

MINUTES

For: Steppingley Parish Council
 Held on: Wednesday, 13 January 2021

PRESENT

Pauline Henninger
 Hugh Jackson (Chair)
 Melissa Jordan
 Marcus Webb
 Chris Wood
 Lionel Yarde
 Julie Todd (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Neil Bunyan - CBC
 Cllr Charles Gomm - CBC
 Cllr Gareth Mackey - CBC

APOLOGIES

This meeting was held over the internet using Zoom due to COVID-19		
Agenda Item	APOLOGIES	ACTION
1.	None	
2.	MEMBERS' INTERESTS None	
3.	<p>CBC COUNCILLORS' REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021/22 Council Tax – proposed rise of 4.95% - currently out for consultation until 27/01/21. With Covid-19 the council has lost revenue (eg leisure centres, parking). Key figures: £402m for services, £128m on infrastructure. This will equate to an increase of £1.50 pw for Band D. CBC contact no: 0300 300 8000. • <u>Planning</u> – Cllr Gomm has been in contact with Martin Plummer, Planning Manager, CBC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CB/20/02325 Drovers Arms – issues are Green Belt and highways. Applicant to supply additional information to CBC ○ Fordfield Road Crematorium – withdrawn from DMC December meeting as more information required – particularly re development in Green Belt. New papers will be circulated in due course to interested parties. ○ Cllr Mackey expressed his concern over the CBC planning process and the DMC. • <u>Council Leader</u> – James Jamieson is stepping down this month after 11 years in the post. Richard Wenham to be proposed at CBC full council meeting on 14/01/21. • <u>Flitwick Station Interchange</u> – plans are well underway with next step DMC. It is Government funded and will include a new approach to the station and simplified entrance and exit. • <u>Flitwick Station Step Free Access</u> – funded by Network Rail – currently not part of Interchange project 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Flitwick Road Closure</u> – to be closed for 12 days for investigation work by Anglian Water. Concern was expressed on the effect this will have on Beechcroft – proposed diversion route is very lengthy. Discussion followed re maximising closure by repairing potholes and carrying out maintenance. Cllr Wood had emailed Paul Salmon, CBC Highways suggesting this however had not had a reply. Cllr Mackey agreed to contact Simon Barnes and Gareth Hughes of CBC Highways. • <u>Councillor Award Grants</u> – will continue in 2021/22 with each CBC councillor having a budget of £2,000. • <u>Hedge and Tree Planting Initiative</u> – includes fruit trees <p>SPC councillors raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Fordfield Road Signage</u> – needs to be changed to include cycleway. The road sign on the reservoir side is in the ditch. Cllr Yarde to action. • <u>BOAT</u> – emails from Michelle Flynn, CBC have been circulated. It is now closed for six months for remedial work by CBC. There would be much opposition from the off road community if it was downgraded. Off roaders are possibly using Center Parcs land. 	<p>GM</p> <p>LY</p> <p>LY</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>MINUTES OF 19 NOVEMBER 2020 MEETING One amendment – next meeting Wednesday, 13 January 2021. Approved and duly signed.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>MATTERS ARISING To be covered in reports.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>REPORTS a) Planning See above re Drovers Arms and Fordfield Road Crematorium.</p> <p><u>Tree Work Applications</u> – Park Farm Coach House and 21 Church End – no objections.</p>	
	<p>b) Highways Cllr Wood attended a highways meeting with Flitwick Town Council however there was no representative from CBC for the second time. An email has been sent to CBC expressing disappointment.</p> <p><u>Speed Camera</u> – Charlotte Dunham, CBC Highways has advised putting the purchase of a speed camera on hold as CBC will be conducting a district wide survey.</p> <p><u>22 Church End Hedge</u> – CBC started to cut this hedge back and were stopped by resident who was very upset at no consultation. It was agreed the SPC would adopt a policy of</p>	

