

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2010 at the Village Hall

PRESENT:

Cllr. Mrs. Walker (Chairman) R. Baily, D Fowler, R Harris, G Sansom, J Saunders, R Saunders, M. Taylor, P White, the Clerk and 1 member of the public.

Open Forum

Chairman expressed Council's condolences to Cllr. Olney following the sad passing away of Robin Olney, whose work in the village, particularly on the Newsletter, was very much appreciated.

Resident requested a Highfield Road street sign at the mini roundabout at the entrance to the village as motorists and delivery vans coming off the bypass were thinking they were in the High Street. Clerk to ask Bedford BC to put up a sign and advise satnav providers of the problem. Council thanked the resident for his voluntary litter picking in Highfield Road.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs Fardon (business), Mrs. Olney (personal)
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Harris for item 9 as a relative of one of the contractors tendering
3. **Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1st December 2009:**
Resolved: to adopt the minutes.
4. **Clerk's Report:**

High Street Bus Shelter – Clerk had chased Stagecoach again for a bus stop sign.

Lovell Road Phone Box – BT who still unable to advise when it will be removed.

Highways – Clerk had requested dropped kerbs in Ruffs Furze and at Village Hall on Health & Safety grounds. Clerk had also requested dropped kerbs, double yellow lines at the High Street/Reynes Drive junction, resurfacing of Dewlands, resurfacing of pavements in Bevery Close, Pavenham Road, Grenidge Way, Lovell Road & Station Road and changed priorities at the Lovell Road bridge be considered for the 2010 Highways capital programme.

Play equipment – Clerk was awaiting details from Youth Offending Service re. reparation by youths who graffitied the play equipment.

High Street Bus Shelter – Clerk had requested payment of s. 106 monies held by Bedford BC for new shelter for opposite Hazel Kaye.

Highfield Road/Station Road footpath - awaiting quotations. Contractors to meet Cllr. Fowler on site once snow has melted.

Tennis Court – work had been delayed because of the weather. Contractor hoped to start week beginning 11.01.10.

Gas works – Bromham PC advised that they were given no warning of the start of gas works. Bedford BC advise that they are not aware of any works for Oakley on the scale of those at Bromham

Barratts signs – Barratts advised that they have permission from Bedford BC for yellow signs and all others to be removed.

Dog bin – bin in Pavenham Road yet to be moved to opposite Linch Furlong entrance. Clerk to chase Bedford BC

Dog Fouling Signs – signs for Linch Furlong delivered and put up by Cllr. Sansom

5. **Matters Arising from minutes of Meeting held on 1st December 2009:**
None

Action

6. **Reports:**

a) Meeting with Wells Young re. possible community use of the building adjacent to the Bedford Arms 16.12.09.

Cllr. Sansom reported that he, the Chairman and Cllr. Olney had met with representatives from Charles Wells. Council had explained that they wanted to prevent the building decaying and if Wells had no use for it would like to use it as a community building. As the building was in the curtilage of a listed building, the structure would have to be maintained. The tenant of the Bedford Arms was possibly interested in using the building and if Wells accepted his proposals

