

Minutes of the Aspley Guise Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 3rd October 2011 in the Village Hall. The Meeting began at 7.30pm

Present: Mr I Outram (Vice Chairman in the Chair), Mr R Brown, Ms F Fry, Mr P Harbottle, Mrs P Hawley, Mr R Martin, Mr A Saxby, Mr P Sinnott and Mrs T Willis. Also in attendance (part time) was Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mr B Wells. Mr I Pickering was able to join the meeting after it had started.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Ali.

2. Open Forum

A5-M1 Link

Mr Wells reported that the A5-M1 link, the future of which had been in doubt was now safe, due to Government funding to improve business for Central Bedfordshire. The scheme is now approved by the Secretary of State and work is planned to start in 2014 following public consultation and an inquiry next year. This will lead eventually to lorries being banned from Woburn.

Leisure Centres

Central Bedfordshire Council is developing its leisure strategy and has discovered that some of the leisure centres have been badly run. Flitwick Leisure Centre will stay open and facilities will be improved.

Budget

Central Bedfordshire is planning a zero council tax increase for next year. Mr Wells urged councillors and residents to respond to the budget consultation which is being circulated at the moment and is also available on the Council's website. The Budget will be presented to the full council next February for their approval.

Super Fast Broadband

Central Bedfordshire has received £1.06m in Government funding for the installation of improved Broadband services to 21,000 households in Central Beds.

Parking Management

The Draft Parking Management Strategy is out for consultation at the moment and comments are invited on the strategy; the cost of parking tickets, use of parking zones, i.e. outside schools and hospitals and disabled parking. The automatic number recognition mobile unit is being developed which will recognise if vehicles have the right to park in certain areas.

Highways Maintenance

Consultation on this is now drawing to a close and Ameys will draw up plans for priorities for the three year rolling maintenance programme.

Libraries

There will be no library closures although the mobile library service has been withdrawn.

Police

The Police Authority will end next year with a new Police Commissioner to be appointed. Bedfordshire have joined with Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire and Peter Coniff has been re-elected as commissioner for this last year. An increased number of police officers will be available and the new 101 telephone number for non emergencies goes live this week.

Refuse Collections

A new Government initiative is offering councils funding to return to the weekly refuse collections. Central Bedfordshire is not in favour of this measure as recycling is on the increase in the county since the introduction of alternate weekly collections in 2007. Food recycling is also improving since the introduction of the weekly collection of food refuse. The cost of re-implementing weekly collections would outweigh its benefits. Central Bedfordshire also anticipates the BEAR project to be up and running by 2016. It was stated that in the current Parish Plan Questionnaire currently being circulated in the village there is a question about residents' satisfaction over the current alternate week collections. Mr Wells will be given feedback on the results of this question.

The Blue Orchid

Councillors queried why the Blue Orchid continued to be open with the damaged rooms still being occupied following the impact from the lorry. It was stated that the head of Building Control had issued a Notice and if this is not complied with the business could be shut down. The time limit is about to expire on the Notice. Mr Wells will speak to him this week.

Nampak S106 Money

Mr Harbottle queried what the Section 106 money for Phase 3 of this site will be used for. Mr Wells said he would speak to the Planning Dept to ask them to contact Milton Keynes Planners about this.

Woburn Lane

Mrs Hawley stated that there were still problems with raw sewage seeping from manholes in Woburn Lane leading to it flowing down the lane and running into gulleys as well as running into the Square due to gulleys being silted up. Mr Wells agreed to find out from Mr Trille when the drainage in Woburn Lane would be investigated.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

It was proposed by Mrs Willis and seconded by Ms Fry, with all in agreement, that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th September were a true record of events.

4. Matters Arising

Action Log

Most of the actions reported were in progress. Mr Trille has written to householders who have not cut back their hedges. The Clerk agreed to chase up progress on the request for signs for the Townlands Recreation Ground and the Village Hall.

Steetley's Old Fullers Earth Works

Residents had again reported an offensive smell from this area. The residents had not taken advantage of the opportunity to meet on site with the contractor to discuss this and had also reported the problem to Central Bedfordshire which council has the power to take action if any is needed.

Bin At The Jitty/Woodside

The Clerk had researched a bin which could be installed on the post at the entrance to The Jitty. It was agreed that this could protrude too much to allow safe passage for pedestrians and mobility scooter users. Central Bedfordshire could install a dog bin for £200. It was agreed to order the dog bin and ask for it to be installed to the right hand side of the kissing gate within The Jitty.

