

Minutes of a meeting of Clifton Parish Council held on Thursday 17th June 2010 in Clifton Community and Sports Centre, Whiston Crescent, Clifton at 7.30 pm

Present: Mr B. Livesey (in the Chair)

Mr T. Cobb

Mrs P. Livesey

Mr I. Pacey

Mr B. Padgett

Mr J. Stevens.

1. **Public Forum:** Mr B. Bills, 11 Bath Place attended. He was making enquiries about land in Sears Close adjacent to his property and had written to the Chairman on the matter. Mr Livesey agreed he would follow the matter up.
2. **Declaration of Interests:** There were no Declarations of Interest made
3. **Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Mrs I. Cook, Mr M. Ephgrave, Mr S. Fish, Mr S. Langton, Dr R. Puritz, Cllr J. Clarke and Cllr T. Rogers.
4. **Resignation of Mr T. Edwards,** The Chairman stated that he had received a communication from Mr T. Edwards in which he tendered his resignation from the Council. The Clerk would inform Central Bedfordshire Council.
5. **Police Report:** There was no Police Report.
6. **Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 10th May, a copy of which had been circulated to each member of the Council were agreed to be a true record and were signed.

7. Matters arising from the Minutes:

7.1 War Memorial: The Parish Council is not satisfied by the way in which the claim was handled. The Ombudsman must be applied to.

7.2 Bus shelter: Mr Pacey reported that this was in hand. A representative from Glasdon had visited the village and would be advising further on the matter.

7.3 Bye laws: It was reported that there had been a query about the inclusion of a clause concerning fly-tipping. This is covered by other legislation and should not therefore be contained in byelaws. They should now be sealed and advertised.

7.4 Speed Reduction/Traffic Calming (a) : Mr Cobb reported on a site meeting between himself, Steve Welham and two representatives from Amey. This was originally called to discuss the practicalities of prohibiting right turns from New Road onto the A507 but the police are no longer willing to commit themselves to enforcing this prohibition. Instead there was a discussion about the inadequacy of the existing road markings and the necessity and siting of road signs.. The Amey representatives will prepare a report for consideration by the Parish Council and Police. It was noted that the Clerk had written to Central Bedfordshire' Assistant Director (Highways and Transportation) and the Highways Watchman as requested.

(b) Mr Cobb added that he had been approached about speeding in Stockbridge Road and had been in touch with the police who would be carrying out checks in the near future.

7.5 Clifton Fields Section 106 Agreement: Mr Cobb reported that Central Bedfordshire Council had obtained the permission of the developer to retain the unspent £8k and together with £5k allocated for cycleway improvement add it to the Stockbridge Road safety enhancement programme.. The road markings on the S bend have finally been reinstated and the missing chevron is on order.

7.6 Stockbridge Road Section 106 Agreement: Mr Cobb reported that the money allocated in this Agreement for cycleway and footpath widening in Stockbridge Road totals £15k. £13k from the Clifton Fields Section 106 Agreement can now be added to that total making a grand total of £28k. The time limit for spending this money is June 2012.

7.7. R.A.T.S. It was reported that the hiring fee had now been refunded. Both the Secretary and Mr Weaver had submitted accounts of the events. These were noted and the situation discussed. It was suggested that the onus to refund should lie with the Cricket Club. Mr Pacey agreed to speak to the organisers.

7.8 Bell-ringers: Mr Livesey noted that he had endorsed their application for grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund on behalf of the Parish Council..

7.9 Clifton Bury Farm Set Aside Land Agreement. It was noted that a letter of thanks had been sent to Mr Brace. It had also been acknowledged in the *Clifton Chronicles*.

7.10 New Chairs for Community Centre: A quotation had been received from GWB Office Furniture to supply 120 black framed stacking side chairs in wipe clean black vinyl at a cost of £29.00 each. The total cost would be £3,500.00 including delivery.+ VAT. After some discussion about the disposal of the old chairs and whether this price quoted was inclusive of taking away the old chairs for recycling Mr Stevens proposed, seconded by Mr Cobb that an order should be placed after the matter of disposal was clarified.. This was agreed. Mrs Livesey undertook to contact Preen to see if they would be interested in taking them..

