

Minutes of a meeting of Clifton Parish Council held on Thursday 10th March 2011 at 7.00 pm at the Community Centre, Whiston Crescent, Clifton-

Present: Mr B. Livesey (in the Chair)

Mr T. Cobb

Mr M. Ephgrave

Mr S. Fish,

Mrs L. Hurst

Mr S. Langton

Mrs P. Livesey,

Dr R. Puritz

Mr J. Stevens

Councillor R. Drinkwater and 3 members of the public also attended.

1. Public Forum: Mr and Mrs Burden (7 Bath Place) and Mrs L. Caress (208 Shefford Road) attended. All expressed concern about parking by the roadside, in particular double parking outside Samuel Whitbread Community College. This was noted. Assurances that the Parish Council would continue in its efforts to work with the college, police and highways authorities were given.

2. Declaration of Interests There were none declared.

3. Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr I. Pacey, Mr B. Padgett, Cllr J. Clarke, Cllr T. Rogers and, Pc Kevyn Thornley

4. Police Report: There was no Police Report. Mr Cobb noted that messages from the police were being passed through to him which he was then circulating. He also noted that Street Watch had now been set up in the village, and in due course volunteers would be sought for Speed Watch

5 Minutes : The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 10th February 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to each member of the Council, were agreed to be a true record and were signed.

6. Matters arising

6.1 Housing Needs Survey: It was noted that a draft survey form had been circulated. Members were asked to submit their comments to Mr Cobb by the middle of the next week. The Clerk had spoken to Mr Don Gray about distributing forms with *Clifton Chronicles*

6.2 : Bus shelter: It was reported that the probable cost of insurance of a shelter costing £6,000 would be approximately £70.00. The Clerk had met with Mr Ron Law who was deputising for the Public Transport Officer Paul Dodge on site. The latter could not foresee any problems arising from the proposal would be in touch shortly.

6.3 Cycle path; It was noted that the Parish Council's request for transfer of land adjoining 1 Whiston Crescent had been acknowledged by Central Bedfordshire Council Property Section

6.4 Land Registry: This was in hand.

6.5 Water heater: Mr Stevens reported that Mr Brewer would possibly be starting work on 30th March 2011. Since the Parish Council would be supplying the materials for this work he asked for authority to purchase them. This was given and a cheque would be prepared.

6.6 Cold Calling signs. It was reported that suitable locations for the cold calling signs had been agreed and installation would shortly take place..

6.7 Litter Pick: A request for help was in the current issue of Clifton Chronicles. Mr Livesey asked those present for their help during the weekend 26th/27th March.

6.8: Green Infrastructure Plan : The Parish Council is asked to endorse the statement. This is to be circulated before the next meeting..

6.9 Central Bedfordshire has been notified of the Parish Council's choice of "Godfrey's Lane" for the development to the rear of 65 Shefford Road.

6.10 Byelaws: These had now been ratified. They should now be published them including the official approval note and advertised in *Clifton Chronicles*

6.11: PAT Testing : It was noted that this had now taken place. All appliances are satisfactory..

6.12 Rookery Walk: It was reported that the Clerk had met Sue Price on site. The latter agreed to do what she could do to get it adequately signed and also suggested incorporating the name t on existing signs and also too indicate numbering of houses.

6.13 It was noted that the willow stumps had now been filled with topsoil and primroses planted in them and Mr Langton and Mrs Livesey were thanked for undertaking this. Mr Licvesey reported that he and Mrs Livesey had been given permission to transplant some snowdrops from the grounds of Clifton House on the verge. Residents in the village had been most complimentary about the appearance of that verge. .

6.14. Silver Lake Farm: It was reported that this is still under investigation by Central Beds. A Planning Contravention Notice has been issued and Mr Cobb will be kept informed of developments;

6.15 Electricity: Mr Fish reported that he had been investigating the possibilities of solar power and had obtained estimates which would be referred to the Community Centre Management Committee for further consideration.

7. Outstanding Matters; These lists would be presented at the respective committee meetings.

8. Correspondence:

8.1 Whitbread Wanderbus requesting annual donation. It was agreed a donation of £250.00 should be made.

8.2 Beds Association: Various matters - Reminder about PAYE: / Booklets about becoming Parish Councillor

8.3 Bedfordshire Bugle March 2011

8.4 Central Beds; Nomination papers; These were distributed to those present.

8.5 Bedford College offering courses in horticulture etc.

8.6 : Redborne School Sport Partnership

Clerk and Councils Direct

Local Council Record.

Open Space Spring 2011 Vol 29 No 10

9. Community Centre and Playing Fields Management Committee:

The report of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th February, 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to all members of the Council was presented and discussed. It was noted:-

9.1 Water heater in Gents Toilet. Mr Stevens reported that Mr Harkin had cancelled all arrangements to do this work. The Parish Council had given permission to approach Mr Brewer, (Ivel Plumbing and Heating) again and this was being followed up.

9.2 Access from changing rooms to field used by football teams. It was agreed that action should be taken soon.

9.3 Childrens Play Area Update: This was in hand.

9.4 Electricity Supply. It was reported that the economics of solar powered systems was still being investigated. 2 estimates had been obtained and Mr Fish was awaiting a third. Mrs Dawson undertook to request a further quotation.

