



## ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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To: All Councillors

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2021

The Meeting of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting will take place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 remotely via Zoom **after the Annual Meeting of the Parish**

Signed:

**2189 To Receive Apologies of Absence**

**2190 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda**

**2191 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**2192 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council**

**2193 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report**

**Actions carried forward:**

**2138** CBCllr Baker advised that the repairs to Bishop's Walk would hopefully be completed in this financial year.

**Action: CBC**

**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**

**2194 Chairman's Report**

**Actions carried forward:**

**1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road**

PCllr McQuillan had completed a map showing proposed yellow lines and signage. PCllr Clough agreed to forward this to all Councillors. The no through road sign was concealed by a telegraph pole so would need moving. The sign for Silverbirches as a no through road had disappeared some years ago and needed reinstating. Although the entrance for 102 Church Road would be changing, yellow lines were proposed for 10m from the junction with Heath Lane. The new entrance to 23 Church Road would lead to better visibility from Narrow Path but it was felt that yellow lines might be needed still. Passing bays would be considered by the church. Currently there were no problems but this was due to less use during lockdown so a 10m strip from Bishops Walk was considered. Single yellows for

restricted hours were also discussed. It was questioned whether traffic signs were put on private roads. PCllrs would review the plans and comment on proposals.

**Action: PCllrs**

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 and 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. She would now ask Wix if it was possible for them to action this rather than using another company who were advising that the website provider should be changed as well.

**Action: DB**

**2164** The Chairman advised that PCllr Southgate had sent in her resignation. She publicly thanked her for all her hard work over the past few years. It was agreed that a thank you gift be purchased, a £30 budget was agreed. PCllr Southgate had offered to continue delivering the newsletter and updating the noticeboards and Members agreed this. PCllr Garrett offered to take over the Trees and Sandpit roles, which was accepted. The Clerk would let CBC know that there was a vacancy however, it was likely that the post would not be filled before May when the Parish Council Elections were to be held. These Elections would be advertised on the website, Facebook and included in the next newsletter to encourage residents to come forward.

**Action: DB/SS/GC/AJ**

**2178a To Discuss Advertising the Councillor Vacancy**

No action could be taken until after 29<sup>th</sup> March. If no election had been called then the vacancy would be advertised with the aim of co-opting at the May meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

**Action: DB**

## **2195 To Discuss the Accessibility Statement for the Council's Website and to Analyse the Website for Issues**

### **Actions carried forward:**

**2179** The Clerk had analysed the website for accessibility and advised that it did not fully comply. The Clerk would forward the analysis to all Councillors. The next step was to seek costs to make the website fully accessible. It was not considered viable that an upgraded version of the website known as Editor be used as this was too complex for the Clerk and would take much longer to use. The Clerk would contact Wix to see if they could offer some help and also an IT company to seek costs for help with accessibility. It was thought that the website may need to remain as it was and for the Clerk to be contacted regarding any accessibility issues, this would be added to the website once all the steps in the process had been completed.

**Action: DB**

## **2196 Roads and Footpaths**

### **Actions carried forward:**

**1514a** A discussion with John Hunter had taken place. There was concern about the usership of the woods with Greensand Trust receiving £25k to maintain the woods which was not sufficient. A conversation with England Cycling was ongoing to seek how increased cycling usage was better managed elsewhere. PCllr Clough had spoken to Bow Brickhill Parish Council who were also experiencing numerous problems. The biking area was now

encroaching into Bow Brickhill and ambulances were called out several times a month. Options for better management of the woods would be discussed at an upcoming meeting of stakeholders although Bedford Estate did not regard the situation as a priority. Possible ideas involved funding from MKC for all users and self-management by cyclists. It was hoped CBC would put up signage for all footpaths to deter cyclists from using them although some signs had already been destroyed. There were QR codes in the woods so cyclists could purchase permits but this did not stop them using non-permitted paths. Aspley Heath residents had communicated their views well but other Parish residents were not so well reported. It was hoped a solution could be found by consultation with all interested parties.

**Action: GH**

CBCllr Baker advised the wooden posts for the top of Church Road had been ordered but was unsure when CBC would be able to do the work. 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**

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**

## 2197 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 reported his driver denied hitting the light. He had asked for a statement from the builder who was present. PCllr Smith would contact the resident for the builder's information.

**Action: SS**

**2181** The light outside 13 Church Road needed repairing. The Clerk would progress.

**Action: DB**

## 2198 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 had collated all the necessary information which was almost ready to send in online.

