

**STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on**  
**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), A Drew, S Traverse-Healy, C Upchurch, J Courtney, S Wheatley, K Austin, G Belson, W Jeffs  
 District Cllr Williams, County Cllr Kindersley  
 In attendance: Mrs S Walmesley (Clerk) and 6members 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. Cllr Austin declared a non pecuniary interest under Item 10.1.2 as a neighbour.

**2. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

2.1 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report. He advised that the County Council officer had sent some draft conditions relating to the Scrapyard planning application which Cllr Traverse-Healy had commented on. These had been returned to the County Council with the comment that if addressed then the Parish Council would be minded to withdraw their objection. Cllr Traverse-Healy advised that the main point of concern related to the hours of work including Saturday.

Cllr Courtney queried the representations made by residents which were not shown on the County Council website. It was suggested that it was not Policy to display the comments. Cllr Kindersley agreed to find out and confirmed that issues raised by residents would be addressed and any substantial objections would go to the Planning Committee.

-SK

Cllr Kindersley then advised of the achievements of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Service over the past 12 months. An inspection had marked the service good in all areas. A recruitment campaign was currently underway for on-call Fire Fighters and local people and employers were encouraged to support this.

The proposed increase in the County Council budget was not yet known. The officers were going to prepare the draft budget this time. There were concerns over Brexit which were making the preparation difficult. There were also concerns over the bus subsidy which the County Council was hoping would be taken over by the Mayor.

An announcement was expected at the end of January regarding the East/West rail link. A number of different options could be put to the public. After consultation a route would be selected before the Parliamentary Summer recess.

-SK

Cllr Kindersley stated that the Bassingbourn Children's Centre had been resurrected. Cllr Belson suggested that an item be put in the newsletter to advertise this and the service the centre provided. Cllr Kindersley agreed to forward a contact.

-SK

Cllr Traverse-Healy questioned the position regarding the Hertfordshire County Council study of the section of the A505 covering the Horse and Groom. Cllr Kindersley replied that he did not think it had taken place yet. It was noted that Hertfordshire County Council was still to submit their comments on the planning application. Cllr Kindersley agreed that the application was not great, and would be difficult to fight, but he would find out the view of his Hertfordshire County Council colleague.

2.2 District Council

Cllr Williams reported that following the IT issues, where the Planners were badly affected, the officers were now trying to clear the backlog of work. She referred to the Planning meeting, held in December which was attended by John Koch, SCDC Development Control Team Leader, and hoped that he had given some useful advice which Councillors agreed he had. Cllr Williams added that if an application for an exception site came forward in the village she would arrange for another officer visit to guide Councillors through the process. Cllr Traverse-Healy suggested that an application should come sooner rather than later. Although Cllr Williams could not contact the developer herself she would pass on the comment to the officers. An Environmental Health document, which would set out the bin charges, was imminent and once received Cllr Williams would forward to the Clerk.

Cllr Upchurch queried the fencing around the development site at Trapp Road. It was stated that this was construction fencing and not permanent even though it had been noted that the posts had been set in concrete. Cllr Belson added that the scaffolding had now been removed which

had improved the pavement width.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Kindersley and Cllr Williams for their reports.

### 3. COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM PARISHIONERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

#### 3.1 Parking on Hay Street

Councillors were advised that there was recently a lot of parking on Hay Street, whilst a football match took place, as the car park was not open. The Clerk was asked to bring this to the attention of the Football Club and remind them to open the car park gate. -Clerk

#### 3.2 Recreation Ground Rubbish

It was noted that there was a lot of branches left on the grass and driveway. Cllr Drew advised that this was as a result of a fallen tree. The intention was for the tree contractor dealing with the large Lelandii trees by the village hall to remove these when working on site. The tree work had been postponed and the other option was to pay another contractor to remove the branches. She added that a volunteer had already removed a large amount.

#### 3.3 School Bus

It was advised that the bus was still turning around into Craft Way which was dangerous. The Clerk to bring this to the attention of the Primary School and ask them to remind the bus driver. -Clerk

#### 3.4 Craft Way Hedge

Some work had been carried out on the hedge but it was still obstructing the path. It was unclear whether the work had been carried out by the resident or the County Council. The Clerk was asked to find out. -Clerk

### 4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF

#### 4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

On a proposition by Cllr Drew seconded by Cllr Wheatley the minutes as circulated were taken as read and then approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 4.1 The Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

On a proposition by Cllr Austin seconded by Cllr Courtney 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 The Wagon and Horses Public House –re-nomination of ACV

The Clerk advised that South Cambridgeshire District Council wanted more information on the re-nomination form about the activities of the Wagon and Horses. Cllr Upchurch offered to help with the completion. -CU

#### 5.3 Quotation for new Parish Council website

The website host had agreed to provide a quoted proposal and this would be urged before the next meeting. -Clerk

### 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 January 2019 DD £ 45.00

IN & OUT

Disabled toilet clean December 2018 £ 10.50

HALES PRINTERS

Newsletters January 2018 £ 48.00

SLCC

Cont towards SLCC 2019 £ 24.00

STEEPLE MORDEN VILLAGE HALL

Hire of committee room 10/12/18 £ 10.00

BASSINGBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Cont towards stationery £ 31.71

