

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Cricket Pavilion on
Monday 13th August 2018 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), A Drew, S Traverse-Healy, K Austin, C Upchurch, J Courtney, W Jeffs, G Belson, S Wheatley
District Cllr Williams, County Cllr Kindersley
In attendance: Mrs S Walmsley (Clerk) and 7 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

All Councillors were in attendance.

The Chairman declared a non pecuniary interest under Item 13.3 as the Landowner. Cllr Traverse Healy declared a non pecuniary interest under Item 13.2 as a relative of the correspondent and Item 13.3 as an allotment tenant.

Cllr Belson declared a non pecuniary under Item 11.1.2 as a neighbour.

2. COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM PARISHIONERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

2.1 Station Road Speeding Traffic

The Parish Council had received a formal request from a resident that priority be given to the creation of a 40mph stretch beyond the current 30mph limit on Station Road to beyond the blind bend. A substantial increase in traffic speeding had been noticed which was a hazard for pedestrians. There had also been a number of accidents.

The resident was in attendance and invited to speak. She reiterated the concerns raised in her communication stating that the speed of traffic was terrifying at times. She referred to the Speedwatch checks, and feedback from a traffic specialist, that this was a good candidate for a 40mph speed limit. She urged the Parish Council to pursue this before there was a bad accident.

The Chairman advised that as a first step the Parish Council would seek the view from the County Highway Engineer on the introduction of a 40mph buffer. Depending on the feedback the Parish Council would then discuss how best to proceed with this request. The Clerk was asked to seek advice from the County Council Highway Engineer.

-Clerk

2.2 Planning Application S/2643/18/FL 130 Hay Street

A neighbouring resident expressed concern over the application to which she intended to lodge an Objection. The proposed two storey garage would be outside her property with a workshop upstairs. On the outside of the garage there would be a heat pump which she believed would be extremely noisy. There would also be too many exits onto Bogs Gap Lane, near the crossroads, with the proposed addition. The resident also raised over highway safety as there had been a number of accidents in this part of the village some resulting in hospitalisation. The resident confirmed that she had submitted her representation to South Cambridgeshire District Council. The Chairman thanked the resident for her comments which would be taken into account when the planning application was discussed under Item 11.1.2.

2.3 Speeding Traffic

A resident from the southern end of the village also expressed concerns over speeding through the village. He supported most points raised in the discussion under Item 2.1 but thought that a 40mph limit would not be enforceable. Councillors were advised of a survey carried out a number of years ago with a mobile camera which at the time was supported by the MP and County Councillor. The Police response at that time was that the speeding was one of the worse cases and it was suggested that local commuters were the most likely to speed.

The Chairman referred to the data collected from the Community Speedwatch checks which had been passed to the Police. He referred to the successful LHI bid for a MVAS and the application for a second sign made for 2019/20. These signs would be moved around the village with the intention of educating drivers to slow down.

A suggestion was made for a chicane as in Odsey. Cllr Courtney stated that some drivers tended to take risks and drive around the wrong side of the island. The chicanes did not always work. They were also very expensive. The Clerk was asked to check the approximate costs. Again Councillors were asked to treat this as a high priority as this was not a problem which would go away.

-Clerk

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council had been debating the speeding issue for a

long time. There were reserves in the Parish Council budget but, as more and more services were being devolved to Parish Councils, these reserves had to be carefully used. A resident asked for a copy of the budget and reserves to be forwarded to her which the Clerk agreed to do. Cllr Drew concluded that speeding traffic affected residents on all the different routes into the village. This was a problem for the whole parish.

-Clerk

2.4 Planning Application S/0090/18/CW Ashwell & Mordens Goods Yard

Councillors had received a copy of a representation made by a resident to the planning application. Concern was raised over the salvage area which could be used to store and sell vehicles. This would be outside the remit of the County Council. The owners of the site were also trying to ignore the permitted working hours where Saturday was not supposed to be an ordinary working day. The resident stated that this condition should not be changed.

The Chairman thanked the resident for the comments which would be taken into consideration when the application was discussed.

2.5 Yellow Lines outside Ashwell & Morden Station

Concern was raised over the yellow lines which had appeared without any consultation with residents. There was now nowhere to drop off/pick up and the resident queried whether these yellow lines were enforceable.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk write to the car park operator to find out the position.

-Clerk

3. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

3.1 District Council

Cllr Williams circulated a written report.

She reported that she had received a positive response within South Cambridgeshire District Council for a breast feeding room and nursing chair.

Planning Officer, John Koch, had offered to meet with groups of Councillors to discuss the five year land supply and she asked if Councillors would be interested which they agreed they would. Cllr Traverse-Healy stated that he would be particularly interested in changes to the NPPF.

With regard the Community Chest grants there seemed to be strong support for Parish Councils not being able to apply as they could always increase their precept to fund projects. This would have an effect on those Councils without precepts. Cllr Williams agreed to keep Councillors updated.

