



ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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22nd February 2024

The Next Meeting of the Aspley Heath Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 8pm at the **Woburn Sands Town Council Offices next to the Ellen Pettit Memorial Hall, Street, Woburn Sands**

Signed: *D. Batchelor*

- 2594 To Receive Apologies for Absence**
- 2595 To Note Declarations of Interest relating to Items on the Agenda**
- 2596 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 2597 Open Forum – Members of the Public are Invited to Speak to the Parish Council**

Actions carried forward:

2434a CBC had not removed the unauthorised yellow lines at the bottom of Church Road. (Nov 2022). As this had still not been addressed it was asked that Councillors use the 'Fix My Street' section of the CBC website to report this as an issue in the hope that numerous complaints would result in their removal.

Action: CBC

2544 Two residents of Church Road complained about the anti-social behaviour faced by them and other residents from users of the pub. The food truck was also causing problems as it was parked on the road and pavement. It was reported cones were put out at 5pm, and there were trailing wires across the path. The Clerk had contacted Jo Borthwick at CBC.

The Chair of the Greensand Trust had requested a meeting to discuss the long term management of the woods. It was suggested that they be invited to the February or March Meeting.

Action: AJ/SMcQ/DB

2598 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

Actions carried forward:

2259 Proposed new development at Marston Vale – O&H Planning Application. (Sept 2021)
A detailed response had been received from CBC in which they had agreed to look at the impact on local roads. Vehicle counts were taking place on Hardwick Road and Brickhill Road.

Action: CBC

2545 A huge pot hole had been reported to CBC by PCllr Marshall. No repairs had yet been made to other potholes and the damaged a drain/man-hole cover and surrounding pavement. CBCllr Baker would be asked to check with CBC when this was happening. PCllr Smith agreed to check the pothole.

Action: JB/SS

2599 Chairman's Report

2600 Roads and Footpaths

Actions carried forward:

2263a BOAT at the top of Church Road – CBCllr Baker advised that an experimental traffic order was in progress and the BOAT was to be temporarily closed from the turning circle in Aspley Heath up to the MK boundary. CBC would be ordering steel gates to close off the BOAT to traffic and had acknowledged that the damage to trees were serious and repair work would be difficult. A key to the gates would be held by Bedford Estate. There would be a statutory consultation in due course. PCllr Smith would email CBC to ask what was happening as they had not made any contact with the Parish Council.

Action: CBC/SS

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

It was reported that new tarmac had been added to improve the junction. This would be checked by PCllr Smith. It was reported that GigiClear vans were illegally parking on yellow lines and also the pavements which would cause additional problems to surfacing. PCllr Smith agreed to add this to FixMyStreet.

Action: SS

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) No response had been received from the CBC Officer Francine Rainbow despite several months passing. PCllr Smith would contact CBC again.

Action: CBC/SS

2601 Lighting

2561a To Discuss a Resident's Offer to Help Source Replacement Lighting for the Parish

A resident had been very helpful in researching new LED lights for the Parish Council and could help source these at cost price. The Clerk would contact Aspley Guise Parish Council to see which lights they were using as they were thought to be of a heritage design.

Action: DB

2602 Planning

New Planning Applications

Recent Planning Applications
Stamford House, The Square
Sandy Cottage, 24 Sandy Lane
Flat 8, Charlewood House

2589 Planning

47 Church Road – new single storey detached double garage

The Planning department at CBC had previously refused permission for a garage. The Conservation Officer had stated the garage was not in keeping and had objected to the plans. The plans submitted, omitted details including the steep gradient on the proposed site. The garage would need space for a bike shed which was not included in the plans. It was felt the design with a pitched roof would be very prominent on the site, there was no bike shed included, the proposed materials were not in keeping with those used in the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan specifically excluded the proposed materials. PCllr Harris would draft a response for the Clerk to send.

Action: GH/DB

2603 Village Matters

Actions carried forward:

2267 To Discuss Homewatch

The Homewatch scheme was in place and information was on the noticeboard. The Clerk would put information on the website once received.

Action: DB

2340 A planter was being researched for the new notice board. A grant of £250 had been agreed from the Ward Councillor Grant scheme for this. It was thought that the planter may need to be built up as it was on a slight slope. (Sept 2023)

Action: SS/SMcQ/LJ

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

Work had taken place on hedges to reduce width. However, some hedges still needed cutting back as cars were moving further into the road to avoid them. There were still problems with the height of some hedges. Letters were to be handed out to residents by PCllr Marshall. Information would be added to the newsletter as well.

Action: CM/GC

2550 Newsletter - PCllr Clough asked that articles be submitted ready for delivery in the third week of February. for the next newsletter.

Action: PCllrs

2563 Residents from Aspley Court had asked for a 20's plenty sign close to their home. It was decided to move the sign nearby so that it was more prominent so that there were more reminders of residents' crossing. The residents had also requested a crossing as it was dangerous for them to get across Church Road due to speeding cars. CBCllr Baker was discussing this with CBC but it was felt unlikely that this would be actioned.

Action: PCllrs

2563a The steps at Holly Walk had been rechecked by the Clerk and were found to be passable but would benefit from some work especially at the top of the path where it was very overgrown. PCllr Sandys-Wood agreed to check on Holly Path to see what work was needed. The Clerk would report Bishops Walk on FixMyStreet as it needed clearing.

Action: ASW/DB

2577a The gate to the Sandpit had rotted and fallen off. New posts were needed and quotes would be sought. The low wooden fencing would also need to be replaced.

Action: PCllrs

2604 To Receive an Update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

2605 Finance

a. To approve payments to be made in February

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
Signs of Chester Ltd	1309	£930.00	Notice board balance (agreed at Jan meeting)
D Batchelor	1310	£218.02	Clerk's salary – February

b. To agree the financial statement for January

2579c To identify any new expenditure to add to the 2024-25 Precept before final approval at the January meeting

The draft budget was circulated and discussed. The donation for the library in Woburn Sands would be increased by £75. Additional funds for the Poores Coal Charity would be released from Reserves if a larger number of people asked for help.

Completed

2592c To Agree the Precept for 2024-25

The Precept for 2024-25 was **APPROVED** at £10,210. This was a £1 decrease from the previous year. The Clerk would send the relevant paperwork to CBC.

Action: DB

2606 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
2253	NatWest	Bank Statements	
2254	Central Beds Watch	Crime Stats – January & part February – no incidents	
2255	Central Beds Council	Response to licencing email	
2256	Central Beds Council	Receipt of Precept request	
2259	East West Rail	Next meeting – 12 th March	