

Minutes of meeting of Bletsoe Parish Council held on Monday 14th November 2016 at the Village Hall, Memorial Lane, Bletsoe

Present:

Present: Ann Gibbons (Chairman), Paul Caves, Mary Laws, Edward Bean, Alison Foster, Paul Vine and the Clerk. There were also 7 members of the public.

1. **Apologies for absence**

None

2. **Declarations of Interest**

All members declared a local interest in matters relating to the NDP and matters relating to the Old Parish Field. However, dispensations have been granted to all members who therefore have the right to speak and vote on this item. All members also declared a local interest in matters relating to the Waiting for the Sun similarly dispensations have been granted to all members who therefore have the right to speak and vote on this item.

Cllrs Foster & Laws declared a local and disclosable pecuniary interest regarding item 11 (the NDP)

Cllr Vine declared a local interest regarding items 8 & 9.

3. **Declaration of acceptance of office**

Following the recent local elections Mr Paul Vine had been elected. Cllr Vine signed his declaration of acceptance of office which was witnessed by the Clerk.

4. **To approve the minutes of previous meeting held on Monday 5th September**

It was resolved to approve the minutes with one small amendment to alter reference to Mr M Gibbons not Mr Grimes.

5. **Matters arising from minutes**

There were no matters not included elsewhere within the agenda.

6. **Public Open Session**

NDP questionnaire

Whilst the second questionnaire that was circulated was better than the first one I am disappointed that question H5 was not split into 2 sections. If you strongly agree or disagree to this question the site is still favoured for building and there is no option for strongly disagreeing to any building. Who altered the wording of this question and why is this question different to those asked about the other pieces of land?

There were no further questions.

7. **Clerk's Report**

The report was noted and the following items were raised:

We need a photograph of the bench when it has been moved onto the playing field? This is a requirement by Beds BC as it was paid for using ward funds. Cllr Vine offered to do this and send to the Clerk.

P Vine

Two quotes had been received for repairs to the bus shelter roof. These were circulated for consideration. Cllr Caves confirmed that the cheapest quote from N Ginn would be sufficient and it was resolved to instruct Mr Ginn to undertake the repairs. The clerk would ask Cllr Towler if ward funds could be used to fund the repairs.

Clerk
Cllr
Towler

Lighting at SMH – it was reported that the lighting had been on intermittently late in

the night. It should only be on mid evening about 7:30-8pm and then off again at 10pm. SMH confirmed they would like to assist the parish council and to contact them if there are any problems associated with their premises. It was resolved to email the clerk if there are any problems with the timing of the car park lighting.

8. **To consider a proposal for regular football use on the village playing field**

Written

A written report had been produced outlining a proposal for regular use on the village hall playing field. Members raised the following questions:

Does the club require changing facilities and cleaning of village hall? *No, use of toilets would be useful but we do not need changing rooms and we would ensure there was a "boots off" policy when entering the village hall and volunteers would sweep the hall and toilets after the match.*

Do you require cooking facilities and if so what would happen if the village hall has a booking and you cannot use either the kitchen or the toilet facilities? *The team have a calendar of fixtures for home and away matches. Provided we have the dates when the hall is in use we can relocate and play at the away ground.*

What about car parking – how many cars do you think there will be? *The matches are only 7 a side and parent's car share, there are no coaches or minibuses. The current car park has the capacity to meet our requirements. Matches would take place every other week.*

What about grounds maintenance? *The groundsman from Sharnbrook FC has confirmed they will prepare the pitches and any additional grass cutting would be undertaken by volunteers at no cost to the PC.*

What part of the field will you use as some parts are very poorly drained? *We have undertaken a site visit with the groundsman from Sharnbrook FC and confirmed that the field is perfectly suitable for the requirements of 7 a side football for this age group.*

It was noted that the existing metal goalposts might need to be removed but there is funding available to pay for replacements.

Insurance – the parish council insurance would not be used for the football club's use of the field and the club would need to provide their own cover in the same way as other groups or other one off events.

Members of the PC were supportive of the idea but agreed the football club would need to liaise with the village hall management committee and the Lady Smockers. A copy of the clubs PL insurance would need to be sent to the Clerk prior to use of the playing field.

J Russon

9. **Report from Lady Smockers**

Written

Mr Hughes provided a verbal report from the Lady Smockers. Written reports had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was noted that of the £500 budget from the parish council so far £260 had been spent with £240 remaining. The group had received additional donations of £350 and a sit on mower had been purchased.

The group had been extremely busy and undertaken a variety of tasks. The Steering group have started to draft the 10-year plan and put in a funding proposal to the Harpur Trust. We are finalising our requirements for the grass cutting

contract and will liaise with the parish clerk as this will need to be included in the parish council's budget set at the January 2017 meeting.

Cllr Gibbons thanked Mr Hughes for his report and all the hard work undertaken by the group so far.

10. **Planning**

Cllr Gibbons thanked all the councillors who had attended the Borough planning committee meeting at Borough Hall on Monday evening. She reported that the application for a green waste recycling facility in Thurleigh by Growing Beds had been refused permission.

Members considered a new application for land adjacent to no 6 Bourne End Lane – between no's 6 and no 7. This was a re-application since the first application had been refused. The main concerns related to the location of the house and the design. However, the new proposal showed the house has been moved back in line with other properties. Members did not consider they had any grounds to comment and that the Borough planning department would ensure any prior reasons for refusal had all been resolved prior to granting permission for the revised application. There were no comments on this application.