MRS S WALMESLEY

Clerks salary & expenses 1/10/18 -31/12/18 £ 941.94

HMRC

PAYE 1/10/18-31/12/18		£225.80
PAYMENT AGREED 17/12/18		
MD LANDSCAPES		
Grasscutting		
Recreation Ground April –November 2018	£1820.00	
Grasscutting verges	£1300.00	
Hedge cur	£ 190.00	
Conservation area	£ 240.00	
Additional strimming	£ 40.00	
VAT	£ 718.00	£4308.00

PROPOSED Cllr Traverse-Healy SECONDED Cllr Drew

6.2 Village Hall –Request for assistance with boiler purchase

Cllr Austin advised that a new boiler and oil tank would be needed for the village hall in the not too distant future. Quotations had been received for different options and the approximate total cost would be around £15,000. The Chairman asked Cllr Austin to circulate a set of the village hall accounts so that this could be discussed further at the next meeting. The Clerk reminded Councillors that there was some Section 106 money held, amounting to £550.53, which was to be used for community facility space.

-KA

6.3 Budget/Precept 2019/20

The original draft, discussed at the December 2018 meeting, had been updated to take into account comments made. It was confirmed that the funding for the proposal to resurface the car park would be from reserves. Cllr Drew explained that there was to be a temporary base prepared with chippings, agreed at a previous meeting, in the Spring after frosts. The Parish Council would then pursue the resurfacing in the Summer.

-Clerk

It was then proposed by Cllr Traverse-Healy, seconded by Cllr Upchurch, to set the precept for 2019/20 at £30,600. This was agreed by all Councillors. The Clerk to make the precept demand to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

6.4 SMARTIES –Update on Financial Position

A representative of the Pre-School was in attendance and provided a written update on progress. At the AGM only one of the existing committee members remained and new members were elected. Councillors were advised that the new committee was fully committed to ensuring that Smarties were an excellent service for the community. The current financial plan predicted that Smarties would break even for the remaining six months of their financial year, so no further funding would be required at this time, however some further financial help may be needed over the Summer.

Councillors asked questions about the income and expenditure, number of children and the holiday club and after school clubs which were both healthily attended. Cllr Belson suggested some joint fundraising with the Primary School which would be investigated.

The Chairman and Councillors congratulated Pre-School on their improved position and asked for a further update in April 2019. A brief report on the years activities was also requested for the Annual Parish Meeting which would be taking place during May 2019.

**7. RECREATION GROUND/CONSERVATION AREA**

7.1 Recreation Ground Maintenance –working group update

Cllr Drew reported that the disabled toilet light was on constantly. An electrician would be sought to resolve the problem. One of the Football Club dugouts had a broken side panel which needed to be repaired. The Clerk to advise the Football Club.

-Clerk

7.2 Repairs to Play Equipment

Cllr Drew reported that some of the agreed repairs had been carried out but the contractor was unable to repair the Pick Up Sticks and cableway. A quotation for the repair had been received and this would cost £238.95 plus VAT. Councillors agreed the expenditure and an order would be placed for the additional work.

-AD

7.3 Tree Inspection (Recreation Ground)

The Clerk had provided a map of the recreation ground but a larger version, including the conservation area was requested. Clerk to arrange.

-Clerk

7.4 Leylandii Tree Work –Football Club Update

The Football Club Secretary did not think that the heads of the floodlights were fixed. This would mean that they could be repositioned so that they faced straight down instead of straight out. The Football Club were to meet at the beginning of January when this would be discussed. Once a reply was received, which addressed the floodlight, issue the resident would be contacted

to discuss access for the contractors.

## 8. MAINTENANCE

### 8.1 Footpaths/Footways

#### 8.1.1 Craft Way Footway

As reported under Item 3.4 there had been some work carried out the hedge but it was still causing an obstruction

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

The Clerk to contact the Rights of Way officer. The outstanding issue was that the signage needed to be changed to show the correct path.

-Clerk

#### 8.1.3 Village Litter Pick Update

Cllr Belson had circulated a timetable of planned litter picks plus statistics for 2018. The volunteer group was looking to mirror the timetable of 2018 focusing on the Spring and Autumn. Cllr Belson added that she continued to be amazed at the number of people coming to help. She had carried out a survey of volunteers and everyone seemed happy with how the litter picking was working. There was still the issue of litter picks between villages but new contacts had been made and there were some constructive discussions occurring. If the suggested speed buffer zones were to be introduced then the areas of operation would be able to be safely extended.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Belson for her work on this project.

## 9. SPEEDING TRAFFIC

### 9.1 LHI Bid 2019/20 Feasibility Study

Cllr Jeffs had attended the County Council Panel meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to support the bid for a second MVAS. The result of the Panel meetings was expected in the Spring.

### 9.2 MVAS Delivery

The equipment had been delivered to the village. A parishioner, previously involved with the Community Speedwatch team, was invited to speak to Councillors.