There was recently a situation with a burst water main where some people were without a water supply for 24 hours. Cllr Williams referred to a parish emergency plan which would come into force in situations such as this. The Clerk agreed to circulate the District Council emergency plan template for discussion at a future meeting.

-Clerk

The road at the top of the grass bank on Cheyney Street had been completely resurfaced.

Cllr Traverse-Healy advised that South Cambridgeshire District Council officers were unable to provide a copy of the village conservation area assessment. The officers had offered to meet and talk through the process of compiling an assessment. He added that without this document the village was vulnerable and developers could challenge. It was agreed that Cllr Traverse-Healy and Cllr Wheatley would investigate.

-STH, SW

3.2 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report. He advised that due to the Summer break there was no further update on the A505.

A number of presentations had been undertaken in relation to a proposal for the Cam/Bed railroad. He invited the parish to join with Guilden Morden for a presentation which was accepted.

Cllr Kindersley then referred to the planning application for the Ashwell & Mordens Goods yard stating that he did not see any enormous difficulties. He confirmed that any proposal to set up a retail business would have to be applied for through South Cambridgeshire District Council. A discussion took place on the application. Cllr Courtenay expressed concern stating that a number of Odsey residents agreed that this business brought nothing to the village and it was a complete eyesore. He listed a number of issues which were unsatisfactory. Cllr Belson reminded Councillors that the only reason for the application was the breach of the original planning consent conditions. Cllr Kindersley added that there was already a large approved dump there. After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Traverse-Healy to make a technical objection with a view to withdrawing the objection if conditions were imposed. This was seconded by Cllr Upchurch with all Councillors in agreement. It was also agreed that Cllr Traverse-Healy and Cllr Courtenay prepare a draft list of conditions for circulation to

-STH, JC

Councillors for agreement before submission with the representation. It was noted that the deadline for responses was the 22nd August 2018.

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF

4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on 9th July 2018

On a proposition by Cllr Drew seconded by Cllr Austin 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

As reported by Cllr Kindersley there was no further news.

5.2 LHI Application 2019/20

Cllr Jeffs had submitted the application form, for a second MVAS, by the deadline date of 31st July 2018.

5.3 Police Surgery

The PCSO was looking at his shift patterns to arrange a daytime event during the next couple of months.

6. FINANCES

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

The invoices were checked by Cllr Wheatley.

E-ON

Reading Room electricity July 2 018 DD £ 45.00

IN & OUT

Disabled toilet clean July 2018 £ 14.00

STEEPLE MORDEN VILLAGE HALL

Contribution towards car park floodlights £250.00

BASSINGBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Councillor training sessions June/July 2018 £ 76.10

Cont towards stationery £ 26.61 £102.71

HALES PRINTERS

Newsletters £ 48.00

JEWSON LTD

Materials for bin installation (inc. £6.21VAT) £ 37.26

TOTAL £496.97

PROPOSED Cllr Drew SECONDED Cllr Traverse-Healy

6.2 Update on Anglian Water Sewage Charge

There was still no news on the sewage invoices. The Clerk to urge an update for the next meeting. -Clerk

6.3 Request for a contribution towards Village Hall replacement boiler

Cllr Austin reported that the committee was getting quotations and there would be more information available at the next meeting.

7. RECREATION GROUND/CONSERVATION AREA

7.1 Recreation Ground Maintenance –working group update

Cllr Drew reported that she had put a new padlock on the double gates.

7.2 Play Area RoSPA Report 2018 –Quotation for repairs

An appointment had been made with a contractor for the 14th August.

7.3 Tree Inspection (Recreation Ground)

The Chairman had been advised of a fallen branch from a tree on the recreation ground which had struck a member of the public on the forearm. The large branch was still lying on the grass verge. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the South Cambridgeshire District Council Tree Officer for her advice on the recreation ground trees. Cllr Austin agreed to arrange the removal of the branch. -KA & Clerk

8. MAINTENANCE

8.1 Footpaths/Footways

8.1.1 Craft Way Footway

The Local Highway Officer had advised that he had posted a card to the residents where the conifers overhung the path, requesting that they cut them back. He would check when he was

next in the area if the work had taken place. He also asked the Parish Council to monitor. If there was no action then he would send a follow up notice. Continued failure on the part of the resident to comply would result in a referral to the County Council Enforcement Officer.

-Clerk

Cllr Upchurch advised that the trees were still in the same condition. The Clerk to report back to the Local Highway Officer.

8.1.2 Hay Street Pavement

The Local Highway Officer had also looked at the section of footway and marked a small repair outside number 16. The remainder did not meet the County Council intervention criteria. Cllr Wheatley reported that there was also a raised kerb stone outside number 82 Hay Street. The Clerk would report this.

-Clerk

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

-Clerk

There was no further update. The Clerk had chased a number of times. She would find out the position for the next meeting as this had been on the agenda for a very long time.

9. REVIEWS

9.1 Risk Assessment

The draft was again circulated. Cllr Jeffs queried the format of the draft and suggested that it should be re-written. She agreed to prepare a new draft Risk Assessment for circulation and approval at a future meeting.