9.5 Dog fouling It was noted that the process for excluding dogs from the playing field should be re-commenced. The Parish Council had agreed this should be done.

9.6 Flood lights in the car park.:Mr Anderson reported that Forde and McHugh had now visited and adjusted the angle of the lamps to complete the installation

9.7 Football Matters(a) Flood light on the field. It was noted that Mr Darnell had obtained information on floodlights and this would be considered at a later date.

(b) Footballers were bringing mud into the changing rooms on their boots. Mr Gearing noted that a door scraper fitted with brushes for cleaning football boots would be useful. Further details of these would be found.

(c) A number of plastic bottles were being left around the field and in the changing rooms. Those responsible are to be asked to remove them

(d) It was noted that the Sunday team was now fully paid up;

9.8 Car park fencing. It was noted that these temporary panels should now be taken down.

9.9 No football traffic beyond this point” The sign suitable for mounting on the traffic signs had been supplied. but it was wrongly worded. A new one had been obtained.

9.10 Byelaws.; It was noted that these had now been confirmed. Arrangements for publishing and circulating them were discussed and suggestions made.

9.11 Fair Mr Manning had now returned the keys to Mr Stevens. He had been advised of the fact that the deposit would be raised to £50.00.

9.12 Private Access onto Playing Field: It was reported that letters had now been distributed to those properties bordering on to the field. There had been a request for a copy of the relevant Legal Topic Note and this had been supplied.

9.13. Temporary local Police depot. It was reported at the recent Parish Council meeting that it was learned that the police have a lockable container which will be moved around the area and used for a local depot. . The Parish Council asked for it to come to Clifton and this was agreed. Arrangements will be made for access and use of kitchen and toilet facilities in due course. It was suggested that if the Community Centre was in use, then the changing rooms could be used.

9.14 Mrs R.Turner was now hiring the meeting room for Music Awareness on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the usual rate of £8.00 per hour.

9.15 Temperature of Hall: Recently there had been complaints from hirers and users that the hall is cold. The Committee is investigating this.

9.16 Finance : (a) Payment of Mr Anderson's and Mr Ferguson's accounts had been authorised. .

(b) The balance sheet showed a balance of £7823.41 of income over expenditure although it was pointed out the electricity bills for 2 months had not yet been received.

9.17 Correspondence: (a) Quotation from Mr A. Crawley for 2011/2012 : £3,600: Maintenance of playing field : Dogwood and weeding £150.00: £300.00 to weed kill the main field and £150.00 to re-seed the goal mouths. This estimate was accepted..

(b) Local Elections: Application to book the Community Centre as a Polling Station on Thursday, 5th May 2011.

(c) RoSPA: Annual Inspection + 2011 brochure.

(d) Communities and Local Government: Letter advising that the byelaws had been confirmed

9.18 Other Matters (a) Repointing: Mr Pacey was arranging for Mr Bray to give an estimate.

(b) A visiting football team had lost the keys. Mr Stevens had changed the lock and purchased new sets of padlocks.

(c): Mr Stevens reported that he had repaired a hole in the fence but another one had appeared.

(d): The football clubs should be asked to remove the tubs outside the tractor shed.

(e) Caretaker's requests: (i) New Fire Assessment forms were required.

(ii) The footballers appeared to be going into the showers with boots on. It was agreed to send a request to all clubs asking them no to do so. There also appeared to be an excessive amount of mud left on the paths around the building.

(f) Contract for the caretaker was needed.

The report was then adopted.

10. Highways Committee:

The report of the meeting held on Thursday 16th February, 2011, a copy of which had been circulated to all members of the Council was presented and discussed. It was noted:-

10.1 Provision of bus shelter: It was noted that no planning permission would be required for the bus shelter and after a long discussion it was agreed that a shelter should be erected as soon as possible. The Clerk would contact Mr Dodge at Central Bedfordshire Council for any guidance necessary. It was suggested that the seat at present on the site should be moved to the patch of grass outside 2/4 Grange Street.

10.2. Traffic Calming. Mr Cobb had now met with a representative of the Highways Department for further discussion

10.3 Section 106 Agreement: Members noted that the cycleway is now under construction in conjunction with new lighting. Councillors Langton and Pacey voiced concerns about the width in places and it was agreed to seek clarification on this point.

10.4 Garden of Rest The low wall had been repaired. Mr John Bray, jwb builders had looked at the front wall and made recommendations. Since this is likely to be costly more than one estimate should be obtained. Mrs Livesey noted that she had tidied the Garden of Rest.

10.5 Flooding in Hitchin Lane. Mrs Livesey and Mr Padgett had spoken to Amey's representatives. The situation will continue to be monitored.

10.6 Christmas Tree: It had not been possible to have a tree in 2010 and following advice from Shefford Town Council the Parish Council suggested that the project should be abandoned but the Committee thought that preparations for installing one next Christmas should continue to be made and suitable locations and means of power supply were discussed; the preferred site being near the village sign..