The parishioner advised that the County Council was still to install the posts to mount the equipment on and this would take place soon. It had been suggested that as a temporary measure the equipment be mounted on lighting columns but the parishioner expressed caution at this and queried the insurance risk. He felt that it would be better to wait until the posts were installed. A discussion took place where it was agreed that the MVAS should be installed temporarily on a lighting column until the posts could be used. This would give some confidence to parishioners. Cllr Williams had obtained a list of South Cambridgeshire District Council columns and agreed to find out the position regarding insurance of the columns. The Clerk to add the equipment to the Parish Council insurance schedule. It was advised that another six fixing brackets would be needed at a cost of £65 each plus VAT. It was agreed that the Clerk purchase these. Training for users of the equipment would be arranged with the County Council officer.

-HW &  
Clerk

### 9.3 Meeting with Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Policing Team

The Chairman reported that a constructive meeting had been held with residents and Sergeant Priestley. There had been a discussion on Community Speedwatch where Sgt Priestley had confirmed that if the scheme was to be reintroduced in some form, with efforts targeting regular speeders, then an active response would happen. This would be either a personal letter, delivered by a PCSO, or Sgt Priestly would deliver the letter himself. This had worked effectively in other places. An update on progress would be made at a further meeting in June 2019. Sgt Priestly had agreed to forward an item for the Newsletter. An appeal for volunteers would also be made in the publication.

At the meeting a discussion also took place on traffic calming where it was stated that any measures had to be evidence based. There had to be at least six months of information gathered and a genuine problem had to be identified. Sgt Priestley stated that if there was an issue he would support the Parish Council with a request for traffic calming measures at a County Council meeting.

Cllr Belson, who had also attended the meeting, stated that the use of the MVAS data would enable the Community Speedwatch checks to be carried out at the most effective times.

Cllr Courtney asked if speedwatch checks could be carried out in Odsey. Although there were obvious speed calming measures in place on the approach to the A505, traffic travelling through Odsey from the A505 did at speed. He was advised that locations had to be agreed by the Police and Odsey was not included in the original discussion. There was though no reason why, once the MVAS was up and running in SteepleMorden, the MVAS could not be set up in Odsey.

It was advised that the 30mph speed limit sign on Ashwell Road was obscured by shrubbery

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Chairman

which the Chairman agreed to cut back. Cllr Courtney also agreed to request the refreshing of the road markings and rumble strips on the County Council website. *n & JC*

## 10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

### . 10.1 To consider Planning Applications

#### 10.1.1 Planning Ref S/4573/18/FL

32 Hay Street –Glass veranda to rear of property

Cllr Williams left the room while the application was discussed as she was a relative of the applicant.

**Recommendation -Support**

#### 10.1.2 Planning Ref S/4645/18/FL

43 Bogs Gap Lane –Demolition of existing garage with new garage and store

**Recommendation -Support**

#### 10.1.3 Planning Ref S/4633/18/FL

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

**Recommendation –Support**

## 11. RECOGNITION OF CONTRIBUTION TO VILLAGE

The Chairman had asked for this to be discussed as a acknowledgement for the work that the previous District Councillor, Cicely Murfitt, had carried out on behalf of the village. It was agreed that, as there was to be some more tree planting on the Recreation Ground/Conservation Area needed, a tree could be dedicated to Mrs Murfitt.

## 12 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED INCLUDING:

### . 12.1 CCC Street Lighting Energy October 2017 –September 2018

A letter had been received with an inventory of street lights, ahead of the invoice. The letter stated that the invoice would be calculated on the energy used by the inventory plus a 15% fee to cover County Council cost. For information the costs for the next financial year. October 2018 – September 2019, would be 12.5% higher.

The Chairman expressed his concern over the prices stating that domestic households bills were only 3% higher. There were also now energy saving lighting which should reduce the costs. The 15% administration fee was also unacceptable.

Councillors agreed that the Clerk reply, inviting the officer to the meeting to discuss the letter. She was asked to express the dissatisfaction of this information and query why the energy costs would be attracting such a high increase. The administration costs would also be queried and the County Council would be asked for a copy of their Terms and Conditions when the electricity supply was offered to the Parish Council. The Clerk was also asked to bring this to the attention of Cllr Kindersley and CAPALC and find out about alternative suppliers through other Parish Councils. *-Clerk*

## 13 COUNCILLORS' ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND REQUIRING THE URGENT ATTENTION OF THE CLERK

### . 13.1 Steeple Morden Village Hall

Cllr Austin reported that there was to be a village hall meeting the following evening which was the first since the Secretary had left. The post had been advertised with nobody coming forward. He was also concerned over the lack of committee members and asked the position should the committee not be quorate.

It was believed that the committee would cease to be a charity and revert back to Parish Council ownership. A discussion took place on user group membership and the suggestion of the surcharge to the users hire fee if they did not send a representative to the meetings. Cllr Austin would arrange for an appeal for members in the next newsletter. *-KA*

## 14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

### . 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019

There was no further business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

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Chairman

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Date