

**Minutes of a meeting of Clifton Parish Council held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010 in Clifton Community and Sports Centre, Whiston Crescent, Clifton at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Mr B. Livesey  
Mr T. Cobb  
Mrs I. Cook  
Mr M. Ephgrave  
Mr S. Fish  
Mr S. Langton  
Mrs P. Livesey  
Mr I. Pacey  
Mr B. Padgett  
Dr R. Puritz  
Cllr J. Clarke,  
Cllr T. Rogers and one member of the public.

1. **Public Forum:** There was no Public Forum
2. **Declaration of Interests:** No declarations of Interest were declared
3. **Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Mr T. Edwards, and ,Mr J. Stevens:.
4. **Election of Chairman:** Mr B. Livesey was proposed by Mrs I. Cook, seconded by Dr Puritz. There being no other nominations Mr Livesey was elected.
5. **Election of Vice Chairman:** Mr S. Fish was proposed by Dr Puritz, seconded by Mr Ephgrave. There being no other nominations Mr Fish was elected.
6. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> April, a copy of which had been circulated to each member of the Council, were agreed to be a true record and signed.

**7. Matters arising:**

7.1 **War Memorial:** The Chairman submitted a letter from the Claims Officer, Allianz concerning the Parish Council's complaint noting the fact that Allianz were supporting the decision not to pursue the recovery on the grounds that it was not economical. The Parish Council was not satisfied with this response and it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Ombudsman.

7.2 **Allotments:** -There was nothing further to report.,

7.3 **Bus shelter:** It was noted that the officer who had dealt with the matter previously was on long term sick leave. Since the bus shelters had been provided by the developers they might be approached. Details from alternative suppliers were being obtained. After discussion it was agreed that the matter should be referred to the Highways Committee for further action..

7.4 **Bye laws;** The approved byelaws required sealing ,and then advertising. It was agreed that the authority to seal them should be delegated to the Highways Committee..

7.5 **Speed Reduction/Traffic Calming:** Members received a report on discussions between representatives from Clifton Parish Council, Samuel Whitbread Community College, Bedfordshire Police Traffic Management Schools Safety Adviser and Amey's Highways Safety Engineer on the request for a 20mph speed limit on Shefford Road around the college. After discussion the Clerk was asked to write to Central Bedfordshire's Assistant Director (Highways and Transportation) and Amey's Highways Watchman requesting that consideration be given to the implementation of speed reduction and traffic calming measures throughout the village in tandem with the consideration of a 20 mph speed limit. Members also asked that the Clerk write requesting that serious consideration be given to the suggestion that the necessary finance should be raised from Section 106 Agreements .from building projects outside Clifton but in the catchment area for the Community College.

7.6 **Clifton Fields Section 106 Agreement:** On receipt of confirmation that no explanation or apology had been received from Central Bedfordshire Council on the apparent loss of £8,000.00 specifically earmarked

for highway improvements to the benefit of the Clifton electorate:the Clerk was asked to write to Central Bedfordshire's Chief Executive querying this loss .

7.7 Stockbridge Road Section 106 Agreement: Upon receipt of details of the current situation regarding the implementation of the provisions of the 106 Agreement relating to the cycleway provision and footpath contribution the Clerk was asked to write to the Assistant Director Highways and Transportation stating that the cycleway could be incorporated into the widening of the pavement between the development and the village boundary and still be in compliance with the 106 Agreement.

7.8A copy of Satchells ' letter and valuation of the Community Centre had been passed to Allianz. Details of a group scheme for Parish Council Insurance by Suffolk RCCwas noted but it was decided that no action should be taken at present.

7.9 Brownie Commemorative tree ; Mrs Livesey reported that the matter was in hand.

7.10 It was noted that Mr Stevens and Mr Anderson had now marked out parking bays for the disabled on the Community Centre car park

7.11. RATS It was noted that on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2010 the Cricket Club had arranged to borrow tables from the Community Centre on the day that R.A.T.S had booked the Centre for a Charity Fun –raising. These had not been returned as promised. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the organisers of the R.A.T.S event for their account of the event.

7.12 Mr Taylor had been written to concerning the willow tree.

7.13 Bell Ringers: Mr Livesey noted that the Parish Council had been asked to support an application for grant aid to the Clifton Bell Ringers. It was agreed that support should be given.

**8. Outstanding Matters:** Lists will be presented at committee meetings

#### **9 . Correspondence:**

9.1 Mr Donald Brace:The Chairman read a letter from Mr D. Brace , Cliftonbury Farm informing the Council that agreement had been made with DEFRA that the set aside land would now be open to the public until September 2019. It was agreed a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Brace for entering into this agreement..

9.2 Central Beds re Event Safety measures: This was noted.

9.3 Link a Ride: Letter giving a report on the last year's work and appealing for funds. It was agreed a donation of £150.00 be made.

