

STEEPLE MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Cricket Pavilion on
Monday 9th July 2018 at 7.30pm**

Present: Councillors: J Clayton (Chairman), A Drew, S Traverse-Healy, K Austin, C Upchurch, J Courtney, W Jeffs, G Belson
District Cllr Williams, County Cllr Kindersley
In attendance: Mrs S Walmsley (Clerk) and 4 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 Wheatley.
There were no interests declared.

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

2.1 Steeple Morden Football Club

A representative of the club was in attendance. He reported that this was an ever growing club, adult and youth, with one team in each age group. The club was making use of the recreation ground and had spent a lot of money on the adult football pitch. The committee would like to reintroduce a second pitch which could be double lined to accommodate the youth teams.

Cllr Drew stated that there had been an issue in the past with the positioning of the second pitch which was located at an angle where balls were going into the road. The representative confirmed that the second pitch would be parallel to existing.

The club was aware of the long grass on the pitch and was looking at purchasing a sit on mower so that they would be able to cut the pitch on a weekly basis.

Councillors agreed that, as long as all insurance issues were covered, they would have no objection to the committee cutting their own pitch.

Councillors were asked their opinion on the over use of the recreation ground. They agreed that there was sometimes an issue with overuse and suggested that a report from a professional Groundsman, on how often the ground could be used, be obtained. Cllr Drew advised that she was part of the recreation ground working party and there were other areas, apart from the pitches, which were affected by wear. She referred to the areas used for training which could become very bad. Cllr Belson referred to litter issues. She advised that she regularly walked across the recreation ground picking up tape and plastic water bottles. Cllr Drew agreed that following a representation made to the football club the situation had improved.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Football Club would arrange for a report on usage from a Groundsman. -Clerk

The Clerk was asked to confirm the decisions on the discussion points in writing to the club.

2.2 Hawthorn Tree work

As discussed at the last meeting concern was raised again over the removal of the trees and the distress caused to residents as the tree was a memorial tree. Cllr Williams reported that she had spoken to the District Council Officers who confirmed that the tree was not in the conservation area. She was also aware that a FOI request had been answered.

Concern was then also expressed over a large Horse Chestnut tree that had recently been felled and also a Willow tree. It was stated that the location of these trees was not in the conservation area, and neither had a Tree Preservation Order, and therefore a consultation was not needed.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter to South Cambridgeshire District Council, regarding the memorial tree, and ask that in future any plans for the removal of trees in a similar position be advised to the Parish Council. -Clerk

2.3 Development of Land 12-14 Station Road

Councillors were asked about the planning meeting which was missed by a local landowner. The Chairman advised him of the recommendation of Objection, due to the site being outside of the village framework, which had been made to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

Cllr Williams advised that this was the second application for the site. An appeal had been made to the Secretary of State against the refusal made by the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee on the first application.

3. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORTS

3.1 County Council

Cllr Kindersley had circulated a report.

He reminded Councillors that there were three weeks left until the deadline of the LHI bid for 2018/19.

The latest information on the A505 improvements was the proposal for two roundabouts with some closure of gaps. Cllr Kindersley was hopeful that proposals would be available in the next few weeks with full details and a formal public consultation by the end of the year.

Cllr Kindersley advised that he had met with Heidi Allen MP and members of Network Rail and various issues were discussed. Network Rail had offered to make changes to the hedgerow to allow for seven more car parking spaces and there had been conversation about various land ownerships. A local Landowner was being encouraged to resurrect a planning application for a car park. The planning application to regularise activities at the scrap yard had been discussed which Cllr Kindersley was following up. Cllr Williams added that there was a planning application for storage which would be through South Cambridgeshire District Council. Other planning issues were dealt with by Cambridgeshire County Council.

A discussion took place on parking at the station and Cllr Kindersley advised that he was speaking to Cambridgeshire County Council for advice on how parking on Station Road could be prevented. Cllr Belson suggested that as there were enough people using the station from the village a bus service to and from the station could be implemented. A discussion took place on how this could work. It was agreed that the outcome of the proposed additional car park needed to be known first before investigating other options.

Cllr Kindersley was involved with a group relating to the east/west Rail line. There was going to be a lot more about this and Parish Councils would soon be invited to presentations.

3.2 District Council

Cllr Williams had circulated a report to Councillors.

She advised that the planning application for development of The Jester site had been refused at appeal.

