STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Steeple Morden Village Hall on**

**Monday 9th December 2019 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), N Badger, K Austin, S Traverse-Healy, C Upchurch, A Drew

County Cllr Kindersley (part)

In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.30 PM**

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| **1.** | | **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**  Apologies were received from Cllr Belson and Cllr Wheatley  Cllr Clayton declared a pecuniary interest under Item 12.2 as the landowner. |  | |
| **2.** | | **COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**  2,1 County Council  Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report. He thanked Councilllors for broadcasting the proposal regarding the extension to the bus service. He had received quite a lot of response but had not yet had the chance to follow this up.  He referred to the road improvements in Odsey stating that the Local Highway Officer had now exhausted his budget for the current financial year.  There was some confusion over how the Planning system worked especially in relation to the call for sites which was still to be processed in relation to the next Local Development Plan. There would be less than 10% of the sites put forward considered suitable and these would be consulted on.  Cllr Kindersley stated that there were currently 648 empty homes in South Cambridgeshire. There was a move to make council tax more onerous so the District Council would give assistance to bring the homes back into use.  The Fire Authority had met to discuss their future following the resignation of the Police and Crime Commissioner. They were unclear on whether they should continue with the judicial reviews. Once the forthcoming election was over Cllr Kindersley was hoping to get some clarity from the Authority.  2.2 District Council  Cllr Williams was not in attendance. |  | |
| **3.** | | COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM PARISHIONERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC There were no issues raised. |  | |
| **4.** | TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November 2019  On a proposition by Cllr Austin, seconded by Cllr Badger, the minutes as circulated were taken as read and then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman. | | |  |
| **5.** | MATTERS ARISING AND CARRIED FORWARD 5.1 A505 Junction  There was no update. It was noted that there had been a lot of concerns expressed on social media over lorries crossing the dual carriageway and overhanging. Also vehicles travelling the wrong way.  5.2 Station Car Park Update  There was no update available. Cllr Kindersley would be asked to follow this up.  5.3 Request for Dog Waste Bin (Bogs Gap Lane)  South Cambridgeshire District Council had assessed the need for a new bin and found that there was no littering in the area. They suggested that if the Parish Council would pay for the supply and installation then the District Council would empty free of charge.  It was suggested that the assessment took place following a village litter pick hence the lack of litter. Local residents also picked up any litter as well. The Clerk was asked to respond to the District Council and advise them of the litter picks, and the number of bags collected, and also advise that volunteers also picked up and took litter home.  5.4 Clerk Appraisal  Ongoing. Appraisal to be arranged. It was suggested that the Clerk, Cllr Upchurch and Cllr Belson meet before the next meeting. The Clerk to check the availability of Cllr Belson.  5.5 Update on Co-option of Councillor  South Cambridgeshire District Council had given the go-ahead for co-option. This would now be advertised on the notice board, website and social media with a view to co-opting a Councillor at the January 2020 meeting. | | | ***-Clerk***  ***-Clerk*** |
| **6.** | FINANCES 6.1 To receive the financial statement and to approve the payment of bills  The invoices were checked by Cllr Drew.  E-ON  Reading Room electricity December DD £ 35.00  IN & OUT  Disabled toilet clean November 2019 £ 11.25  STEEPLE MORDEN VILLAGE HALL  Hire of village hall meeting room 5/12/19 £ 10.00  ANGLIAN WATER BUSINESS  Sewage water rate May –November 2019 £137.27  CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  Street lighting October 2018 –September 2019 £2218.25  THE PRINTWORKS (ROYSTON) LTD  Newsletters November 2019 £ 50.00  TOTAL £ 2461.77  AGREED PROPOSED Cllr Clayton SECONDED Cllr Traverse-Healy  6.2 Budget/Precept 2020/21  The income/expenditure for the current year had been circulated to Councillors along with a suggested budget. Councillors were asked to look at the figures for discussion and agreement of the budget and precept requirement at the next meeting. | | | ***-Cllrs*** |
| **7.** | **RECREATION GROUND/CONSERVATION AREA**  7.1 Tree Survey Report  Cllr Drew reported that the survey had been completed. The report had not yet been received.  7.1.1 Tree behind village Hall  7.1.2 Recreation Ground Trees on Hay Street  7.1.3 Trees by Play Area  These trees had been included as part of the survey. The report should advise on their condition and recommend any work needed.  7.2 Leylandii Tree Work (by Village Hall) update  The Football Club and neighbour had now agreed the positioning of the floodlights. An updated quotation of £1950.00 had been received for the work. The contractor had advised that he would be able to carry this out in mid January 2020. Councillors agreed that the go-ahead be given and asked that the neighbour be kept updated.  7.3 Car Park Light Repair  It was confirmed that the light was one of the car park floodlights which would probably need a scaffolding tower to investigate. Cllr Austin advised that an electrician had tried to gain access to the village hall earlier in the day but had been called away.  The Clerk to advise the electrician that it was a floodlight.  7.4 Litter Bins  Cllr Drew advised that she was unable to fix a bag in the bin by the notice board so it needed to be replaced. The bin in the play area had holes which attracted vermin.  It was agreed that the request for two replacement bins could be included in the budget for 2020/21 and would be on the next agenda for discussion. | | | ***-Clerk***  ***-Clerk*** |