5. Planning

Applications considered by the Parish Council:

- CB/11/02945/FULL** **Radwell lake (Former Sewage Treatment Works), Mill Lane, Aspley Guise.**
Change of use of former fish farm buildings to B1 use.
 It was agreed that there was not enough information about what is planned for this site to assess the impact on the surroundings. Concern was expressed about extra traffic using the access which is a BOAT not built for heavy traffic. Access via Burrows Close would affect a quiet residential road and via Salford Road the track is not built for heavy use.
- CB/11/02874/CA** **The Shrubbery, Church Street. Conservation Consent: Demolition of existing out-buildings, construction of new single-storey rear extension with bridge link to converted stables building; new triple garage with new vehicular and pedestrian accesses off Church Street and new boundary walls. Insertion of single replacement window into front elevation blanked opening.**
 No Comment.
- CB/11/02873/FULL** **The Shrubbery, Church Street. Demolition of existing out-buildings, construction of new single-storey rear extension with bridge link to converted stables building; new triple garage with new vehicular and pedestrian accesses off Church Street and new boundary walls. Insertion of single replacement window into front elevation blanked opening.**
 No Comment.
- CB/TCA/11/00281** **Chernocke House, Bedford Road.**
Notification of Works to trees in a Conservation Area: cut back Laurel Hedge (A) and Holly Hedge (B) to allow regrowth and maintain at approx 2m. Plum tree (C) and Holly tree (D) cut back to maintain within hedge.
 No Comment.
- CB/11/03430/LDCE** **Crossinglands Farm, Salford Road. Lawful Development Certificate Existing: Continued use as storage for building materials and motor vehicles.**
 No Comment.
- CB/TCA/11/00286** **Aspley House, Bedford Road. Notification of Works to trees in a Conservation Area: Remove 16 metres of Yew Hedge T1**
 No Comment.

Milton Keynes Council

Bob Wilson Development Plans Manager

Re: Milton Keynes Core Strategy: Post-Submission Consultation; further six week consultation on post-submission change to the MKC Core Strategy. All comments to be received by 5pm Wednesday 9th November 2011.

It was agreed to consider this fully at the mid month planning meeting on 17th October.

Draft National Planning Policy Framework

Responses are due on this by 17th October. It was agreed that Mr Pickering would draft an objection to this policy for agreement, as there is confusion over the understanding of how 'sustainable' is interpreted and how localism would be implemented. The Parish Liaison Group has discussed this and many parishes are of the same feeling. Central Beds will be responding that the Localism bill should be in place before the new Planning Policy Framework.

Covanta

The decision from the IPC on the Covanta application is expected by 15th October.

6. Accounts

Opening Balances:

Base Rate Tracker Account		44,025.55
Business Saver Account		1,135.34
Community Account		<u>3,312.25</u>
Total		48,473.14

Received from Central Beds Council – 2nd half of precept: £16,100.00

Eon energy		
Monthly energy		425.22
M J Granger Grounds Maintenance		
Grass cut on 2.09.11	102.00	
Grass cut on 13.09.11	<u>366.00</u>	
		468.00
Aylesbury Mains Ltd		
Repairs 12.09.11		61.14
Kallkwik		
1150 Parish Questionnaires		195.00
Mrs M Fitzgerald		
Clerks salary	432.75	
Less PAYE	<u>86.55</u>	
	346.20	
Expenses		
BT Telephone June – Sept	38.23	
BT Internet Aug – Oct	<u>48.58</u>	
	86.81	433.01
Mrs P Woolhead		
Litter clearance quarterly payment		150.00
HMRC		
Monthly PAYE		<u>86.55</u>
		1,818.92

Closing Balance: 46,756.22

Townlands Community Account 954.79

Correspondence

HMRC – Notice of Penalty Determination for Year ended 5 April 2011

A penalty of £400 for not making an end of year return for the year ended 5th April 2011 has been received. As the council was not operating PAYE for this period the Clerk has appealed against this notice.

Should the appeal fail and the decision go to a Tribunal the meeting authorised the Clerk to make the payment pending the outcome of a Tribunal.

7. Communities and Recreation

The minutes of the Communities and Recreation Meeting held on 19th September had been circulated by Mr Ali, but not all members had had time to see them.

The Queens Diamond Jubilee

Mr Martin had circulated some suggested events that could take place over the Jubilee weekend. These would need local organisations to become involved to include all residents. The Parish Council supports the forming of a committee to conduct events for the celebrations. Mr Pickering agreed to contact local organisations and ask for representatives to attend a meeting to discuss this further. Mrs Willis, Mr Martin Mr Saxby and Mr Pickering will be part of the committee.

Townlands Recreation Ground

The Townlands project has been nominated to receive a Living Countryside Award from the CPRE and Ms Fry, Mrs Willis and Mrs Finn will be attending the awards evening to be held at Shortmead House and gardens, Biggleswade on Friday 7th October.

Ms Fry is planning some work days over the autumn and needs some ‘muscle’ to help with pit digging for the Medlar tree to be planted. Mr Sinnott volunteered to be available for this.

Damaged Matting beneath Rolling Log

Mr Sinnott has trimmed the damaged matting and the area is now safe.

Townlands Ditch

Mr Granger has not cleared the ditch as yet - it will probably be done once the grass cutting season is finished. It was reported that a resident has dumped Leylandii prunings on the Recreation Ground, these have not been removed despite a letter from the Clerk requesting that this be done.

Incursion from No 17 Trunk Furlong

Ms Fry reported that the Golf Club secretary has now written to the resident at No 17 Trunk Furlong giving him notice to remove everything from the Golf Course land, following the advice from Mr Levene. The Clerk has updated Mr Levene on the actions now being taken.