9.4 BRCC: Letter advocating the production of Parish Plans. It was agreed no action should be taken.

9.5:Central Beds Consultation document on Preferred Gipsy/Traveller Sites

9.6 “ “ Final Structure - Office of Chief Executive

Parent Partnership Service Summer 2010

BRCC Bulletin

Clerk and Councils Direct May 2010-

Bedfordshire Bugle May 2010

Local Council Review Spring 2010

CPRE Countryside Voice + Members' Guide

#### **10. Playing Fields**

The report of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010, a copy of which had been circulated to each member of the Council was presented and discussed. It was noted.: -

10.1 Water heater in Gents Toilet. Mr Harvey now had the matter in hand.

10.2 Access from changing rooms to field used by football teams. It was agreed that action should be taken after the end of the season.

10.3 Children's play area update. . A layout of the proposal with a budgetary product price to supply and install of £ 52,240.40 had been supplied. Grant aid is being investigated and a firm quotation sought..

10.4 Electricity Meter. It was agreed this should be replaced with a smaller meter...

10.5 Table to be repaired

10.6 Dog fouling It was reported that Mr Siddle is looking into the matter of costs after hours with the contractor and will report back. .

10.7 Tables and Chairs. . Investigations to replace the chairs is on going.

10.8 Sunday Football fees. The Sunday teams had been reminded that £40.00 remained outstanding payment was overdue..

10.9 Flood lights in the car park.: Forde and McHugh.were to be asked to make adjustments to the angle of the lamps to complete the installation.

10.10 Football Matters

(a) The clerk has not received the receipt for the £70.00. Mr Darnell should supply it before reimbursement can be made.

(b) Flood light on the field. Feed back from the football club is awaited. Mr Stevens reported that the weight of the old floodlights made it impracticable to re-use them and the contractors had removed them. An external socket would shortly be installed. He suggested purchasing mobile floodlights which could be used in various locations to avoid undue wear on the playing field the teams were. It was agreed to draw up specifications and obtain quotations in order that grants could be sought.

(d) Tractor shed doors. It was agreed to seek estimates. It was recommended to approach R. Fish and M. Darnell.

10.11 Power to the Tractor Shed A quotation of £650.00 to supply and install a new distribution box, cabling to the tractor shed, strip lights, switches and a 13 amp socket in each end of the shed has been approved by the full council. An order has been placed with Mr Nott. Work had not started during the week commencing Feb 8<sup>th</sup>.as promised and a reminder is necessary. The Clerk had contacted Mr Nott to seek an alternative date.

10.12 Outside electrical power point. A quotation of £240.00 to supply and install a new external quality 30 amp socket and internal isolation switch. An order has been placed with Mr Nott. Work had not started during the week commencing Feb 8<sup>th</sup>.as promised and a reminder is necessary. Mr Nott had been asked when he was expecting to start work.

10.13 Hard Wire testing. . A new circuit breaker is needed as the heaters in the meeting room are more powerful than those originally installed. . Mr Harvey had been asked to do this.job.

10.14 Car park fencing. The council do not accept ownership of the fence recently erected by the construction company. The Clerk had written to Black Horse, the developers and had been in contact with them. A letter confirming ownership of the fence by the property developers had been promised but not received. This will be requested again. .Mr Stevens informed the Council the temporary fencing was to be taken down and the panels offered to residents

10.15 Manhole covers on the playing field should be replaced by lockable ones. This job was in hand.

10.16 Mr Stevens was considering approaching Sunni Signs to have a "Keep Clear" sign suitable for mounting on the traffic signs kept in the store for putting out when there is an event on at the centre.

10.17 June 19<sup>th</sup> 2010 Mr Oliver noted that the footballers were booking the field and centre on June 19<sup>th</sup>. More details would be given in due course. It was noted that there had been another enquiry about booking the Community Centre that day so the Club were to be asked to submit the form and payment as soon as possible.

10.18 Finance (a)The accounts for Mr Ferguson's and Mr Anderson had been authorised.

(b)The balance sheet showed a balance of £3572.35 of income over expenditure.

(c)Teams had withdrawn from the Saturday League and his team would be playing less league games. It was agreed that a refund should be made.

10.19: Correspondence: : Notice that the warranty on the cookers expired on 26<sup>th</sup> April and the offer of Coverplan protection at £63.00 per annum. It was agreed to take no action.

10.20. Other Matters: Mr Stevens had repaired the rocker on the children's playground.

The report was then adopted.

Mr Ephgrave noted that he was in contact with a firm that dealt in used furniture and showed a sample chair priced at £33.00 each. He would continue to look for suitable replacements

## **11. Highways**

The report of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010, a copy of which had been circulated to each member of the Council was presented and discussed. It was noted:-

11.1. Allotments: Mr Padgett noted that volunteers assisted by younger children had prepared the allotment at Samuel Whitbread Community College and early potatoes set. . Mr Brace had reported favourably on the allotments at Clifton Bury Farm.