| **8.** | **MAINTENANCE**  8.1 Footpath/Footways  8.1.1 Craft Way Footpath  It was noted that the footpath was still being encroached as the resident had not carried out any cutting back of the hedge. It was agreed that the Clerk would try and pursue again with County Highways starting with the reporting on the County Council website.  8.2 Review of Grasscutting contracts 2020/2022  The contracts were up for tender from 1st April 2020. The Clerk would circulate the specifications and then send out for tenders to be received by the February 2020 meeting. Concern was raised over the three cuts of the grass verge with the last cut being carried out at the beginning of December. The first cut had been carried out very late in the Spring. Cllr Traverse-Healy suggested that this may be associated with bio-diversity. The Clerk was asked to question the timetable for three grass verge cuts in the request for quotations. | | | ***-Clerk***  ***-Clerk*** |
| **9.** | **TRAFFIC**  9.1 MVAS Update  Cllr Austin had prepared an item for the newsletter and website on data collected from the sign. He confirmed that the sign now recorded the speed of traffic both ways although this did not show on the sign. 87 mph had been recorded of a vehicle travelling out of Station Road. Cllr Traverse-Healy referred to previous discussions about a 40mph buffer. It was suggested that this could be a project for the 2021/22 Local Highway Initiative.  Cllr Austin reminded Councillors that Cllr Williams had agreed to find out whether planning permission would be needed to site permanent solar charging panels for the signs. The Clerk would follow up with Cllr Williams.  9.1.1 Update on reforming of Community Speedwatch Team  There was no further update. It was noted that the MVAS was a better initiative than Community Speedwatch as for most people it was just a reminder.  9.2 Details of locations/times for Police Support  The Chairman suggested that now there was a lot of information collected by the sign Sergeant Priestly be invited to the February Parish Council meeting.  9.3 LHI 2020/21 Feasibility Report  As discussed at the November Parish Council meeting the Parish Council had been asked to commit to expenditure of £2,000 towards another MVAS project. Councillors agreed that as there was already the posts in position they would not go ahead this time. Clerk to advise the Local Projects Officer. | | | ***-Clerk***  ***-Clerk*** |
| **10.** | **HEALTHCARE PROVISION IN VILLAGES**  Cllr Kindersley had previously raised concern over cases where residents of Cambridgeshire were being treated in Bedfordshire. This caused issues with information sharing.  The Clerk reported that she was aware of similar cases where residents of the local villages were on the Ashwell surgery list. There has been an occasion where an elderly resident was discharged from Addenbrookes but needed some equipment to help in the home. Cambridgeshire County Council had said, that because the GP surgery was in Hertfordshire, it should be Hertfordshire County Council responsible for supplying the equipment. Hertfordshire County Council had stated that, because the resident’s council tax was paid to South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council was responsible.  It was agreed that the Clerk write to Ashwell Surgery and ask them which authority parishioners should contact if they were in need of help. This could then be publicised. | | | ***-Clerk*** |
| **11.** | **UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**  Cllr Drew had obtained three quotations for a new site details of which she had circulated to Councillors. She advised of the cost of each and reminded Councillors that there would be the addition of the annual running costs. On a proposal by Cllr Badger, seconded by Cllr Austin, It was agreed to award the contract to parishcouncils.org.uk with a budget of £3,000. | | |  |
| **12.** | **PLANNING/TREE WORK APPLICATIONS**  12.1 Planning Ref S/1887/18/OL –Land between 12 and 14 Station Road –Update on planning application  The application had been recommended for delegated approval. It was advised that the applicant would be sending out the draft Section 106 Agreement for the Parish Council comment The document would be circulated to Councillors once received.  12.2. Tree Work Planning Ref 4237/19/TC -5 Brook End  Fell Willow tree due to proximity of overhead utilities and low amenity value. The tree would be replaced with a standard ornamental tree, or fruit tree, in same position.  Cllr Clayton left the meeting and Cllr Drew took the Chair.  Councillors agreed that the tree should be replaced with either an ornamental or native tree but not a fruit tree. The Clerk was asked to relay the comment to the South Cambridgeshire District Council Tree Officer. | | | ***-Clerk*** |
| **13.** | **TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED INCLUDING**:  13.1 Primary School drop off car park opening and closing  The Primary School had advised that they were no longer able to manage the opening and locking up of the overflow car park due to reduced staffing levels.  It was noted that the main concern originally was that the area could become a magnet for illicit users and so it was an important element of the agreement with the school that the gate was kept locked especially overnight. It was suggested that parents and teachers could form a rota which the Clerk was asked to relay to the school. Cllr Badger suggested that parents of the children using the recreation ground during after school activities could use the main recreation ground car park. | | | ***-Clerk*** |
| **14.** | **COUNCILLORS’ ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND REQUIRING THE URGENT ATTENTION OF THE CLERK**  There were no issues raised. | | |  |
| **15.** | **DATE OF NEXT MEETING –Monday 13th January 2019** | | |  |

There was no further business. The Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and declared the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

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Chairman Date