

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CLIFTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.30pm AT CLIFTON COMMUNITY CENTRE.

Councillors Present: Mr. B Livesey (Chairman), Mrs. P Livesey, Mr M. Ephgrave, Mr R. Dart, Mrs E Smith, Mr A Cree, Mrs J Langham, Dr R Puritz and Mr P. Lawrence. Also District Councillor I. Dalgarno.

Also Present: Mr R Smith. In the absence through illness of the Clerk, Rev P. Lanham was present to take the minutes.

452 Declarations of Interest – Mrs Lanham declared an interest in any discussion of funding the Whitbread Wanderbus.

453 Apologies for Absence – were received from the Clerk, Cllrs Pavey and Talbot and Dist. Cllrs Wenham and Shelvey.

454 Public Participation.

- a. Mr R. Smith asked about the use of Section 106 money from the building of The Paddocks. He claimed that there was no transparency about how much was outstanding but was referred to the Central Bedfordshire District Council website for details. It was suggested that the money might be used for creating a path from Rectory Close to Clifton Cricket Club.
- b. It was noted that the Residents Association would be holding a Christmas Bazaar in the Community Centre on December 9 between 2pm and 8pm, also a joint Annual General Meeting with the Clifton Care Scheme at the Community Centre on December 22.
- c. There continued to be problems over where to site the bench in memory of Joyce and this project had now been shelved.

455 District Council Report.

This was presented by Dist. Cllr Dalgarno. He drew the Council's attention to the following matters:

- a. A level and GCSE results at Samuel Whitbread Community College this year had been excellent.
- b. Travellers's Sites. There was a consultation over this matter. Some sites were in private hands and some suffered from anti-social behaviour. There will be a move against the latter and a new site was planned. Questions were asked about whether the conditions imposed on Silverlake Farm had been met; the Clerk was due to investigate this but nothing had been received from her. Cllr Dalgarno will follow this up.
- c. There was a need for a new Liaison Officer between the Highways Department and Parish Councils.
- d. Policing. There was concern in the area about the lack of police and PCSO's in rural areas to stop anti-social behaviour. Work was being done on this in association with central Bedfordshire enforcement officers, reporting to the service team rather than the police.
- e. Work was being done in Church Street to lower the kerb in front of a house near the church.
- f. The use of the website in reporting matters to Central Beds Council was inefficient, inferior to the old system. A guide to Parish Councils will shortly be released.

456 Minutes. The minutes of the meeting held on 20th July were accepted and signed as a correct record.

457 Matters arising from the minutes.

- a. New Councillor. Following the retirement of Mr Fish, Mr Michael Talbot had been co-opted onto the Parish Council.
- b. Street Watch. All members of Clifton Street Watch had resigned in protest at Juliet Wright not being reappointed as the local police coordinator. However, the Council will still receive crime reports.
- c. A donation to the Whitbread Wanderbus of a further £200 was agreed, to add to £300 already given. Mr Lanham as Executive Secretary of the Wanderbus formally thanked the Council for their generosity, and gave a brief report on its activities. Questions were asked about whether either bus could take mobility scooters; the matter will be raised at their next Committee meeting.

These minutes remain unconfirmed until they are approved by the members and signed by the Chair

458 Correspondence.

- a. The final account for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations had shown a balance c/f of £1223. This would be distributed to local groups. The accounts were on the files.
- b. Mrs Christine Duff had submitted bills for duck food. Since there was £200 remaining in the Pond account, Mrs Lanham will arrange for payment to be made from that.
- c. The water in Stanford Pit was seriously low, endangering the fish. It had been suggested that they should be transferred to Clifton Pond but ammonia levels in the latter were high. The water quality in Clifton Pond could be treated by a chemical costing £108 per acre. The matter would be considered by the Highways Committee.
- d. Local Plan. The consultation was now at an end; there had been 10,000 replies.

459 Neighbourhood plan.

Mr Dart reported on a recent meeting. Potton had done a similar exercise and were willing to share their expertise. He had also been in touch with Central Beds DC's Ms Vincent about how to get a grant for the plan but there may not be time to do this. Arlesey Town Council may also be able to advise the Council and it was suggested that Shefford Town Council be approached with a view to having a joint plan.

460 Playing Fields and Highways Committees.

- a. Despite requests the Clerk had not submitted the minutes of the last meeting of the Playing Field Committee. Mrs Lanham however, reported on the last meeting. Problems over the cutting of the football pitch had been resolved. New play equipment had been suggested but none of the existing equipment was dangerous so the matter had been shelved. The Field had been let for a very successful holiday play day but because of adverse weather much of the play had been done in the Community Centre. Expenditure was needed to repair leaking gutters and replacing the heating and it was hoped that the cost of this could in part be met by Section 106 money. The grass was to be cut more frequently in future.
- b. The Highways Committee had not met since the last Parish Council meeting. Questions had been asked about whether the Parish Council was responsible for maintenance of trees on a highway verge in Sears Close but this was not the case. There were two dead trees on Shefford Road that needed attention. The path to the cricket club was needed.

Both Committees would meet on September 19, at 7 and 8pm respectively.

461 Planning.

Mr Langton reported. 80 houses were planned off Hitchin Road near the Health Centre and more on the other side of the road. The two developers were not on good terms so he could foresee problems. It was agreed that a meeting should be sought with the Mayor of Shefford.

462 Finance. In the Clerk's absence there was no report.

463 Date of Future Meetings. The Parish Council will meet on Thursday 12 October at 7.30pm. The other Committees will meet on 19 October at 7 and 8pm respectively if required.

464 Closure. The meeting closed at 8.56pm. Mr and Mrs Fish were welcomed to the meeting. Mr Livesey thanked Mr Fish for the work he had done over many years and a presentation was made to him on behalf of the Council.

Signed



Date:

12th October 2017