Cllr Williams referred to Village Design Statements which South Cambridgeshire District Council was keen to introduce. She agreed to circulate details to Councillors via the Clerk and reminded Councillors that the compilation of the next Local Development was due to begin in 2019.

There had been some blue bin contamination and residents were being urged to 'wash and squash'.

Changes to Universal Credit would be all e-mail based so support would be needed by some residents. She asked that people with a problem be referred to South Cambridgeshire District Council.

There had been an increase in burglaries in the village and Cllr Williams had spoken to the Police and Crime Commissioner to see what could be done. There was to be a drop in surgery on the 4th August 2018 with Heidi Allen MP.

Cllr Traverse-Healy asked to be kept updated on challenges made through the Appeals process.

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

4. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF

4.1 The Parish Council Meeting held on 11th June 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.

4.2 The Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 19th June 2018

On a proposition by Cllr Traverse-Healy 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

Cllr Kindersley had provided an update in his report.

5.2 Installation of Litter/Dog waste bins

Cllr Belson confirmed that the bins had been installed. She had e-mailed the District Council a number of times so that they could be allocated a number but had received no response. She would copy the e-mails to Cllr Williams to follow up.

-GB

5.3 GDPR –Update

A draft Privacy Policy had been circulated to Councillors. It was proposed by Cllr Traverse-Healy, seconded by Cllr Courtney, that the Policy, with a minor amendment relating to retention periods, be adopted. The Clerk would arrange for the Policy to be included on the website.

-Clerk

5.4 Cheyney Street bank grasscutting

The grasscutting contractor had confirmed that the bank was included within the specification for the grass verge cuts.

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 June 2 018 DD £ 45.00

IN & OUT

Disabled toilet clean June 2018 £ 14.00

K CHAPMAN

Website hosting and domain control until 28/3/18 (inc. £20.00VAT) £120.00

PLAYSAFETY LTD

RoSPA Play inspection report 2018 (inc.£45.00VAT) £270.00

MR K EVERSDEN

Installation of litter and dog waste bin £192.00

A CHAMBERS

Reimb for Jubilee trophy engraving and recreation ground expenses (inc £4.08VAT) £ 24.48

MRS S WALMESLEY

Clerks salary & expenses 1/4/18 -30/6/18 £ 950.08

HMRC

PAYE 1/4/18-30/6/18 £ 222.00

TOTAL

£1837.56

PROPOSED Cllr Belson SECONDED Cllr Austin

6.2 Update on Anglian Water Sewage Charge

There had been no further contact from WAVE following the submission of the photographs and 50% payment of the latest invoice. The Clerk would seek an update and urge a site meeting with their representative.

-Clerk

6.3 Agreement of NALC/SLCC Pay Scales April 2018

Councillors agreed that the latest pay scales be implemented from the 1st April 2018.

7. RECREATION GROUND/CONSERVATION AREA

7.1 Recreation Ground Maintenance –working group update

Cllr Drew reported that there was an ongoing issue with the double gates which kept being broken. She believed that children were responsible and would arrange a sign stating that the gates must be kept closed at all times.

-AD

7.2 Play Area RoSPA Report 2018

Cllr Drew referred to the latest RoSPA report and advised that there were some tasks that the working group could carry out. She would get a quote for the remainder to discuss at the next meeting.

-AD

7.2.1 Picnic Bench (Medium Risk) relocate and secure

7.2.2 Jungle Jim Climber (Medium Risk) monitor decayed timber and plan replacement

7.3 Request to use the Recreation Ground for picnic

The request had been received from The Morden Players for a picnic on the 19th August. Cllr Drew had entered the details in the recreation ground diary and requested that litter be put in black bags for the eurobin.

7.4 Car Park Strimming

The strimming request, discussed at the June Parish Council meeting, had been carried out.

7.5 Football Pitch Cutting

This item was discussed with the Football Club representative under Item 2.1.

7.6 Brush Scrub Cutting

The Football Club had asked for the scrub to be cut back. Councillors agreed that as they were supportive with the plans for the pitches the members of the club be asked to cut back this time. Clerk to relay this request to the committee.

-Clerk

8. MAINTENANCE8.1 Footpaths/Footways8.1.1 Footpath 10 –Minor Highway Improvement Scheme 2017/18 Application

There was no further update.