16/02897/FUL Rhonda – members had reviewed the plans but made no comments as this application was only for the addition of rooms in the roof space.

Cllr Foster provided the meeting with an update regarding the Waiting for the Sun site. Bedford Borough Council have now made their submission to the High Court to convert the interim injunction awarded in 2012 to become permanent – however, it is not known when the decision will take place.

Mr Allen has applied for Legal Aid for his leave to appeal to the Supreme Court but we are unsure if he has been successful with his application. If the Borough are successful in their submission to the High Court they will start proceedings as soon as possible to put the site back to its original agricultural format. The Borough is keeping a record of complaints but despite there being several incidents (including one where the A6 was engulfed in smoke) few residents have made an official complaint presumably because they think someone else would have reported the problem. Everyone was urged to report problems regarding dogs or bonfires at the site to Bedford Borough Council.

11. *Cllr Foster left the room and took no part in this item*
Cllr Laws stayed to listen to this item but did not take part in any discussion or vote on this item.

NDP Steering Group

A report had been produced including the results of the recent parish survey. The group has not met since the questionnaire was compiled – steering group will meet tomorrow evening and the steering group require the parish council to endorse the results from the survey.

Cllr Vine raised his concerns regarding Question H5. Reading through the additional comments page 30% of those additional comments related to question H5 which represents 10% of all the responses.

Of all the options presented Option 31 and 35 were the only two that residents could not vote on. This should be raised with the steering group when they next meet.

Cllr Gibbons re-iterated that the questionnaire had been circulated and approved by the PC at the September meeting. Members were now asked to endorse the results of the plan. **It was resolved** to endorse the results – Cllr Vine agreed except for question H5.

Now the results have been endorsed they can be published on the parish website. If anyone needs a copy of the results they can obtain one from the Clerk but initially to keep costs down this is only being published on the website.

Woods Hardwick are drafting the final plan – there will be a final consultation when the plan is presented to the parish council and residents. Finally, there will be a referendum and all residents will be asked to vote whether to accept the NDP document or not. Assuming the NDP is accepted this will be submitted to Bedford Borough Council.

12. Financial Matters

1. To approve the accounts for payment

| Ch No | Payee | £ | Description of services |
|-------|-------------------------|--------|--|
| 1403 | Regeneration Positive | 350.00 | NDP |
| 1404 | Woods Hardwick | 510.66 | NDP |
| 1405 | Solutions 4 Playgrounds | 282.00 | Play area repairs |
| 1406 | Chris Horne Gardens Ltd | 501.60 | Grass cutting |
| 1407 | BATPC | 300.00 | Cllr Training course |
| 1408 | RBL Poppy Appeal | 17.00 | Civic Wreath |
| DD | Beds BC | 497.60 | Grass cutting field |
| 1409 | A Southern | 69.40 | Working from home allowance (Oct-Dec) and casual mileage 6 trips (May-October) |

It was resolved to approve the accounts for payment

2. To note spend against budget for 2016-17

The report was noted

13. To approve the calendar of meetings for 2017

It was resolved to accept the calendar of meetings for 2017. Meetings are usually held on the 1st Monday of the month. However, the January meeting will be held on the 2nd Monday as it would have otherwise fallen on a Bank Holiday.

14. Parish Concerns

The concrete drain on Coplowe Lane has broken up and the manhole has no cover. The drain is opposite the public footpath on Coplowe Lane. This needs to be reported to Highways.

Could we order new signs for the parish field? There would need to be 6 signs in total to cover all the access points. These would remind users of the field to keep their dogs on the lead at all times.

Can all emails that are generated from the clerk come from the designated parishclerk@bletsoe.org.uk address? The clerk responded that she endeavours to respond as quickly as possible and that if she is replying from her phone or Kindle

Clerk

she does not have the option to alter the "from" address. This should not cause any confusion since all members know her personal email account details although this is not for general circulation. Members agreed it was better to have a prompt reply than waiting for the clerk to log on via the parish laptop and then respond.

Coplowe Lane grass cutting. At the last PC meeting the Clerk was asked to contact Bedford Borough Council as they had not cut both sides of the grass along Coplowe Lane. There is still approximately 50-60 foot of grass on the right-hand side up to the 30mph that has not been cut. Please can we ask Chris Horne if this is part of his responsibility when he is next in the parish. Also, when will he be carrying out the work to the hedge around the orchard. *This will be carried out during the winter months.*

Cllr Gibbons reminded members of the following important dates;

Cllr Training session Monday 29th November

Invite from Villager minibus AGM on Monday 28th November at Sharnbrook Upper School

Rural Crime conference – Friday 16th December. There is a limited no of spaces so if you wish to attend please RSVP individually.

Alastair Burt has circulated a list of dates when he will be available to meet members of town and parish councils – Cllr Gibbons would forward the list to all members and put onto the parish website.

Thanks to our volunteer tree warden Adrian Fett who is doing a great job looking after the trees.

It was reported that Claire Woodward had resigned from the parish council. Members thanked Claire for her contribution and wished her well with her studies.

14. **Date of next meeting – Monday 9th January 2017**

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Approved by Chairman 9th January 2017