7.11 Grass cutting: Central Bedfordshire Council had notified the Parish Council that the contribution towards urban grass cutting during 2010/2011 would be £2,003.23. The necessary documentation had been returned to Central Bedfordshire Council. It was noted that payment for weedkilling during the last season was still being sought.

7.12 Mr Cobb submitted a draft resolution for consideration for inclusion at the Bedfordshire Association for Town and Parish Councils' Annual General Meeting. This was approved.

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

9 Correspondence:

9.1 Mr Bills: 11 Bath Place: Letter concerning an application to incorporate highway land in Sears Close into his garden. Mr Livesey is investigating this matter..

9.2 Mr D. Shelvey : Treasurer. Henlow/ Clifton Scout Group: Appeal for a grant.towards renovation of the kitchen of the old Scout Hut. Mr Stevens as a former leader of the troop declared an interest and took no further part in the ensuing discussion.. It was proposed by Mr Cobb, seconded by Mr Padgett that a donation of £250.00 and agreed by all present be made under the provisions of a Section 137 agreement.

9.3 Invitation to the Launch of the new Whitbread Wanderbus.. This had already taken place.and a report was given..

9.4 Boundary Commission Report; It was noted that the report recommended that Clifton should be linked with Arlesey, Henlow and Stondon with 3 Councillors representing the whole ward which is to be called "Arlesey" There was a brief discussion and it was determined that the report be studied more closely and a response be sent. Members objected to the proposed name and this should be noted.

9.5 Variation of a Premises Licence : Application from Clifton Service Station to sell alcohol – Off the Premises. This communication had previously been circulated; no objections were raised and this response sent to Central Bedfordshire..

9.6 CPRE: Diary of forthcoming CPRE events

9.7 Rural News Focus

9.8 Forest of Marston Vale

9.9 Open Space Summer 2010 Vol 29 No 8

9.10 Local Council Review Summer 2010

10. Playing Fields Committee

The report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 19th May, 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. It was noted that Mr Harvey had now been asked to deal with this and would be mending it in the near future.. However there had been discussion about an under sink heater serving three basins and a estimates for this were being sought.

10.2 Access from changing rooms to field used by football teams. 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. Siemens are to be contacted to arrange for this to be done..

10.5 Dog fouling It was reported that Mr Siddle is looking into the matter of costs after hours with the contractor and will report back. A reminder that a reply is awaited should be sent. .

10.7 Tables and Chairs. . Investigations to replace the chairs is on going Mr Ephgrave brought a sample replacement to the Parish Council meeting. It was noted that only 2 of this model would fit down one side of a table. Mr Ephgrave undertook to try and obtain a smaller version..

10.8 Sunday Football fees.:The Clerk had reminded the Sunday teams them that payment was due. It was noted that the Adult Sunday reserve team is still in existence. It was noted that £40.00 remained outstanding since two Home game had been re-arranged when the pitch was out of action.

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) 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.

(b) Parking bays had now been marked. Thanks were offered to Mr Anderson and Mr Stevens for this.

(c) Tractor shed doors. It was agreed to seek estimates. Mr R. Fish and Mr M. Darnell. Had been approached but no replies had been received. It was agreed they should be approached again

10.11.Power to the Tractor Shed It was reported that Mr Nott had completed work and this had now been installed

10.12. Outside electrical power point. This work had now been completed..

10.13 Hard Wire testing. . A new circuit breaker needed as the heaters in the meeting room are more powerful than those originally installed. It is reported that Mr Harvey will shortly be completing this work.

10.14 Car park fencing. The council does 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 had previously 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 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. He had now taken measurements.

10.17 R.A.T.S It was reported that R.A.T.S had hired the Community Centre on 25th April. The Cricket Club had asked to borrow some tables that day but had not returned them as promised. RATS would be receiving a refund of the booking fee.

10.18 it was noted that there the Junior football teams would be having Presentations.and Fun day on the playing field on June 19th. An invitation was extended to members of the Parish Council

10.19Security lights These had been broken. Mr Harvey was repairing them and erecting wire cages to prevent a re-occurrence of this suspected vandalism.

10.20, Mr Harvey had now completed replacing electric tubes in the kitchen and repaired the faulty.switches on two heaters in the main hall .

10.21 A request had been made by the Brownies to plant a tree with a plaque commemorating 100 years of Girl Guiding. This was in hand.