11.2. Grassed Area at entrance to Community Centre. It was reported that Councillor S. Male was looking into the matter. Since this matter had been unresolved for years it was agreed to contact Central Bedfordshire once again and request immediate action...

11.3. Samuel Whitbread Community College. It is not clear whether planning permission had yet been given for the Nursery development. There had been complaints about parking on the main road and spaces within the premises were also inadequate. Mr Langton had followed this up and had established that additional spaces would be provided on the site of the present nursery building. It was noted that a fence had been taken down and the remnants deposited on the highway verge. Mr Livesey would contact the site manager to request its removal

11.4. Section 106 Agreements: Mr Cobb reported that £5,000.00 had been allocated for a cycleway. He recommended that Central Bedfordshire should be asked to start work on the proposed cycle path to the cricket club as soon as possible

11.5. Provision of bus shelter: Central Beds Council have been asked for the name of the supplier of the bus shelters in Shefford Road near the College. No reply has yet been received. It was noted that the enquiries had been directed to a member of staff who was on long term sick leave. Mr Livesey had a further contact and he undertook to make enquiries through that source.

11.6. Shefford Road. The white line up the centre still needs replacing after the recent resurfacing.

11.7. Bollards at the top of New Road.. The County Surveyor had visited the site and the request was being assessed.. It was agreed to remind them of the need for action.

11.8. Pond. It was agreed that a clean out was not necessary at present. However Mrs Taylor had been asked to remove the broken willow tree branch that had fallen into the pond. Since she had not responded to the request a further request should be sent to Mr Taylor

11.9. Traffic Calming. Mr Langton was investigating. He reported that a meeting was scheduled with the Principal and other interested parties concerning a reduction in the speed limit outside the college and round the S bend.

11.10. Litter picking: It was agreed that a further litter pick should take place later in the year.

11.11. Dropped Kerb in Spring Road. This had not been installed at the bottom of Spring Road as an exit from the garage of the new dwelling on the corner of Pedley Lane . It was agreed to contact the Highways authority about this matter.

11.12. Clifton House Gardens. As reported at the Parish Council meeting the application to build a fourth house had been refused by Central Bedfordshire. Confirmation of the ownership of the wall by the developers and thereafter by the owners of the property had been received. It was noted that the properties had now all been sold. The estate agents should be asked to remove their boards.

11.13. Garden of Rest. This had been tidied

11.14. Accident on A507: It was reported that Mr Cobb had the matter in hand

11.15. Mr Padgett noted that since the previous meeting he had investigated reports of flooding in the vicinity of Hitchin Lane and written to both Mr Taylor and Mr Peacock and submitted copies of this correspondence. It was understood that Mr Taylor had withdrawn his suggestion of land off Hitchin Lane as an alternative site. Concerning the flooding in Hitchin Lane it was determined to contact Steve Thomas or successor to clarify the situation regarding the balancing pond.

11.16. E-mail from Brown Owl concerning commemorative tree with plaque. Mrs Livesey reported she was discussing a suitable site for this with her.

11.17. Letter from Residents Association concerning (a) State of pavement outside the development at Clifton House and (b) the possibility of having a Christmas Tree in the village. It was noted that the pavement in Church Street had now been fixed but the path to Whiston Crescent was not satisfactory. It was determined to contact the Highways Help desk concerning this. (b) An ideal site for a Christmas tree would be on the island outside the White House. It was agreed to discuss this nearer Christmas.

11.18. Other matters (a) Mr Cobb had borrowed waders which leaked. Mrs Livesey had bought two pairs at a cost of £18.00 at a car boot sale and requested a refund of this expenditure.

(b) Trees 4 new trees had been planted in the village but three others had been vandalised.

(c) Land to rear of 102 – 96 Shefford Road: Mr and Mrs Livesey reported that they had written to David Lamb from Central Beds Planning following rumour about future development on that site  
The report was then accepted

## **12. . Planning**

The under mentioned plans had been returned to Central Beds with no objections:

CB/10/01069/FULL: Land rear of 65 Shefford Road: Erection of 1no. 4 bed dwelling with associated access (revision to plot 3 of planning approval CB/09/05512/FULL dated 29.10.09 for the erection of three 4 bed detached properties) (Dean Eldridge)

CB/10/01132/REN: Hillfoot Farm and land, Hitchin Road, Shefford: Extension of time limit for implementation: Application MB/07/01082/FULL dated 29/08/07. Provision of new access to existing commercial/industrial depot and construction of roundabout on Highway land .

CB/10/01306/FULL: Single storey rear extension at 35 Broad Street (Mr D. Harris).