10.7 Trees . Mrs Livesey noted that 5 Himalayan white barked birch trees had been planted on the site of the felled willow tree in Grange Street. Mr David Alderman had inspected them and expressed himself pleased at the result.. The working party who had tidied the verge to the left of the two stumps on Sunday 23rd January was thanked and Mr Wall had been thanked for removing all the scrub There was discussion about the possibility of using the willow stumps as planters and Mr Langton undertook to purchase topsoil to put in them

10.8 **Blocked drains** : Jill Cross had been notified about the blocked drains across the entrance to the car park outside the "One Stop" shop and by the mini roundabout on the junction of Hitchin Lane and Broad Street.

10.9 . The laburnum tree outside 62 Broad Street has been replaced by a rowan tree.

10.10 **Village Award** It was reported that Jill Cross had been presented with an Award in recognition of the service given to the village and had been pleased to receive it.

10.11 **Rookery Walk**; It was noted that replacement street signs requested for Spring Road, Fairfax Close and the Joint were now in place. One sign was to be ordered for Rookery Walk. The Committee still maintain that a minimum of two signs is necessary and request a site visit to pursue the matter. This has been requested..

10:12 Mrs Livesey asked for the Committee's backing of Miss Tomsett in her efforts to preserve wildlife habitats. This matter was deferred pending a direct approach . It was noted a copy of her letter of complaint had been passed to the Parish Council. Mrs Livesey reported that thanks to Ms Tomsett's persistence 100 trees would be given to the village. A site for these has yet to be found.

10.13. A request had been received for a bus stop sign to be erected on the site of the old bus stop in Broad Street . The Clerk had asked for one to be supplied and had been promised that the matter would be seen to.

10.14. Street Naming and Numbering: The suggestion “Godfrey’s Lane” had been forwarded to Central Bedfordshire.

10.15. Salt – bins: Mr Welsford had agreed to store salt in his garage.

10.16 War Memorial: It was reported that the Parish Council had decided that no further action should be taken following the letter from the Financial Ombudsman..

10.17. Correspondence: (a) Mrs Livesey reported that she had received an invitation to the Annual General Meeting of the Community Tree Trust.

(b) The Annual General Meeting of Whitbread Wanderbus is to be held on 28th February at the Council Offices in Shefford.

10.18 Other matters: Flagpoles: There are flagpoles on the site of the former highway depot. Mrs Livesey intended to write to see if they could be purchased for use in the village.

The report was then adopted

11. Planning:

The undermentioned plans had been returned to Central Beds with “no objection”

Revision to CB/10/04526/FULL Land adjacent to Clifton House: Construction of new dwelling house,

CB/11/00448/FULL; Double storey rear extension and canopy to front at 34 Broad Street, Clifton (Mr Young

CB/11/00551/FULL: Single storey side extension,, first floor extensions to front and rear and loft conversion at 35 Hitchin Lane, (Mr and MrsVerzbitsky)

Central Bedfordshire granted a non material amendment to insert an obscure glazed window to ensuite in bed 2 on plots 4/5 and change dining and lounge windows to bay on plots 4/5 on land to the rear of 65 Shefford Road.

12 Reports (a) Clifton Lower School: Mrs Livesey reported that this would be the last report she would be giving as a Governor of Clifton Lower School, The LEA had ruled that minor local authorities should no longer be represented on the Board of Governors. Mrs Livesey was thanked for the many years of service she had given as the Council’s representative.

(b Central Beds Council: There was no report

(c) Other: A short report was given by Mr Cobb who had met representatives from Amey . noted that

13. Finance

:Current bank statements at 23.2.11 show

Community Account	£920.80
Business Saver Account	£ 56,639.43
New Treasury Deposit Bond	£ 30,000.00

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Outstanding accounts: None

Receipts: The following receipts were reported; Henlow Village Badminton: Hire of Centre in Jan 2011 £66.00; Miss V. Keating: Hire of Centre 20.3.11 £76.00; Mr L. Machin: Balance of payment for Sunday Football Team £129.00; Mrs C. Eidmans: Hire of Centre by Woodlands Pre School on 18.2.11 and 12.3.11 £148.00; Biggleswade and Sandy Lions: Hire of Centre for Jumble Sale £25.00; Ladies Leisure Group: Hire of Centre in Jan £44.00; Mrs R. Turner: Hire of Meeting Room in Feb £64.00; Henlow Village Badminton: Hire of Centre in February £55.00; Clifton 1st Brownies: Hire of Centre Jan/Feb £45.00; Clifton 1st Rainbows Hire of Centre Jan/Feb £45.00;

Payments Payment of the following accounts was authorised :

Mr R. Anderson: Wages for March (less Tax and NI) £697.87(Ch101801)

W.J. Ferguson: 1 Months Litter collection £60.00 (Ch 101802)

Adrian Crawley: Playing Field maintenance in February £292.50 (Ch101803)

D. Harvey: Supply and fit faulty heater control switch £45.00

S. Langton: Refund of cost of Topsoil £8.97(Ch 101806)

D. A Woolgar: PA Testing |+ VAT £171.94 (Ch 101807)

