



ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Denise Batchelor
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Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 30th September 2020 remotely starting at 8.00pm

Present: PClrs S Smith (Chair) G Harris
S McQuillan C Marshall

CBCllr Baker

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)

2109 To Receive Apologies of Absence

Apologies had been received from PClrs Clough, McKay, Garratt, Jordan and Southgate.

2110 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda

PCllr McQuillan declared an interest in any discussion relating to 12 Silverbirches Lane.

2111 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

A small amendment was to be made to Agenda Item 1514a to show it had been reviewed in July 2020. With this amendment made, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 22nd July 2020 be signed as a true record of events.

2113 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council

There were no residents present.

2114 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

CBCllr Baker asked if the Parish Council would be making any comments on the South East Milton Keynes (SEMK) development.

He felt it was increasingly likely that new housing could be allocated to the north of Aspley Guise in a future CBC Local Plan. This would impact on the local area and CBCllr Baker expressed concern about the grid roads and their connection to Bow Brickhill Road and Newport Road. It was hoped that the development would provide funding for the local area and CBCllr Baker suggested that Aspley Heath could ask for money for improved and extended parking facilities for access to Aspley woods.

2115 Chairman's Report

Actions carried forward:

1994b The defibrillator cabinet had now been installed and would need checking on a monthly basis. (Jul 19)

Action: Completed

1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road

Lynne Roberts had become the official SpeedWatch coordinator and was asking for volunteer helpers. PCllr Garratt had researched options and advised that should a 20mph limit be preferred a questionnaire and speed survey would need to be carried out as part of a statutory consultation. Traffic calming measured could also be considered, these would need partial funding. (Jul 19)

Action: PCllrs

2009 Full Fibre (FTTP) There was no further update. However, a resident had asked how much a private connection would cost and was advised it would be £12,000 to install. PCllr McQuillan advised on a scheme in Scotland where residents requested individual quotes but could receive substantial discounts when asking for the work communally when approaching the supplier. It was suggested that this scheme be investigated further to see if the same scheme was running. (Sept 2020).

Action: SM

2022a The Clerk had asked the Partnership Team a CBC to help progress a .gov domain name for the website.

Action: DB

2073b To discuss celebration of a resident's 100th birthday

The celebration of a resident's 100th birthday on 9th July had been held Saturday 11th July and photos were to be added to the website.
(Apr 2020)

Completed

2086 The plaque had been ordered for the bench and had been fixed. (May 2020)

Completed

2116 Roads and Footpaths

Actions carried forward:

1514a PCllr Harris had circulated a comprehensive update following the meeting held with Bedford Estates regarding the area at the top of Church Road. Forestry works were planned between August and October which would necessitate the closing of both the Church Road car park and partial closure of the one in Longslade Lane. It was stated that the Estate would need to inform the Parish Council of the dates of the work and put up adequate signage which also advised that there would be no turning for large lorries at the top of Church Road. It was not likely that any repairs would take place until after the forestry works but they had been noted by the Estate. 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 to Aspley Heath Lodge was attributed in part to the logging lorries during last forestry works. PCllr Harris was to gain an update on the pathways which needed work and also the replacement for Bob Holland. (Reviewed July 2020)

Action: BE/JB/GH

2116a To discuss hedges in the Parish

The hedges had now all been cut back.

Completed

2116a To Discuss Resident Complaints regarding Parking and Traffic on Hardwick Road

Two 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

2117 Lights

The light outside 57 Church Road had been hit by a builder's lorry, as witnessed by the Clerk. A quote was to be sent to the resident so they could contact the builder for payment.

Action: DB

2117a Central Beds Council would carry out asset testing on all the lights. A summary would be produced with works needed and a cost for CBC adopting the lights.

2118 Planning

Actions carried forward:

1861b 12 Silverbirches Lane. Councillors were concerned with the procedures carried out on this application. The website was not updated and the Enforcement Officer was not aware of the recent decision. There were no details of the enforcement provided. The application referred to the replacement of quoins but there had not been any 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 received a poor response from the CBC Officer, Richard Proctor who would not provide any further information. The Clerk had checked emails for the original information given to CBC. (Jul 19)

Action: CBC

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 had been contacted but no response had been received within the designated 21 days. CBCllr Baker would chase the Officer.

