



ASPLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Aspley Heath Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd July 2020 remotely starting at 8.00pm

Present: PCllrs S Smith (Chair) G Clough
P Garratt G Harris
A McKay S McQuillan
C Southgate

CBCllr Baker

In Attendance: Mrs D Batchelor (Clerk)

2 residents

2109 To Receive Apologies of Absence

Apologies had been received from PCllr Jordan and also prospective Councillor Chris Marshall.

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

PCllr McQuillan declared an interest in Agenda Item 1861b and was not present for this item.

2111 To Agree the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The following amendments were made to the minutes of the previous meeting:

Agenda Item 2099b Planning – Planning – G Harris, A Mackay, S McQuillan, an extra Councillor would be welcomed and this would be offered to any new Councillor, S Smith to assess Tree Applications

Agenda Item 2099c Footpaths including Aspley woods – G Harris, A Jordan, C Southgate

Agenda Item 2100 To be added to end of item - This was confirmed as possible and the Parish Council would welcome articles from residents as they had in the past.

It was **RESOLVED** with these amendments that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th June 2020 be signed as a true record of events.

2112 To Co-Opt a New Councillor

One resident had put their name forward and Chris Marshall was duly co-opted onto the Parish Council. As he was unable to make the

meeting all required documents would be sent to him as soon as possible.

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

Actions carried forward:

2084 A resident of Narrow Path had asked if a round mirror could be installed to ease access out of the junction with Church Road. Councillors were amenable to this suggestion however, a current planning application would open up the junction considerably and there may be no need for a mirror.

If residents wanted the re-painting of white lines outside the entrance to Narrow Path they were encouraged to contact the Council to progress. As no further information had been received from residents this item was agreed to be removed from the agenda.

Completed

2114 Central Bedfordshire Councillor Report

Development in South East Milton Keynes was discussed. CBCllr Baker advised there was little detail in the Local Plan about the necessary road over the railway line. The process had been paused for now but it was hoped that more residents would take part and provide their views.

Some of the Councillors showed interest in joining the group and residents would also be encouraged to participate.

CBCllr Baker gave an overview of the Parish Council's planning responsibilities as a statutory consultee.

It was asked whether there was consultation between neighbouring authorities, CBCllr Baker was hoping to increase this. He also confirmed that the Parish Council could comment on neighbouring plans.

2115 Chairman's Report

Actions carried forward:

1994b The defibrillator cabinet had now been installed and would be switched on the following day. Details would be sent by the Chairman to add to Facebook and the Website. (Jul 19)

Action: SS/DB/AJ

1995 Speeding and Parking on Church Road

Lynne Roberts offered to become the SpeedWatch coordinator and agreed to go on the relevant course. She advised of more residents who would be interested in helping out. The possibility of reducing the speed to 20mph was discussed but this usually needed evidence of speeding to be enforced. Although residents and Councillors felt that there was speeding on Church Road, this would need to be investigated further. CBCllr Baker had previously advised the Council of a data capture method that used Google to record speeds of cars. He offered to research into this further. (Jul 19)

Action: JB

2009 Full Fibre (FTTP) CBCllr Baker was chasing a response from the relevant CBC Officer. GigiClear had a five-year plan which the Aspley heath upgrade would be built into. Open Reach were currently working on getting fibre to the houses furthest away from the cabinet. (Sept 19)

Action: JB

2022a The new website was now up and running and information was being added. A .gov domain

had not yet been received and the Clerk would chase.

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)

Action: SS

2086 The plaque had been ordered for the bench at the top of Church Road and was ready to be collected from TrophyToo. It had cost £55. PCllrs Smith and Southgate agreed to organise the fixing of the plaque. (May 2020)

Action: SS

2115a To discuss Danesborough Hill Fort

It was unclear which parish the hill fort was located in but was felt to be in Wavendon Woods just to the west of the Aspley Heath border. The Chairman was interested in siting an information board close to the site for visitors. An actual location would be checked first.

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. (Sep 15)

Action: BE/JB

2116a To discuss hedges in the Parish

It was noted that two houses had hedging hanging over the footpath, the Clerk would send the appropriate letter.