**Action: AM/JB**

**2090** 47 Church Road had installed 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. CBC had been in contact and advised that only the cladding or rendering would need planning permission as in the application it stated the same materials would be used. John Clancy at CBC would respond. The resident had had two trees cut down without planning permission. CBC were now investigating this

**Action: CBC**

## **Application updates**

### **New Applications since the last agenda**

#### **2199 Village Matters**

Actions carried forward:

**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 Wished to re-list the pub as an Asset of Community Value. A meeting with the new owners would happen when the pub re-opened.

**Action: AJ**

**2155c** PCllrs Marshall and Harris had attended the East/West Rail meeting. They reported that four trains were to run each hour, some stations were missing from the plans and the Woburn Sands station was planned to be moved 500-600m away closer to the grid road with the shutting of Newport Road. With so many high-speed trains it was thought that level crossings were unlikely to remain. The consultation would start in March with options for all the crossing points. All Parish Councils were urged to engage with their residents and ask them to respond with their views particularly about the potential closure of Woburn Sands station.

**Action: DB**

**2169** There had overhanging hedges in the Parish. A letter had been prepared by C Southgate and would be sent to residents who needed to cut their hedges back.

**Action: SM**

#### **2200 To Discuss the Council's Response to the SEMK**

**2130a** 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**

**2169a** Two meetings were upcoming and PCllrs Clough and Harris would be attending and would also submit a question on the H10 option and the effect this would have on the Leys and Hardwick Road, and also why it was shown as a proposed corridor rather than an extension to Newport Road. PCllr Marshall also expressed an interest in attending. CBCllr Baker responded that the MKC designated area did not include Newport Road and felt MKC should be asked to move the boundary although it was outside its remit. If the V11 was put in and the H10 not extended he felt that this would be a worse proposal. A question was asked about plans for Bow Brickhill. There was a proposed bypass from the station to the other side of the village which would go through a field. There was no detail on this yet just a reference to a 'restricted traffic junction' which was not clearly understood. PCllrs Clough and Harris agreed to prepare the Parish Council's response to SEMK.

**Action: GC/GH**

**2185** The first draft response had been circulated. Two meetings had been attended and although a question had been asked, there had been little response to it regarding the H10 extension. It was stated that this was outside of the development envelope and there was no comment on the potential closing of the Woburn Sands crossing. There was no answer about a compulsory purchase of land to enable a crossing even though it could be added to the 2024 Local Plan. SEMK would not answer any questions about the crossing until the East-West rail consultation had taken place. Residents would be encouraged to voice their views as the proposals would impact on lots of small villages in the area. PCllr Harris would send a letter to the local MP and PCllr Clough would send an updated draft of the Council's response.

**Action: GH, GC**

**2201 To Discuss the East West Rail Proposals and Subsequent Response**

**2202 To Receive an Update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

**2203 Finance**

**a. To approve payments to be made in April**

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
TBC	1152	£TBC	Allocated for tree removal on Sandy Lane
MARCH CHEQUES			
D Batchelor	1157	£25.00	Clerk's Allowance – January - March
HMRC	1158	£114.20	Clerk's PAYE – January - March
St Michael's Church	1159	£300.00	Replacement cheque (Nov issue)
APRIL CHEQUES			
D Batchelor	1160	£178.35	Clerk's salary - April
Forde & McHugh	1161	£355.44	Street light maintenance 1/10/20-31/3/21
E.on Energy Ltd	1162	£881.08	Street light electricity 1/4/20-31/3/21

**b. To agree the financial statements for March**

Actions carried forward:

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

Paperwork had been sent to the Co-Op regarding switching the Council's main account. However, there would be a monthly charge to maintain the account and this was not felt to be fair. Therefore, the Clerk would apply for the Sandpit account to be switched to the Co-Op with all details remaining the same. It was agreed that the Metro Bank be contacted and the main Parish Council account be switched over to them as they offered free banking for organisations with a balance of over £5000.

It was agreed that PCllr Garratt be added as a signatory when this was possible.

**Action: DB**

**2204 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting**

	From	Subject	Action
1971	NatWest	Bank Statements	

1972	East West Rail	Consultation Documents	<b>Review &amp; comment by 9th June</b>
1973	Keep Britain Tidy	Great British Spring Clean promotion	28 May – 13 June
1974	SLCC	Membership renewal information	<b>Due 1<sup>st</sup> June</b>
1975	Greensand Country	Request for delivery address for Greensand booklets	<b>Agree who will receive booklets</b>
1976	Came & Company	Insurance renewal documentation	<b>Review at May meeting</b>