Posts around War Memorial

It was agreed that the rotten posts around the Memorial could be removed and P3 have offered to do this, retaining the chains for future use.

Bus Shelter

The bus shelter at the bottom of Mount Pleasant is still in need of some repairs and the handrail also needs to be replaced.

Parish Plan Questionnaire

The Questionnaires are being delivered. More volunteers are needed for collecting completed questionnaires.

Benches for The Square

Two benches have been purchased by the New Year's Eve Party group. These are in memory of Jim Broadbent and Clarice Dudley. It was agreed that they could be placed in front of Moore Place at the bus stop with the agreement of Moore Place. These are to be gifted to the parish, although they will be maintained by the benefactors. Mr Maynard of the New Year's Eve group will write to formally ask the council for permission for the benches to be placed in this location.

Fulbrook School Academy Status

Mr Outram updated the council on this application. This is delayed as the funding agreement has not been signed yet. At the moment CBC is unable to confirm with certainty whether the school or CBC would be liable for a current on-going Personnel issue.

Swallowfield School Academy Application

This application is still progressing.

8. Footpaths

Mr Outram reported that the Beating of Bounds walk had been successful, although there were only 15 walkers some walking till lunchtime with others joining at the pub and walking in the afternoon. Two of the walkers were from Leighton Buzzard.

9. Highways and Street Lighting

It was agreed to have a Highways Committee meeting at mid month after the Planning Meeting on 17th October.

Street Lighting Contract Renewal

The Clerk had received quotes from both EDF and eon for a supply to start from 1st December. Eon's price was more favourable than last month's quote with the price having dropped twice this morning due to it being the first week of the month. It was agreed to sign up with eon again for twelve months.

10. Correspondence October 2011**Central Bedfordshire Council**Lee Baldry, Acting Head of Highways Contract

Re: CBC Highways Maintenance Three Year Programme 2012 – 2015. List of Areas requested for work.

Alan Trille, Area 6 Steward, Bedfordshire Highways

Re: Aspley Guise Parish Meeting 5.09.11. Confirmation of areas discussed at last Parish Council meeting.

Communications Team

Re: Budget 2012: Making Your Money Count. Posters and Survey for residents feedback

Bedfordshire PolicePC Jon Birch and Ringmaster

Re: New 101 Non Emergency Number; from next week this is the number to ring to report crimes and concerns that do not require an emergency response. Community Policing

Sergeant is Sergeant 5678 Andy Rivers, direct no 01234 842604. Malcolm Soper is still on PCSO team

Woburn Sands Town Council

Town Clerk, Lynne Stapleton

Re: Woburn Sands Library; agreement has been reached with MKC and Taylor Wimpey that Section 106 funds can be used for conversion of The Institute to provide a library. Main contract starts next week with completion envisaged for early December. Income from the library will not match previous income from lettings. As 25% of library users are from outside Woburn Sands it is thought reasonable to request a contribution from the other parishes and £1,000 pa from April 2012 is requested. It was agreed to request a breakdown of costs or a Business Plan before discussing this at the council's budget meeting.

Aylesbury Mains

Eric Clements

Re: recent repairs; unprecedented rises over the last twelve months Site visit charges are being reviewed and will now be £19 +VAT. Light A4 Trunk Furlong is cracked and needs to be replaced. Column in Mentone Avenue is still to be 'replumbed'. Light outside St Mary's has a dead service.

Beds RCC

Isobel Keech, Membership Services

Acknowledgement of 5 year payment; membership now lasts to 1.09.2016.

CPRE

Ann Colette-White, Branch Development Manger

Re: Living Countryside Awards presentations 2011 to be held at Shortmead House and gardens, Biggleswade on Friday 7th October. Tickets £10 each

CPRE and NALC

Nigel Pedlingham, Project Manager Supporting Communities and Neighbourhoods in Planning

Re: new guide; How to respond to Planning Applications. New e-learning guide will also shortly be available.

Victim Support

Christina Jackson, Regional Income Generation Manager

Acknowledgment and thanks for recent donation. Donations poster to display.

BATPC

Louise Ashmore County Officer BATPC

Re: AGM to be held at Houghton Conquest Village Hall on Thursday 20th October 2011 at 7.30pm. Three delegates can attend to vote. Agenda, Minutes of last year's AGM and Annual Report and Accounts. The guest speaker will be Geoff Lambert Chairman of CPRE Bedfordshire who will speak on the work of the CPRE and against the background of the current Draft National Planning Policy Framework consultation.

Invitation to: Free Planning Skills Workshop to be held on Friday 25th November 9.00am to 4.30pm at the Rufus Centre Flitwick training by Michael Brooks BSc, CEng, Dip TP, MRTPI. Mr Martin and Mr Saxby agreed to go on this training.

Society of Local Council Clerks

Nick Randle, Chief Executive

Re: Working with your council and Certificate in Local Council Administration courses for Clerks.

11. Date of Next Meetings:

17th October 2011 7.30pm Mid Month Planning Meeting, followed by Highways Committee. (apologies Mrs Hawley)

7th November 2011 7.30pm Parish Council Meeting