Action: DB

2117 Lights

Actions carried forward:

2089 CBCllr Baker had asked for an update on the condition of CBC owned street lights in the Parish. A street light in Heath Lane, identified by CBC, was not actually present. PCllr McKay agreed to send CBCllr Baker a map of street lights with the missing street light indicated. The light was not found. CBCllr. As the light was incorrectly allocated there was no further action to take. (May 2020)

Completed

It was noted that a Mr Brian Clarke from Aspley Guise had offered to help with any street light issues.

2118 Planning

PCllr McQuillan was removed to the Waiting Room at 9.09pm. PCllr Clough become the Zoom host for this agenda item.

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 was asked to check emails for the original information given to CBC. (Jul 19)

Action: DB/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.

Action: CBC

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.

Action: Planning

It was noted that a large area of land behind 12 Silverbirches had been cleared with trees and shrubs being removed. The land was owned by Bedford Estates.

PCllr McQuillan returned to the meeting at 9.29pm to discuss item 2090, 2090a and the new planning applications below.

New Applications

102 Church Road – demolition of existing house and erection of two detached dwellings. The Planning sub-committee would discuss the plans.

There was a Tree Application at 10 Silverbirches to fell a Tree of Heaven which had a TPO on it. PCllr Smith would look at this.

14 Church Road – works to a Sycamore tree

Deer Walk – bay tree

Approved Applications

Alderman's Place – rear extension – permitted development and works to front facades

2119 Village Matters

Actions carried forward:

2000c A Welcome Pack for new residents had been put together by the Clerk. The Chairman would forward this to PCllr Clough for formatting and presentation enhancement. The pack would also be available via the website and Facebook. (Jul 19)

Action: SS/GC

2027 As all Councillors were present a screenshot was taken of the meeting and would be used as photographs for all media. (Oct 19)

Completed

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

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.

Action: DB

2119a To organise a litter pick

Some residents had asked whether a litter pick could take place on Sandy Lane. This was organised for Wednesday 29th July at 3pm, meeting in the car park at the top of Church Road. The Chairman would put information on the notice board in case more residents wished to join.

2120 Finance

a. To approve payments to be made in July

Payee	Chq No	Amount	Description
D Batchelor	1125	£132.00	Clerk's salary June
D Batchelor	1126	£132.00	Clerk's salary July
Came & Company	1127	£349.94	Insurance 20/7/20-19/7/21

The above payments were approved. The chequebook would be forwarded to signatories in the next few days.

b. To agree the financial statements for June

The financial statements had been circulated before the meeting and were agreed. A question was asked about the cheque payment to Halifax PLC. This was a replacement cheque for the work carried out by PMG Landscapes in the financial year 2019/20 where the payee was incorrect.

It was advised that there would need to be a budget set for the Neighbourhood Plan works. This would be discussed at the November meeting. More information would be needed to plan for the project.

c. To note the Insurance Renewal for 2019/20

The Council had agreed to a three-year deal so the renewal was noted, this was the second of three years.

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

The Internal Audit would take place at the end of July/beginning of August.

e. To Approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2019/20

The Annual Governance statement had been circulated before the meeting and was **APPROVED** by Members. The Statement would be passed to the Chairman for signing.

f. To Approve the Accounting Statements for 2019/20

The Accounting Statements for 2019/20 were **APPROVED**.

g. To Complete and Sign the Exemption Certificate for 2019/20

The Exemption Certificate was agreed and completed.

2121 To Note Correspondence Received Since the Last Meeting

	From	Subject	Action
1907	NatWest	Bank Statements	
1908	Beds Police Crime Commissioner election	Introduction letter from Conservative candidate – Festus Akinbusoye	
1909	CPRE	Oxford-Cambridge arc	
1910	Central Beds Council	Remittance advice	
1911	Central Beds Council	Crime Statistics June	

It was suggested that at the September meeting a date could be arranged for the new Police and Crime Commissioner to attend a future meeting.

The Chairman thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Signed:
Chairman