8.1.2 Footpath Diversion

A request had been received, from a local resident, for Parish Council input regarding a proposal to alter the course of the footpath across the Diggings garden and paddock. The proposed new route would go over Running Ditch to emerge on North Brook End at the north west corner of a field south of the paddock.

Councillors agreed that this was a sensible suggestion and agreed with the proposal. The Clerk

-Clerk

to advise the resident.

8.1.3 Craft Way Footway

Cllr Upchurch advised that there had still been no action regarding the cutting back of the confers. The Clerk was to follow up on a County Council response regarding the issue but had not received the forwarded e-mail from Cllr Upchurch. The Clerk was asked to investigate.

-Clerk

8.1.4 Hay Street Pavement

It was reported that the pavement from the telephone kiosk along Hay Street was in a poor state of repair. The Clerk to report on the County Council website.

-Clerk

9. REVIEWS9.1 Risk Assessment

This was deferred until the next Parish Council meeting.

9.2 Clerk Annual Review

The Clerk reminded Councillors that this was highlighted in the Internal Audit Report. Councillors agreed that the Clerk was constantly monitored.

10 LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME10.1 Meeting with Highway Engineer 6th July 2018 to discuss locations for MVAS

A previous Parish Councillor, who had been involved with traffic issues in the village, had met with the Engineer and looked at locations. He had provided a written update which had been circulated to Councillors. The Engineer now had details of locations for the MVAS and would progress the order for the equipment which he hoped to do by the beginning of September for delivery in December 2018.

10.2 Bid Update

Cllr Jeffs had offered to submit a bid for an additional MVAS unit agreed at the June meeting.

A discussion took place on other suggested traffic calming measures, including a 40mph buffer zone and gateway features, but it was agreed that these could be investigated in future applications once more data had been collated as evidence that there was a speed issue.

-WJ

11. SCHOOL SAFETY

Cllr Jeffs expressed her concern over the safety of children on the roads around the school adding that it was very dangerous. The Head Teacher had been invited to the meeting but due to short notice had been unable to attend.

Cllr Belson advised that the school issued constant reminders about parking outside the school to the parents. She added that in some ways the parking slowed traffic down forcing most drivers to drive at a speed appropriate for the area.

Cllr Jeffs suggested that there should be a lollypop person, flashing signs or a pedestrian table which would be a permanent place for children to cross the road safely. It was noted that the most dangerous place to cross was outside the Church.

After further discussion it was agreed that the Clerk would make contact with the County Council road safety officer to ask for his opinion on how the safety issue could be addressed. This would be an agenda item for further discussion at the next meeting.

-Clerk

12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS12.1 Odsey Scrap yard –Update on Planning Application

This had been covered under the County and District Councillors reports.

12.2 To consider Planning Applications12.2.1 Planning Ref S/2146/18/FL

Barn to the left of 29 Northbrook End Farm, North Brook End –Five Bedroom detached house with parking, detached carport

(Mr Steven Barrett)

It was noted that an application for the same location had been submitted previously. It was agreed that the same response would be made. It was also noted that this location was outside of the village framework.

12.3 Jester Planning Appeal

Cllr Traverse-Healy suggested that the Chairman write to the District Council Planning Officers to thank them for all the work that they had done on this application. It was agreed that the Clerk would write on the Chairmans behalf.

-Clerk

13 TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED INCLUDING:

13.1 Offer of Police Surgery with Rachel Carr (Police Crime Reduction Officer)

Details had been circulated to Councillors who agreed that a surgery would be a good idea. It was suggested that a meeting be held in August rather than September and Rachel Carr be invited to the August Parish Council meeting on the 13th August. The Clerk to liaise with the Police.

-Clerk

13.2 East Anglian Blue Grass Committee

The Parish Council was thanked for their ongoing support for the Festival. The 2019 event was to be held from the 14-16th June 2019 and Councillors were asked to confirm that these dates were acceptable which they did. Cllr Drew would arrange for the dates to be entered in the Recreation Ground diary. The Clerk to confirm with the East Anglian Blue Grass Committee.

-AD & Clerk

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

14.1 Village Hall Heating

Cllr Upchurch reported that the Village Hall Committee was investigating a new boiler and asked if the Parish Council would contribute towards the cost. A discussion took place on grants. It was agreed that the Village Hall Committee be asked to obtain some costings for the boiler and then apply to the Parish Council for a specific amount. This would be an agenda item for the next meeting.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING 13th August 2018

There was no further business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Chairman

Date