

4STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in Steeple Morden Village Hall on
Monday 11th March 2019 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), S Traverse-Healy, K Austin, G Belson, W
Jeffs, J Courtney
District Cllr Williams
In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 7.30 PM

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

Apologies were received from Cllr Upchurch, Cllr Drew, Cllr Wheatley and County Cllr Kindersley.

2. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

2.1 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

Concern was raised over the reference to the A505, in the report, where it was stated that the only work planned by Hertfordshire County Council, in the not too distant future, was the closing of the right turn from the Litlington access. Changes at any of the other junctions would be added to a list for some time in the future. It had been suggested that a 50mph speed limit be introduced.

Cllr Traverse-Healy suggested that the Parish Council should register their deep concern over the lack of planned work at the Odsey junction. It was also suggested that as an interim measure signs showing the change from urban to local traffic be displayed to warn drivers that there were vehicles leaving and accessing the busy dual carriageway.

It was agreed that the Clerk send a letter to Hertfordshire County Council expressing concern over the latest advice, showing support for a 50mph limit and requesting local traffic signage.

-Clerk

2.2 District Council

Cllr Williams was still concerned over the South Cambridgeshire District Council website which again prevented her from accessing e-mails and sending out her report.

She advised that the report focused on the early retirement of the Chief Executive Officer, who would be receiving a payment of around £202,500 towards the cost of her early retirement. Cllr Williams had voted against this payment. She added that there were now over 60 vacancies at the District Council offices and a lot of these were within the Planning Department. Planning Officer John Koch was also to take early retirement. Councillors acknowledged that Mr Koch had been a big help to the Parish Council in the past and it was agreed that the Clerk send a letter of thanks to him.

-Clerk

Cllr Williams then reported on financial matters where she advised that £100million was to be borrowed over the next five year for an investment strategy. She had requested that the Scrutiny process take place but this was ruled out as it would slow down the investment plans. Cllr Williams added that the decisions on the investments would be down to two Councillors, the Leader and Deputy Leader, and two officers. A discussion took place on this with more information requested by Councillors. Cllr Williams agreed to find out. The Clerk was also asked to write to the Leader of the District Council to request the investing parameters for the £100million plus details of the qualifications of those making the investments.

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HW&Clerk

The additional green bin charge was then discussed. Cllr Williams urged people to sign up to save money.

Cllr Williams concluded her report by advising that South Cambridgeshire District Council had supported the Cambourne routes in the recent East West rail consultation.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Williams for her report.

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 11th February 2019

On a proposition by Cllr Austin seconded by Cllr Belson 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

This was discussed under Item 2.1.

5.2 The Wagon and Horses Public House –re-nomination of ACV

The application form had been submitted to South Cambridgeshire District Council who confirmed that a decision would be advised by the 9th April 2019.

5.3 Quotation for new Parish Council website

The Clerk confirmed that she had tried to contact the host to urge a quotation and also correct the e-mail address for Cllr Jeffs. The Chairman advised that the Steeple Morden website had been completely down earlier in the day. It was noted that the website was running when the Clerk uploaded the agenda the previous week. The Clerk to investigate.

-Clerk

5.4 Street Lighting Energy –reply from Cambridgeshire County Council

A reply had been received from Mr Richards in which the process to source the energy supply had been advised. Cllr Jeffs stated that the Parish Council should pursue itself although it was too late for the current year. It was agreed that Cllr Jeffs and Clerk investigate for the 2020/21.

-WJ
& Clerk

6. FINANCES

6.1 To receive the financial statement and to approve the payment of bills

The invoices were checked by Cllr Clayton

E-ON

| | |
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| Reading Room electricity February 2019 DD | £ 45.00 |
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IN & OUT

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|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Disabled toilet clean February 2019 | £ 11.25 |
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HALES PRINTERS

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|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Newsletters February & March 2019 | £96.00 |
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GREENBARNES LTD

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|---|---------|
| Additional keys for notice board (inc £2.74VAT) | £ 16.46 |
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STEEPLE MORDEN VILLAGE HALL

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|------------------------------------|--------|
| Hire of meeting room 11 March 2019 | £10.00 |
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MRS S WALMESLEY

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|-------------------------------|----------|
| Clerks salary 1/1/19 -31/3/19 | £ 902.98 |
|-------------------------------|----------|

HMRC

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|---------------------|---------|
| PAYE 1/1/19-31/3/19 | £225.80 |
|---------------------|---------|

FENLAND LEISURE PRODUCTS

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| Repairs to play equipment (inc £219.70VAT) | £1318.20 |
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| TOTAL | £2625.69 |
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PROPOSED Cllr Traverse-Healy SECONDED Cllr Belson

6.2 Purchase of Printer

It was agreed that a printer for Parish Council use be purchased by the Clerk.