	<p>in the first instance approaching the home owner to discuss possible solutions before reporting to CBC.</p> <p><u>Rectory Road 6'6" Sign</u> – currently obscured by overgrown hedge.</p> <p><u>Road Markings</u> - to make road look narrower as in Meppershall – Cllr Wood to follow up with CBC.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>CW</p>
	<p>c) Footpaths, P3, Hedges, Trees & Conservation Cllr Yarde reported:</p> <p><u>New Hedge by Rectory Road Bungalows</u> – planted by Cllrs Henninger, Jackson, Wood and Yarde.</p> <p><u>Bikers</u> – there was a police present previous weekend and there will be again next weekend. Six bikers were reported – no feedback to date.</p> <p><u>S106 Money</u> – Cllr Yarde has emailed Siobhan Vincent, CBC re whether there could be funding for footpath bridge. Cllr Yarde to follow up.</p> <p><u>CBC Hedge and Tree Planting Initiative</u> – Cllrs Jordan and Yarde agreed to look into this scheme. Discussion re siting six fruit trees in corner of recreation ground. It was agreed Cllr Jordan would discuss with the SVA and Cllr Yarde with the cricket club.</p>	<p>LY</p> <p>LY/MJ</p>
	<p>d) SVA <u>Pavilion Electrical Work</u> – email from Philip Williams, 11/01/21 circulated to councillors asking if SPC would pay for a replacement emergency exit sign and EICR (total cost £336 + VAT). It was agreed that SPC would pay the invoices with reimbursement exc VAT by the SVA.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
	<p>e) Recreation Ground <u>ROSPA Inspection</u> – due to Covid-19 and the installation of the new equipment no inspection was undertaken in 2020. With all the equipment now installed, it was agreed to book an inspection at a cost of £236 + VAT.</p> <p><u>Horses on Recreation Ground</u> – the SVA raised the issue of horses being tethered on the recreation ground near the play equipment. Cllr Yarde confirmed that he had spoken to The French Horn who have a hitching post in the car park. It was agreed that the SVA should perhaps look into putting signs by the play equipment.</p> <p><u>Noticeboard</u> – SVA re going to site the new noticeboard by the play equipment.</p>	<p>MW</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p><u>Cricket Club Fence</u> – the SVA have agreed to pay one third of the invoice for the new fence and it was unanimously agreed SPC would do likewise. Cllr Yarde to ask the cricket club for an invoice.</p>	LY/Clerk								
	<p>f) Steppingley Profile <u>Bus Shelter Book Shelves</u> – Cllr Jordan to investigate whether grant monies were available for new shelves – possible Lottery/DCMS.</p>	MJ								
	<p>g) Communications Details of the Hedge and Tree Planting Initiative to be circulated to the village.</p>	PH								
	<p>h) Finance Finance spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting. Balances: Current Account: £2,834.03 Reserve Account: £9,203.74</p> <p><u>2021/22 Precept</u> – for 2020/21:</p> <table> <tr> <td>Income</td> <td>£13,481</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenditure</td> <td>£16,000 approx – play equipment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overspend</td> <td>£2,5000 approx</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserves</td> <td>£9,000 approx</td> </tr> </table> <p>It was agreed the main expenditure would be the speed camera (approx. £4k) otherwise the budget figures would remain the same. Cllr Jackson proposed a 2% increase which was unanimously agreed. Precept £7,786 with a Band D contribution of £74.87.</p>	Income	£13,481	Expenditure	£16,000 approx – play equipment	Overspend	£2,5000 approx	Reserves	£9,000 approx	Clerk
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8.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE Distributed by email.</p>									
9.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS <u>Police Statistics</u> – the three burnt out cars have not been recorded in the monthly crime statistics.</p> <p><u>St Lawrence’s Church</u> – plastering now completed. American oak - Claire Wardle, CBC Countryside Officer to make recommendations.</p> <p><u>Deer Coursing</u> – culprits apprehended but had to be released as police did not respond..</p>									

10.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday, 17 March 2021 at 8 pm.	
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The above are considered a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Signed
Hugh Jackson (Chairman)

Date