

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
THURSDAY 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017 AT 8.00pm AT CLIFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Councillors Present: Mr S Fish (Chairman) Mrs J Lanham, Mr M Ephgrave, Mr R Dart, Mrs E Smith, Dr R Puritz, Mr P Lawrence, Mr A Cree and Mr I Pacey

Also present: CBC Mr D Shelvey and Mr R Wenham, resident Mr Williams, Mr Bob Smith and Gary Edwards Street Watch.

389. **Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr S Langton, Mr. B Livesey and Mrs. P Livesey. CBC Cllr Ian Dalgarno

390. **Declaration of Interest** – the Chair reminded the members of their obligation to declare any matters of interest now or if they arise during the meeting

Public forum – Mr Gary Edwards advised that the Street watch team was depleting in numbers and there were currently only 6 members to cover the area. He was in attendance to ask the Parish Council for support in finding more volunteers. The Neighbourhood watch had been re-introduced and he felt that if the Councillors could sign up for the street they live in the two groups could form and united front to keep Clifton safe. A leaflet had been produced and funded by the police for the other villages and it was felt that this would be a good start to encourage residents to join up. Gary would speak to the community watch coordinator and arrange for the leaflets to be printed and the Parish Council will help with the distribution.

391. **CBC Report** – it was reported that the budget consultation had now finished and the final outcome was a rise of 4.5%, 2.5% was for adult social care.

The community planning event that took place in Shefford, was well attended. Mrs E Smith attended the event. Although the outcome of the event will have no legal meaning its mission was to engage with the community and enable residents to put forward their views and ideas for shaping the future.

From the last meeting when it was reported that there was a large amount of litter in and around Samuel Whitbread, Cllr Shelvey advised that the school had carried out an extensive litter pick and the whole area was looking much better.

There has been a change of leadership within CBC and Cllr Richard Wenham had been made up to Deputy Leader of the Council. Congratulations were given to Richard. Cllr Ian Dalgarno was now the executive member for Community Services and would be the contact for all community matters including Street lighting, Highway problems.

Cheering Volunteering nominations are still open and can be accessed on the Central Bedfordshire Council website.

392. **Minutes** – the minutes of the meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017 were confirmed by the members and signed by the Chair.
393. **Correspondence** – The Street Watch report that had been circulated amongst members, was read out by the Chair
394. **Community Centre Matters** – Mrs Lanham read out the minutes for the meeting that had taken place on the 16<sup>th</sup> February. Mr R Dart advised that the fencing extension had caused a few issues with the football pitch and would be meeting with a representative from the football club and David Granger on Saturday morning. The football pitch would either be reduced in size by 5 yards or moved which would mean that the sockets for the nets would need moving and this would mean an additional cost. Mr Dart asked for clarity on expenditure and it was advised that the committee were able to spend up to £500. It was agreed that confirmation will be made via email in order for the work to proceed quickly.

The Clerk advised that following the annual service of the fire extinguishers that 3 were in need of replacement. The cost for this is £377.51 plus VAT which she had instructed to go ahead due to health and safety compliance.

Further to the concerns relating to Dogs on the Field which had been an issue for some time. The Clerk had investigated and found that a Dog Control Order was placed on the field in 2013. After liaison with CBC NO DOGS ALLOWED signs will be placed around the field. However, the dog waste bin currently in situ was giving mixed signals and it was **proposed to remove the bin all were in favour.**

The problem with the lighting in the Car park was still outstanding. The clerk has arranged for contractor Andy Muskett to attend the site to discuss options on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30am. **Action Bob would be there to unlock the gates and Mrs E Smith and Mr R Puritz agreed to meet with Andy Muskett.**

395. **Highway Matters** – in the absence of the Chair, Mr A Cree read the minutes from the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> February. **Action members of the committee to forward any items that need looking at when Mr Nick Carafollo carries out the village walk, so a list can be compiled. (it was noted that the date set for the 18<sup>th</sup> April was in question but to wait for confirmation)**

The litter pick had been carried out successfully and thanks were given to all involved and special thanks to Mr R Dart for coordinating the work.

396. **Planning Matters** – there were none
397. **Finance** – the clerk had produced the monthly reports and circulated at the meeting. The Chair read out the invoices for payment which were agreed.

398. **Payroll Outsourcing** – A further quotation had been received from Harrisons Accounting of Langford for £150 per annum for payroll and £250 per annum for payroll and pensions. George Hay quotation was read out and the fees were £33 per month which equated to £396 per annum plus set up costs and year end of £93. **It was proposed to accept the quotation from Harrisons Accounting and the start date to fall in line with the new tax year 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017. Clerk to advise Harrisons Accounting.**
399. **Grass Cutting Contract** – the Clerk had produced and circulated a draft contract for the contract with Reynolds Landscaping. It was read out by the Chair and the members agreed with the contents. Praise was given to the Clerk for preparing the document. Mr A Cree apologised to the Clerk for his confusion concerning the agreement of the decision making for the contract. **Proposal to accept the contract and the Clerk to arranged for it to be signed by the Chair and the contractor.**
400. **Future agenda items** – to discuss and consider and future parcels of land that could be subjected to planning applications so that the Parish Council are one step ahead.

To be advised of the action needed for an Emergency Plan following the Town and Parish Council conference attended by Mrs Lanham, Mr Dart and the Clerk.

401. **Date of next meetings – Full Council 13<sup>th</sup> April, it was agreed that the Committees did not need to meet in March.**

**Meeting closed at 8.55pm**

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