-Clerk

7. RECREATION GROUND/CONSERVATION AREA

7.1 Recreation Ground Maintenance –working group update

Cllr Drew had provided an update for the Clerk which she read to the meeting.

A resident had agreed to holding the key to the notice board and drop off car park, the dog bin near the notice board was going to be put on a freestanding post. Cllr Drew expressed her concern over the use of the conservation area by the gun dog training group and suggested that the group be asked to move back onto the lower ground as the earth was getting compacted. The Clerk to contact the dog training group organisers.

-Clerk

The chippings for the repair to the car park were soon to be purchased and Cllr Drew would advise the Chairman of the delivery date.

7.2 Tree Inspection (Recreation Ground)

Compilation of the tree plan was in hand.

7.3 Leylandii Tree Work –Football Club Update

The parties involved had been contacted regarding the position. The Chairman reported that he was aware that all parties were in communication with a view to the tree work being carried out in the Autumn.

8. MAINTENANCE

8.1 Footpaths/Footways

8.1.1 Craft Way Footway

There was no further update.

8.1.2 Footpath 10 –Minor Highway Improvement Scheme 2017/18 Application

The Clerk reported that she had chased up the sign relocation with the County Definitive Map officer, James Stringer, and the Rights of Way Officer, Peter Gaskin.

-Clerk

8.1.3 Black Lane Footpath

The Clerk confirmed that the path was a Right of Way and therefore a County Council footpath.

8.2 Village Litter Pick Update

Cllr Belson reported that the new litter picking season had started the previous weekend with 20 volunteers collecting 18 bags of litter in Odsey. The next session was planned for the 23rd March when the volunteers would be targeting Litlington Road.

9. SPEEDING TRAFFIC

9.1 MVAS Update

The Chairman reported that the MVAS unit was available for collection and installation on a Station Road lighting column as a temporary measure. Cllr Austin agreed to collect. It was confirmed that posts for installation around the village, for the MVAS mounting, were on order by the County Council. The positions had been agreed.

-KA

A resident had asked to know who the Parish Council contact was for the Community Speedwatch team. It was agreed that anyone interested should contact the Clerk. An appeal for volunteers, and a co-ordinator, would be put in the next newsletter.

10. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

10.1 To consider Planning Applications

10.1.1 Planning Ref S/0412/19/FL

Northbrook End Farm, Northbrook End –Provision of indoor training facility –Equestrian building and adjustment to approved consent to create further staff accommodation

It was proposed that the Planning Officers be asked to ensure that the employee residence went with the business.

Recommendation –Support subject to Heritage Officer approval and the proviso that the accommodation is for the employee of the business only

10.1.2 Planning Ref S/569/19/FL

77 Hay Street –Single storey ground floor extension to rear

Recommendation –Support

10.1.3 Planning Ref S/9250/19FL

Morden Grange Pumping Station –Erection of glass reinforced plastic kiosk to house treatment processes

Recommendation –Support

10.1.4 Planning Ref S/4633/18/FL (amendment for information only)

20 North Brook End – Two storey side extension and first floor extensions over garage

10.2 Planning application for next Meeting

The Clerk advised that she had received a planning application S/0719/19/OL, for land adjacent to 120 Hay Street, for outline permission for 8 residential dwellings, four of these affordable. The District Council Planning Officer had given an extension to the consultation period until after the next meeting on the 8th April.

11. STATION CAR PARKING

Cllr Courtney expressed his concern over the commuter parking in Odsey and knew that there had been several conversations over the years without conclusions. He had prepared a plan of action which he presented to Councillors (Addendum 1).