-WJ

10 SCHOOL SAFETY –Response from County Council Officer

The Clerk had circulated a response from Andy Swallowe, the County School Crossing Patrol Service Manager. Mr Swallowe stated that he had been out to look at the Primary School site on a number of occasions. The results of the last assessment for a School Crossing Patrol represented only 10% of the nationally agreed criteria. The County Council also had no budget for funding new School Crossing Patrol sites so even if the site met the requirements the cost would have to be covered by the school, Parish Council or other third party.

With regard to the LHI bid it was still very doubtful that the site would qualify for a formal crossing point as the criteria for a crossing was five times more than a School Crossing Patrol.

A discussion took place on the response with Councillors agreeing that the Parish Council could not justify the expenditure. It was proposed by the Chairman that the Primary School and PTA be advised that if they wished to finance a School Crossing Patrol the Parish Council would give their support. Cllr Jeffs added that it should be brought to the attention of the School that children were dangerously crossing the road between parked cars. Cllr Williams added that the Primary School would have more opportunity to apply for grants than the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter to the school.

-Clerk

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

11.1 To consider Planning Applications

11.1.1 Planning Ref S/2690/18/FL

115 Hay Street –Single storey front extension
(P Boyt)

-Recommendation Support

11.1.2 Planning Ref S/2643/18/FL

130 Hay Street –Demolition of existing Barn and outbuilding to create No 1 new dwelling & double garage and workshop. New access (Crossover) off Bogs Gap Lane to service No 130 increase existing access (Crossover) off Hay Street
(Mr Alderman)

The concerns raised by the neighbouring resident under Item 2.2 were revisited. Councillors queried the need for a two storey garage which would be overbearing. They recognised that the noise levels from the heat pump or highway access were not material considerations but they could be noted as concerns.

-Clerk

-Recommendation Object

The two storey garage would be overbearing and not in keeping with the surrounding area. Concern also over noise levels from the heat pump and the unsuitable access onto Bogs Gap Lane.

11.1.3 Planning Ref S/0090/18/CW

Ashwell and Mordens Goods Yard, Station Road, Odsey –Use of unused land as a staff car park and storage area for salvage vehicles

This application was discussed under Item 3.2 whist Cllr Kindersley was at the meeting.

11.1.4 Planning Ref S/3096/18/FL

6 Shingay Road –Erection of Garage

The Clerk advised that this application had been received too late for the agenda. She would circulate details to Councillors to see if an extra planning meeting would be needed.

-Clerk

11.1.5 Church Farm Lane

For information Cllr Williams advised Councillors that there was an enforcement issue with a fence which had been erected on the land of a listed house.

12 UPDATE TO WEBSITE

- The Clerk advised that a lot of the website was out of date. This was because the updating was not part of the current hosting arrangement. The Clerk only had access to the Agendas and Minutes. Councillors agreed that the host be asked to give the Clerk full access to the website so that it could be kept updated.

-Clerk

13 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED INCLUDING:13.1 CAM/BED Railroad meeting invitation

As discussed under the County Councillor report a joint presentation with Guilden Morden was to be arranged for Councillors and residents.

13.2 Request for Speed Reduction Measures

This was discussed under Item 2.1 where it was agreed that the Clerk would seek Highway advice on speed reduction measures.

13.3 Allotment Rabbits

A communication from the Allotment Society had been circulated. Rabbits were present in great numbers in the adjacent privately owned land. Their numbers had been increasing substantially over the past years and there did not appear to be any pest control being undertaken. The rabbits were a serious pest damaging all types of crops and becoming harder and harder to keep off. Several of the allotment holders were becoming disillusioned and considering giving up their plots. The Parish Council was asked for advice on the best way to address this problem.

Cllr Traverse-Healy reiterated the concern. It was agreed that Allotment Society would be asked to write to the adjacent landowner and ask him to deal. He should be advised that the landlord fully supported the process of pest control and expected action as soon as possible. Clerk to arrange.

- Clerk

13.4 Dog Fouling

The Chairman reported that he had been sent a photograph of a dog, without any supervision, fouling. The person that sent the picture was worried that the dog would be run over. The Chairman agreed to circulate the photograph and asked if anyone saw the dog with its owner to remind them to pick up after the dog.

-JC

14 COUNCILLORS' ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND REQUIRING THE URGENT ATTENTION OF THE CLERK14.1 Jubilee Award

Cllr Upchurch asked if the award could be given posthumously. This question had arisen out of the 100 year exhibition which a deceased resident had been involved with organising. Councillors agreed that as long as they were a resident at the time of death then their name could be put forward.

14.2 Steeple Morden PTA Bonfire Event

The bonfire would be held on Saturday 3rd November with the arrangements the same as in 2017. This was agreed. Clerk to confirm with the PTA.

-Clerk

14.3 Sign Cleaning

Cllr Belson advised that she had arranged a sign cleaning working party for the 18th August. She had quite a few volunteers so the cleaning should only take around one hour.

- 15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING** There would not be a meeting held in September. The October date to be confirmed.

There was no further business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Chairman

Date