10.22 Finance (a) The accounts for Mr Ferguson’s and Mr Anderson had been authorised

.(b)The balance sheet showed a balance of £.3937.64 of income over expenditure.

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

10.23 Other Matters The Wednesday evening badminton group had complained that the hall floor surface was dangerously slippery. There had been no complaint from other users but it was agreed to investigate further..

The report was then adopted.. It was noted that Ivel Plumbing had quoted £1,170.00 for replacing the three heaters in the Gents’ toilets with a “hotflofo” under sink heater and supplying taps. It was agreed that more quotations should be obtained..

11. Highways Committee

The report of the meeting held on Thursday 20th May 2010, a copy of which was circulated to each member of the Council was presented and discussed. It was noted:-

11.1 Grassed Area at entrance to Community Centre. It was reported that the matter is in the hands of Central Bedfordshire Council.

11.2 Section 106 Agreements: Mr Cobb had reported that £5,000.00 had been allocated for a cycleway. It was emphasised that this money was designed for use within the village and must be spent in Clifton.

11.3 Provision of bus shelter: Mr Langton and the Clerk had obtained information on bus shelters from E. Garrick and Glasdon. Mr Pacey agreed to photograph the bus stop near Samuel Whitbread to submit to suppliers and to ask for a representative to visit and make recommendations..

11.4 Shefford Road. The white line up the centre still needs replacing after the recent resurfacing. Mr Livesey undertook to contact Jill Cross.

11.5 Pond. It was agreed that a clean out was not necessary at present. Mr Taylor and Mrs Taylor had been asked to remove the broken willow tree branch that had fallen into the pond. Mrs Livesey noted that Paul Clarke was willing to help and had been asked to help water hanging baskets on the War Memorial

11.6 Traffic Calming. Mr Langton submitted a report of a meeting held with the Vice Principal of S. Whitbread Community College, Nick Shaw, Central Beds Schools Travel Adviser, Adrian Clothier, Senior Safety Engineer with Amey, and Steve Welham, Bedfordshire Police. It was agreed that the Parish Council's concern was fully justified and appropriate measures should be taken to achieve a reduction in the speed limit outside the college and round the S bend. Mr Shaw advised that funding for this might be provided by C.B C's "Safer routes to school" programme. This budget was committed for the current year but Samuel Whitbread could be included in 2011's budget. Mr Clothier expected that it would be possible to undertake preliminary investigations in January 2011. Clifton PC would request the Highways' Watchman for the necessary speed reduction and calming. A further meeting would be held with the Principal and Vice Principal in due course. The knock on effect of the speeding traffic in the village should be clarified with Mr Cobb

11.7 It was noted that £15k had been allocated for a cycle-route. It was determined to request that this sum be used solely in Clifton.

11.8 Litter pick ;It was agreed that a further litter pick should take place later in the year.

11.9 Dropped Kerb in Spring Road. This matter had been referred to Central Bedfordshire for action..

11.10 Clifton House Gardens. It was noted that the estate agents had removed their boards. The wall bordering hurch Street had been repaired but concern was voiced about the condition of the wall facing the pathway between Church Street and Whiston Crescent. The Clerk was asked to contact the developers concerning this matter..

11.11 Garden of Rest. This had been tidied

11.12 Flooding in Hitchin Lane; Mr Livesey undertook to get in touch with Jill Cross since problems do not seem to be fully resolved.. it was determined to contact Steve Thomas or successor to clarify the situation regarding the balancing pond.

11.13 Brownies' commemorative tree with plaque. Mrs Livesey reported the matter was in hand.

11.14 Residents' suggestion about Christmas Tree; An ideal site for a Christmas is on the island outside the White House. It was agreed to discuss this at a date nearer Christmas.

11.15. Correspondence (a)A copy of the 2010/11 Highways Maintenance Programme had been sent. It was noted that the only item scheduled for Clifton was for retreading the footpath in Spring Road . It was determined to state that the pavements in Fairfax Close were much more in need of attention

(b)A copy of a letter to Mr Cobb from Mr Gary Worth concerning a contribution of £5000.00 for improvement to the strategic cycle route to Henlow. This was noted and it was agreed to write pointing out that this money should be spent in Clifton and querying why nothing had been scheduled.

11.16Finance.It was noted that so far this year £908.52 had been spent on grass cutting and a further £310.00 had been paid to Mr Dear for his work on footpaths down Church Street and the footpaths around Broad Walk..

