

MINUTES

For: Steppingley Parish Council
 Held on: Wednesday, 10 November 2021

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Chris Wood
 Cllr Charles Gomm – CBC
 Mike Duxbury, Inclusive
 Farms
 6 Residents

APOLOGIES

Cllr Neil Bunyan - CBC
 Cllr Gareth Mackey – CBC

Agenda Item	ACTION	
1.	APOLOGIES Cllr Wood and CBC Cllrs Neil Bunyan and Gareth Mackey.	
2.	INCLUSIVE FARMS Cllr Jackson welcomed Mike Duxbury to the meeting. Mr Duxbury outlined who Inclusive Farms are: small company running for 35 years with 20 years' experience in equality and diversity work. Run a working farm to assist colleges who have students with special needs with a view to leading possibly to a future in agriculture. Land was offered by Bedford Estates who are fully supportive of this venture. Mr Duxbury expressed his disappointment at the reaction he has received from the village and the PC. Cllr Jackson reiterated the Council's position – it has a duty of care and needs to ensure that the correct permissions (planning/highways) have been sought. Mr Duxbury confirmed he has consent from Highways however is not willing to share this with the PC and that planning permission is not required for his activities. The caravan on the site is there for temporary overnight stays only - if partner is ill, for the welfare of the animals and if the weather is particularly bad. Discussion re the hedge (which is on the 1836 Enclosure Map) which Mr Duxbury has removed. Mr Duxbury said it was not protected and had been removed in accordance with The Forestry Commission. The classes would be a maximum of 14 people with 9 coming on day one and then 5 on day two with supervision from both MK College staff and Mr Duxbury. Cllr Jackson thanked Mr Duxbury.	
3.	CREMATORIUM, FORDFIELD ROAD Planning Application: CB/21/048009/REG3 Current application shows some differences from original application including new traffic survey figures and pavement from Steppingley roundabout north up Fordfield Road.	

	<p>Froghall Farms – 28/09/21 Cllr Jackson wrote to Cllr Ghent requesting information on CBC plans for the properties. Cllr Ghent’s reply said a structural report was being undertaken and working with Conservation Team and Head of Planning. Cllr Jackson requested further information on both 01/10/21 and 25/10/21 and is still awaiting a reply. It was agreed this lack of information/communication should be taken to CBC Chief Executive and if still no satisfactory answer to Local Government Ombudsman.</p> <p>It was agreed SPC would object to the application. Cllr Jackson to liaise with CBC Cllr Mackey.</p>	<p>HJ</p> <p>HJ</p>
4.	<p>MEMBERS’ INTERESTS None</p>	
5.	<p>CBC COUNCILLORS’ REPORTS Cllr Gomm reported: <u>Proposed Aldi Store</u> – additional information has been submitted to support planning application. <u>Flitwick Interchange Station</u> Work as started with a finish date of 2023. Cllr Gomm to forward details of CBC Project Manager to Clerk. <u>Flitwick Station Step Free Access</u> – Plan has been authorised with funding from Network Rail. <u>Land off Church Road, Flitwick</u> – potential development of retirement village on Green Belt land. Project is not in Local Plan and to date no application has been received. <u>HAS17</u> – land opposite Flitwick Leisure Centre. Allocated for residential development in Local Plan – no application currently. <u>Steppingley Crematorium</u> No information is forthcoming from CBC Assets; CBC Planning said SPC will be notified when planning application is made. The CBC owned field has not been farmed and is full of weeds/ragwort for the second year. It was agreed this was a waste of public money. <u>The Drovers</u> - No update.</p>	<p>CG</p>
6.	<p>MINUTES OF 9 SEPTEMBER 2021 It was unanimously agreed the minutes represented a true account of the meeting and were duly signed.</p>	
7.	<p>MATTERS ARISING To be dealt with under Reports.</p>	

	<p>g) <u>Communications</u> A number of messages re the PC meeting and the crematorium were posted. Cllr Henninger expressed her disappointment at low turnout.</p> <p>h) <u>Finance</u> The financial spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Balances: Current Account £8,474.98 Reserve Account £9,204.19</p> <p>2022/23 Precept – to be discussed at next meeting. Councillors urged to bring costed ideas to next meeting. Possible projects: adult exercise equipment; picket fence around play area.</p>	
7.	CORRESPONDENCE Circulated prior to the meeting.	
8.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS Remembrance Service: 10.50 am on Sunday, 14 November.</p> <p>Church End Bend – with parking from The French Horn this means the width of the road is narrowed and, possibly, not wide enough if emergency vehicles need access. Cllr Wood to investigate.</p> <p>Rectory Road Footpath –the footpath past The Rectory has fallen into disrepair and possibly needs reinstating. If it is reinstated it is possible cars would park on it and therefore cause more congestion.</p>	CW
14.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING Wednesday, 5 January 2022 at 7.30 pm in the village hall.	

The above are considered a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Signed
Hugh Jackson (Chairman)

Date