need to be cut back. PCllr Smith would contact the relevant contractor.

Action: SS

2416 To Receive an Update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Two questionnaires were being prepared, one for residents and one for businesses. There would be a printed version and an electric one (Survey Monkey) for each, ready before the year end. Eleanor Keep at CBC would be meeting with the team to help and support them through the next part of the process. Funding for a Green Infrastructure Plan had been agreed and John Balham would be competing this by identifying key elements of Aspley Woods and protecting them from development.

2417 Finance

a. To approve payments to be made in September

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
The Parish Notice Board Company	1231	£930.00	Deposit for 'Prestige' Oak notice board
D Batchelor	1232	£186.74	Clerk's salary - September
D Batchelor	1233	£66.23	Clerk's Allowance July – Sept £25, Thank you gift for Internal Auditor £22.75, Stamps £18.48
HMRC	1234	£140.00	Clerk's PAYE July - September
Stanton Tree Care	1235	£1680	Tree works in Sandpit (as per report)
CPRE	1236	£36.00	Membership fees 2022 - 23
ST Michael's Church	1237	£300.00	Donation towards accessible toilets and entrance

The above payments were **Approved**.

b. To agree the financial statements for July and August

The financial statements were approved.

c. To Agree the Internal Auditor Report for 2022/23

The Internal Auditor Report had been circulated before the meeting and was **APPROVED**. It was noted that there were no concerns with the accounts and that the Clerk would try to set up the online VAT account.

Action: DB

d. To Agree Donations for 2022/23

Actions carried forward:

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

It was decided to stay with NatWest as moving accounts was too troublesome at this stage. The Clerk would try to call in to a branch to get physical copies of mandate forms. (Oct 2020)

Action: DB

2389c Approve the Internal Audit Report for 2021/22	Completed
2389g To Discuss the Insurance Renewal for 2022/23 It was agreed that the insurance would be held with Zurich for the next financial year at a cost of £264.00.	Completed

2418 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
2112	NatWest	Bank Statements	
2113	Central Beds Watch	Crime Stats – July (1 crime reported in AH – Injury with assault) August (1 – theft of a vehicle) both Woburn Road	
2114	CPRE	September newsletter	
2115	Central Beds Council	Free Tree giveaway	
2116	East West Rail	Meeting information from 27 June and 18 July. Meeting invite for 14 September 4pm	
2117	The Parish Notice Board Company	Quote and phot of notice board – Oak with green background £1550 + VAT	Agreed by PCllrs and order placed
2118	Central Beds Council	On street parking consultation	Closes 26 th September 10am
2119	Milton Keynes Council	Draft Parking Standards Supplementary Planning Document consultation	Closes 3 rd October
2120	Beds Police and Crime Commissioner	Meeting invitations 4 th October 2022, 6-8pm and 12 th April 2023	
2121	Ordnance Survey	Joining details for online access	
2122	Charity Commission	New Charities Act 2022	
2123	SEMK	New date for next meeting – 23 rd August 6-7.30pm	
2124	E.on	Refund on electricity account - £60.44	
2125	Beds PCC	Invitation to Annual Parish Council Conference – 4 th October	
2126	Central Beds Council	Understanding Planning workshop – 30 th November 10am – 4pm	

The meeting closed at 9.39pm.

Signed:

Chairman