Action: JB

2090a To discuss the Planning Application for 23 Church Road

The application had been withdrawn and the resident was to speak with Andy Jones regarding a tree survey. It was unsure whether the plot of land had been sold.

Application updates

New Applications since the last agenda

2 Silverbirches Lane – no concerns except for parking of vehicles during works

3 Silverbirches Lane – draft response had been prepared. There were issues with access, being out of character and additional fencing/wall causing visibility issues at junction with Heath Lane and Silverbirches Lane.

Tree Applications

Charlewood Lodge – PCllrs Smith and Marshall would comment on but there was concern about the removal of a tree in the Conservation Area.

Action: SS/CM

2118a To Discuss the Milton Keynes South East Expansion

Members discussed the proposed plans and decided that a Zoom meeting would be held to gain the views of all Councillors. An email would be sent to find a suitable date. There was no further news on the East-West rail link to consider. A comment was made that additional roads would hinder MKC's plans to be more sustainable as this would encourage more cars.

Action: PCllrs

2119 Village Matters

Actions carried forward:

2000c A draft of the Welcome Pack had been circulated. A few amendments were suggested and would be incorporated. (Jul 19)

Action: SS/GC

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.

Action: CBC

2119 A resident had contacted the Council again about an overhanging tree to his property. A large branch had fallen off and luckily had not caused any damage but the resident was worried that this might happen again and immediate action was required to prevent damage. Bedford Estate had claimed ownership of the tree. The Clerk would email both John Hunter and Scott Lamont to ask that works be undertaken as soon as possible.

2119a To Discuss an increased donation to St Michael's Church

It was agreed that a one-off donation of £200 be made to the church to aid them during this year's pandemic. This was in addition to the £300 yearly donation.

2120 Finance**a. To approve payments to be made in September**

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
S Smith	1128	£55.00	Brass plaque for P Willmott (TrophyToo)
HMRC	1129	£104.40	Clerk's PAYE July - Sept
D Batchelor	1130	£71.09	Clerk's Allowance & office expenses July - Sept
S Smith	1131	£35.46	Replacement chq for no. 1095 dated 26/2/2020
D Batchelor	1132	£285.60	Clerk's salary August & September (Includes backdated salary adjustment from 1/4/2020)
Cultivation Ltd	1133	£18.00	Maintenance of Jubilee Garden - August
St Michaels Church	1134	£200.00	One off donation covering COVID19 period

The above payments were approved.

b. To agree the financial statements for July and August

The financial statements had been circulated before the meeting and were agreed.

c. To receive and note the Annual Internal Audit Report for 2019/20

The Internal Audit report had been circulated and was **APPROVED**. There were no issues found within the accounts.

d. To Agree the Clerk's salary for 2020/21

Member's had been circulated the new salary scales for 2020/21 with the updated Cost of Living award. It was decided that the Clerk be moved from Spinal Point 11 to Spinal Point 12 which equated to £11.53 per hour or £2,075.40 per annum (pro rata) in recognition of her work on setting up and running the new website.

2121a To Agree Meeting Dates for 2021

The meeting dates were agreed as follows:

- Wednesday 27th January
- Wednesday 24th February
- Wednesday 24th March
- Wednesday 28th April - Annual Parish Meeting (Memorial Hall)
- Wednesday 26th May
- Wednesday 30th June
- Wednesday 28th July
- Wednesday 29th September
- Wednesday 20th October

Wednesday 24th November

2121 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
1912	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1913	Central Beds Council	Garden Waste bins to be issued from 17/8	
1914	Central Beds Council	Update bulletin for Town and Parish Councils	
1915	Central Beds Council	Update on A421 dualling project	
1916	Central Beds Council	Crime Statistics - July	
1917	Woburn Sands TC	Information on Danesborough Hill Fort	
1918	CPRE	Response to CBC's Consultation on Additional Evidence for Local Plan	
1919	BATPC	Invite to AGM – 21 st October	
1920	SLCC	Updated salary scales from 1/4/2020	
1921	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	Annual Survey 2020	

No crime had been reported in the Parish during August 2020.

PCllr Smith would continue to research signage for Danesborough Hill Fort and suggested asking CBCllr Baker for funding.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Signed:
Chairman