

**MINUTES**

For: Steppingley Parish Council  
 Held on: Wednesday, 17 March 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**

<b>This meeting was held over the internet using Zoom due to COVID-19</b>		
<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1.</b>	None	
<b>2.</b>	<b>MEMBERS' INTERESTS</b> None	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>CBC COUNCILLORS' REPORT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Presentation – Cllr Steve Dixon has offered to give a presentation to parish councils and residents.</li> <li>• The Drivers Planning Application – still outstanding. Discussion followed re activity behind The Drivers – clearing/levelling group. It was agreed that Cllr Jordan would photograph and Clerk to register concern with CBC Enforcement.</li> <li>• Fordfield Road Crematorium – no progress/movement from CBC. Discussion followed re material changes made from initial application some 3½ years ago. It was confirmed that revenue from the crematorium appears in CBC's long term budget.</li> <li>• CBC Highways Plan 2021/22 – no works planned for Steppingley. Cllr Mackey has registered disappointment /concern.</li> <li>• Flitwick Road/Anglian Water (AW) Closure – scheduled to be closed for 3 months. Beechcroft Animal Feeds are very concerned re length of the closure and the long diversion route. Cllr Mackey has spoken to Gareth Hughes, Streetworks requesting that whenever possible the road is only closed partially and CBC take this Cllr Henninger thanked CBC councillors for their endeavours.</li> <li>• Aldi – CBC are taking legal advice.</li> <li>• Additional Restrictions Grant – for businesses with no formal premises. Disappointing number of applications. Cllr Henninger to forward to village WhatsApp group.</li> <li>• Steppingley Road Elder Person's Village – CBC presentation available.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MJ/Clerk</b></p> <p><b>PH</b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBC Tree Planting Initiative – Cllr Yarde reported that the Council had been successful in their application.</li> <li>• WWII 2 Lost Airmen – Cllr Mackey looking to build a memorial to the 2 airmen who lost their lives at Woodside Fields.</li> <li>• CBC Councillors’ Ward Grant – to start again in April. Awards of up to £1,000 – no match funding.</li> <li>• Flitwick Interchange – Cllr Bunyan reported positive meeting with project manager. Communications Group to be formed. Project scheduled to be completed by December 2021.</li> </ul>	
<b>4.</b>	<b>MINUTES OF 13 JANUARY 2021 MEETING</b> Approved and duly signed.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b> To be covered in reports.	
<b>6.</b>	<b>REPORTS</b> <b>a) Planning</b> See above re The Drovers and Fordfield Road Crematorium. <u>CB/21/00500 22 Church End</u> – no objections.	
	<b>b) Highways</b> Cllr Wood reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speed Sign – awaiting CBC’s policy</li> <li>• Flitwick Road Potholes - the surface in the centre of the road outside The Old Chapel has been temporarily filled, but the potholes remain untouched. The potholes and permanent resurfacing is scheduled to take place when the road is closed later in the year to enable Anglian Water to carry out more work.</li> <li>• AW Road Closure - will make sure any diversions are clearly marked and are the shortest route possible (i.e. not going via Ridgmont)</li> <li>• Rectory Road Sign – Cooks Farm confirmed they are happy for the hedge to be trimmed back so the sign is visible.</li> <li>• Rectory Road Potholes – 2 potholes opposite numbers 28 and 30 reported on FixMyStreet. Reports have come back that the potholes are not the responsibility of CBC Highways and the matter has been forwarded to the relevant department! Cllr Bunyan to investigate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>CW</b></p> <p><b>NB</b></p>
	<b>c) Footpaths, P3, Hedges, Trees &amp; Conservation</b> Cllr Yarde reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footpath 19 - a legal upgrade of footpath to bridleway to allow the cycling.</li> <li>• Footpath 1 – awaiting decision from landowners. Kissing gate would stop cyclists using the footpath. If in agreement the cost of advertising in the local press</li> </ul>	

	<p>would be the parish council's responsibility. Discussion re as the footpath links into other routes CBC could be asked to pay or perhaps application for CBC Ward Councillors' Grant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CBC Tree Planting Initiative – Cllrs Wood and Yarde met with Claire Wardle, Senior Countryside Officer, CBC and submitted application for 6 trees (low maintenance, flowering and attractive to birds – eg may, crab apple and rowan) for the corner of the cricket pitch. Application has been successful and planting will take place in the autumn.</li> <li>• Cricket Pitch Moss – the cricket club will be treating the moss and it was agreed, in principle, for the invoice to be made out to SPC who will then reclaim the VAT. Cllr Yarde to discuss financial contribution from the SVA.</li> <li>• Bikers – Cllr Yarde reported bikes speeding up and down Rectory Road and Gypsy Lane at the weekend.</li> </ul>	<b>LY</b>
	<p><b>d) SVA</b> No report.</p>	
	<p><b>e) Recreation Ground</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROSPA Inspection – to take place on 19/03/21.</li> <li>• Play Equipment Usage during Covid – Cllr Henninger reported that she counted some 34 adults and children using the play equipment at the weekend with little social distancing. It was agreed to notify the SVA.</li> </ul>	<b>Clerk</b>
	<p><b>f) Steppingley Profile</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bus Shelter Book Shelves – SVA refused offer to replace bookshelves.</li> <li>• Defibrillator – Cllr Jordan has checked and cleaned the defibrillator. New pads will be needed in May. It was agreed to purchase "a bundle" of new battery and pads at a cost of £268 + VAT.</li> <li>• Steppingley Sign – look at renovating – possible application for CBC Ward Councillors' Grant.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<b>MJ</b>
	<p><b>g) Communications</b> Details of the Additional Restrictions Grant to be circulated to the village.</p>	<b>PH</b>
	<p><b>h) Finance</b> Finance spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting. Balances:  Current Account: £4,211.91 Reserve Account: £9,203.96  Payments agreed: Cricket Club       £400 contribution to rabbit fencing</p>	

	J Todd                      £478 October-March salary HMRC                        £119.60 Clerk's tax	
<b>8.</b>	<b>CORRESPONDENCE</b> Distributed by email.	
<b>9.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Litter Picking – Cllr Jackson thanked Cllr and Mrs Webb for their tremendous effort.</li> <li>• Village Entrance Gates – need repainting. Possible application for CBC Councillors' Grant</li> </ul>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> Annual Parish Meeting + Annual General Meeting - Wednesday, 5 May 2021 at 7.30 pm	

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

Signed .....  
Hugh Jackson (Chairman)

Date .....