11.17 Other matters

(a)Trees 4 new trees had been planted in the village . They need watering during dry weather. It was agreed to ask Mrs Tiney if the Residents Association would be prepared to help in this way.

(b) Blocked drain near One Stop shop: This had been reported but it was resolved to request action again

(c) Planters Mrs Livesey noted that these had been stripped out. Replacement plants will be purchased.

(d) 28 Broad Street A planning application to fell a Lawson Cypress in the back garden of 28 Broad Street had been received. Mrs Livesey had discussed this with Mr Morwood and it had been agreed that felling was the only option and this application need not be circulated.

(e) It was noted that the hanging baskets for the War Memorial had been ordered. Mr Langton would remove the poppy wreaths..

(f) Mrs Livesey noted that as there appeared to be a lack of funding for new trees in Central Bedfordshire it might be possible to appeal to residents within the village offering them the chance to donate commemorative trees. A note about this will be put in the next issue of Clifton Chronicles.

(g) Village Award It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Mrs M. Turner should receive a certificate. Mr Pacey will arrange this. The report was then adopted.

12. . Planning

It was reported that Central Beds approved the following applications:-

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:

CB/10/00994/FULL: Erection of 1 no. 4 bedroom detached dwelling at 196 Shefford Road: (Mr McErlean)

CB/10/01069/FULL: Erection of 1 no. 4 bed dwelling with associated access on land to the rear of 65 Shefford Road Revision to Plot 3 of Planning application CB/09/05512/FULL dated 29.10.09

Central Beds refused the following application:-

CB/10/01091/FULL: Land at 31 Broad Street: Erection of detached dwelling with associated access following demolition of existing garage

It was noted that the following applications have been withdrawn: -

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

Mrs Livesey reported that there had been an application for carrying out tree work at 1 Clifton House Close. She and Mr Morwood were dealing with this matter. This was noted.

13 Reports (a) Clifton Lower School: Mrs Livesey reported briefly.:

(b) Central Bedfordshire Council: There was no report presented.

(c) Other: (i) Mrs Livesey gave a report on the recent Town and Parish Council reception held at Priory House in during which there had been presentations describing locally driven parish initiatives in Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard.

14. Finance

:Current bank statements at 23.5.10 showed

Community Account	£14,785.26
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 : Henlow Village Badminton: Hire of Centre in May £88.00; Orchard Children's Centre: Hire of Centre for Family Cookery in June/July £240.00; Mrs E. Fossey: Hire of Centre 18.7.10 £48.00; Ladies Social Group: Hire of Centre in April £33.00; Central Bedfordshire Council: Hire of Centre as Polling Station £176.00; Mrs T. Chiswell: Hire of Centre for Aerobics to March £506.00; Mrs J. Davidson: Hire of Centre on 18.7.10. £48.00

Payments Payment of the following accounts was authorised :-

Mr R. Anderson: Wages for month less N.I and tax £697.87 (Ch101647)

W. J. Ferguson: Litter picking for month £60.00 (Ch 101650)

Mr A Crawley: Playing Field Maintenance during May £ 292.50 (Ch101651)

nPower electricity bill for April + VAT £200.40 (Ch101652).

Stephen J. Nott: Electrical work as estimate + VAT £987.00 (Ch101653)

D. Granger: Grass cutting in village +VAT £355.86 (Ch101654)

Mr G. C. Dear Clearing paths of debris: £360.00 (Ch101655
D. Harvey: Electrical work at Community Centre £285.00 (Ch101656
Beds Association of Town and Parish Councils £548.00 (Ch101657)
Bedford Borough Council: ¼ Refuse collection + VAT £63.39 (Ch101658
B. Livesey: Refund for costs of plant etc. for 6 planters £71.34 (Ch 101659
Shaw & Sons Ltd: New Receipts and Payments ledger+VAT £66.36)
Npower: Electricity bill for May + VAT £203.70
Mrs J. C. Lanham: ¼ salary + expenses.
**Henlow and Clifton Scout Group: Donation £250.00*

Bond It was noted that this would mature in early July and agreed unanimously that this should be renewed.

15. Dates of next meetings:- Thurs. 22nd July 2010
Thurs 9th Sept. 2010
Thurs 14th October 2010