Councillors agreed that parking in Odsey was unsatisfactory and some of the recommendations on actions, raised by Cllr Courtney, had been carried out in the past. Most of the land around the station was owned by the same person. County Highways had stated that parking restrictions were not an option and it was recognised that the only solution was to find land for a car park.

Cllr Belson suggested that a bus from Steeple Morden to the station might be an option. It would have to be solely for Steeple Morden, and not include Guilden Morden, as that journey to the station would take too long. There was a successful bus running from Ashwell which Cllr

Belson was aware people drove to Ashwell to use.

A discussion took place on two possible areas of land. Cllr Traverse-Healy suggested that as a scheme of improvement for Ashwell and Morden station a compulsory purchase order may be an option under the Transport Act. It was also suggested that the opinion of a professional Planner be sought on the situation.

-JC, STH
& GB

After further discussion it was agreed that Cllr Courtney, Cllr Traverse-Healy and Cllr Belson would work together to provide options to present back to the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Courtney for raising this issue.

12 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING –THURSDAY 9TH MAY 2019

- . It was agreed that Parish Council AGM and Annual Parish Meeting be held on the same evening in the Cricket Pavilion. As in previous years local groups would be asked to provide a report on their year and if present at the meeting invited to make a short presentation.

13 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED INCLUDING:

- . Correspondence received was discussed under agenda items.

14 COUNCILLORS’ ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND REQUIRING THE URGENT ATTENTION OF THE CLERK

14.1 Village Hall Committee

Cllr Austin reported that the committee now had a new Secretary and an additional committee member.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- . 8th April 2019

There was no further business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Chairman

Date

Addendum 1
Commuter Parking in Odsey

Situation The number of train commuters parking cars on Station Road, Odsey has increased year on year. On week days there are between 60 and 90 cars parked in an irregular, uncontrolled and often unsafe manner. A&M station is increasing in popularity and the likelihood is that the number of cars will continue to increase. The existing car park is well used but woefully inadequate. The parked cars have destroyed the grass verges, and litter is a persistent problem. In 2018, 118 bags of litter were collected in Steeple Morden Parish, 48 bags (40%) were from in and around Odsey, a hamlet of some 20 houses. The traffic problem is further aggravated by the increase in HGV traffic and farm vehicles negotiating their way past the parked vehicles.

Background Several years ago an additional free car park was made available for a short time, there were unresolved issues between the landowner and the council which resulted in its closure. 8 new car parking spaces were added to the existing car park in 2018 bring the total general spaces available to 33, in addition there are 3 premier spaces and 1 disabled space. The extra provision has not had any significant impact on the car parking problems. This topic has been on and off the PC agenda for many years and efforts have been made to resolve the problem. Discussions/negotiations to reopen the 'free' car park or construct a more suitable car park have not resulted in any substantive plans to do so.

Assessment The current course appears to have reached an impasse. If a plan is not forthcoming within a reasonable time frame then the council has a duty to consider the options available to them, hoping and waiting for a solution is not a plan. The council at all levels is not responding with rigour to this worsening situation, the lack of a robust plan is worrying. A&M station has the biggest parking problem in the area, elsewhere parking close to stations is managed to minimise the impact on residents.

Recommendation

1. Develop an unambiguous strategy.
2. Phase 1 Information Gathering
 - 2.1 Survey Monkey commuters - possible questions:
Where do you normally park Road or Car Park?
How often do you park here?
How long do you park for?
Where do you live?
Why do you use this station?
What would you do if road parking were removed or restricted, with an alternative parking solution?
It is likely there will be charge for parking what would you be willing to pay?
Encourage commuters to complete survey and send survey link to local parishes and groups.
 - 2.2 Manual car count both car park and road side.
3. Share survey results with Royston and Villages Railway User Group, and Ashwell train user group. Councils where there are plans for further planned development and/or their parishioners currently park at Odsey seeking input and support.
4. Stakeholder meeting - attendees Local councils, User Groups, Thameslink, Great Northern, Odsey Residents to discuss issues, options, develop plans and garner support.
5. Appraisal of land options (all).
6. Parish Council working group to take on this project.

Decision

The PC to support the recommendations and take this issue forward.