CB/10/00994/FULL: Erection of 1 no. 4 bedroom detached dwelling at 196 Shefford Road: (Mr McErlean. By a majority decision there was no objection but concern was expressed about adequacy of access and over- development of the area so recommended that permission if granted be limited to 1 house only, There were objections to the undermentioned applications:-

CB/10/01311/FULL and CB/10/01312/CA: Demolition of 28 Grange Street, and clearance of the site to provide 5 two storey dwellings with associated private gardens and communal waste/recycling area.

Opposed to demolition due to historical value and location within the Conservation Area and suggested an alternative development of the building which retains the original fascia and preserves the street scene.

Also opposed to the proposal of 5 houses on the site on the grounds of lack of infrastructure to support additional housing within the village, additional traffic problems in Grange Street., proximity of access to plots 1 and 2 to the 90° blind bend would be dangerous for reversing or manoeuvring of vehicles, insufficient parking provision, unsafe access/egress and the design of the proposed houses is not sympathetic to the Conservation Area. An additional reason for objecting was the proximity of the building to a substantial mature Horse Chestnut tree which could be damaged .

CB/10/01091/FULL: Land at 31 Broad Street: Erection of detached dwelling with associated access following demolition of existing garage on the grounds of (a) the whole ambience of Elm Farm Close will be changed and will adversely affect the already congested parking in that road, (b) the design of the new building is not in keeping with those of neighbouring properties (c) Proposed vehicular access for No 31 will ruin the communal front garden of 31, 33 and 35 Broad Street and (d) will be onto a very busy section of Broad Street where there are already problems with speeding traffic.

Central Beds approved the following applications: : CB/10/00716/SE73: Retention of nursery building on site for a further 5 years extension of planning permission originally granted 7.3.05

CB/10/00763/FULL: Conservatory to side elevation of 11 Bath Place (Mr Bernard Bills)

CB/10/00510/FULL: Erection of double garage with living accommodation over it at 10c Hitchin Lane. (Mr Wilson)

CB/10/00625/FULL : B.E.S.T Nursery and Community building and office complex with associated parking at Samuel Whitbread Community College

CB/10/00597/FULL; Two storey front, side and rear extensions incorporating garage at 38 New Road (Mr Eidmans) Application has been withdrawn.

**13.** Election to Committees for coming year: It was agreed that the existing Committees should be elected en bloc for the coming year. It was noted that owing to pressure of work Mr I. Pacey was not prepared to stand for election as Chairman of the Highways Committee .

**14 Reports** (a) Clifton Lower School: Mrs Livesey made a brief report noting that the Headmistress had now left and Mrs Gow was Acting Headmistress

(b) Central Bedfordshire Council: Councillors Clarke and Rogers gave brief reports

(c) Other: Mrs Cook gave a brief report on the Civic Service which at which she had represented the Council.

## 15. Finance:

Current bank statements at 23.4.10 showed

Community Account	£17260.77
Instant Access Business Premium Account	£44902.71
New Treasury Deposit Bond	£30,000.00 bond

Outstanding accounts: Clifton (Sunday) Football teams £40.00;

Receipts: The following receipts were reported : Half Precept £17,000.00; Mrs A. Kay: Hire of the Centre 22.5.10: £142.00; Henlow Village Badminton: Hire of the Centre (March) £110.00; Ladies Social Hour: Hire of Centre in March £44.00; Mrs S. Turner: Hire of Centre 31.12.09 £118.00; Henlow Badminton: Hire of the Centre (April) £88.00; Mrs B. Turner: Hire of Centre 16.5.10 £48.00; Mrs J. Attenborough: Hire of Centre 7.5.10 £76.00; Mr N. Price: Hire of Centre 12.6.10 £160.00

Payments Payment of the following accounts were authorised :

*J. Stevens: Refund of costs of repair to see saw and marking car park) £99.76 (Ch 101637)(retrospectively*  
*Mr R. Anderson: Wages for month less N.I and tax)(Ch101638)*  
*W. J. Ferguson: Litter picking for month £60.00 (Ch 101639)*  
*Mr A Crawley: Playing Field Maintenance during April £ 292.50 (Ch101640)*  
*nPower electricity bill + VAT £208.99 (Ch101641).*  
*D. Granger: Grass cutting in village +VAT x 2 £711.72 (Ch101642)*  
*Herts County Council: Cleaning materials +VAT £58.57( Ch101643)*  
*Mr G. C. Dear Clearing paths of debris: £310.00 (Ch101644)*  
*Haze Cleansing Services: Jetting drains at Community Centre + VAT £88.12 (Ch101645)*  
*Allianz Insurance for 2010 – 2011 £5005.74 (Ch101646)*  
*\*Link-a Ride: Donation to running costs £150.00 (Ch101647)*

- Section 137 payment

### 15. Dates of next meetings:

Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010  
Thurs. 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010  
Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2010