Action

<p>Council would be content. If not, Council would like to use the building for presentations, displays and storage. Wells requested a formal letter setting out Council's proposals. Cllr. Sansom to forward details to Clerk to send to Wells. Cllr. J. Saunders was concerned at the cost of restoring the building and Cllr. Sansom noted that grants were available for such projects. Council was also concerned that the rubbish in the woodland area had not been cleared and Clerk to write again to Wells</p>	<p>GS/ Clerk Clerk</p>
<p>b) Meeting to discuss ATC premises in Oakley 21.12.09. Councillors had met with representatives from the ATC and the Governing Body of the Sharnbrook Schools Federation. The Governing Body was content for the ATC to sign their building over to the Federation, which would then rent the building back to the ATC. The ATC wanted to own their building but agreed to put this suggestion to their Headquarters as an interim solution, whilst they continued to seek suitable land. No response had yet been received from their Headquarters. In the meantime, the ATC was using premises at Bromham.</p>	<p><u>Action</u></p>
<p>7. <u>Police Matters:</u> Safer Neighbourhood Team had been unable to attend. JAG meeting to be held 18.01.10. to set policing priorities for next three months. Cllr. Harris was concerned that the PCSO was rarely seen in the village. Police surgeries in September and October had also been cancelled and Clerk to complain to police. Cllr. Taylor was concerned about parking on pavements and verges. Chairman explained that this had been set as one of the priorities at the last JAG meeting but the police had subsequently advised that it was a civil offence not a police matter. As a former police officer, Cllr. Taylor to attend next JAG meeting.</p>	<p><u>Action</u> Clerk MT</p>
<p>8. <u>Budget & Precept 2010/11:</u> Finance Advisory Group had recommended an increase of 1% in the precept to £50,100 given that income was likely to fall slightly in 2010/11 and costs continued to rise. Youth club had requested funds of £2,400 towards running costs and the Sustainable Oakley project £5,000 towards allotment set up costs, which had been included in the budget. Cllr. R. Saunders was concerned about the cost of a new bottle bank (approximately £6,000) and Cllr. Fowler suggested Council apply for a grant from the Mayor's Sustainability Fund. Cllr. J. Saunders volunteered to discuss with PCC the possibility of siting a Christmas tree at the Church. Proposed by Cllr. Sansom, seconded by Cllr. Baily that precept be set at £50,100 Resolved Chairman signed Bedford BC precept request form</p>	<p><u>Action</u> JS</p>
<p>9. <u>Highways Matters:</u> <u>Bollards on The Green</u> Bedford BC had advised that they use 150mm x 1.2m four way weathered bollards in oak, which are set down 0.4m in a concrete footing with 0.8m above ground. Clerk had therefore issued a specification to contractors on this basis. Bedford BC had subsequently suggested shorter bollards 0.9m high with 0.5m above ground and Clerk had requested alternative quotations for shorter, treated softwood bollards, given the cost of and difficulty in sourcing oak bollards. Awaiting quotations. Potholes in Lovell Road and light not yet working at Church Lane triangle to be reported to Bedford BC Bedford BC yew tree in verge at Church Lane/High Street junction needs crown lifting Council trees at the corner of Station Road/Lovell Road also need crown lifting and Cllr. J. Saunders to pursue Resurfacing of Church Lane had been identified as necessary when Cllr. Baily walked round village with Highways representative but had not been included in the 2010 Highways Plan. Clerk to pursue with Bedford BC</p>	<p><u>Action</u> Clerk Clerk JS Clerk</p>
<p>10. <u>Speeding along Pavenham Road:</u> Residents were very concerned about speeding along this stretch of road as a dog had already been run over. Cllr. Sansom noted that PC Tott had used his speed gun in Pavenham Road but the problem was ongoing. Clerk to request details of the number of visits and penalties issued and ask PC Tott to target rush hour traffic – 7.00 – 9.00am and 4.00 – 6.00pm. PC Tott had suggested</p>	<p><u>Action</u> Clerk</p>

that a member of the community train to use the speed gun but there had been no volunteers. Cllr. Sansom suggested that the 30mph zone should be extended to the entrance to Willow Vale and the speed limit painted on the road both the top and bottom of the hill. Cllr. Taylor to raise at the police JAG meeting and Clerk to ask Bedford BC Road Safety to meet Chairman and Cllr. Sansom on site. Signs on the road would also be useful in Highfield Road as vehicles were driving straight across the roundabout.

MT
Clerk

11. Linch Furlong:

A volunteers' day was arranged for Sunday, 07.01.10, 2.00pm – 4.00pm to put up bat and bird boxes, plant the new trees, stake the wildflower area and remove barbed wire. The Brownies would also be working on site that day. Cllr. Sansom to produce posters advertising the event. Clerk had received two quotations for laying the hedge - £2,350 + VAT and £2,500 + VAT. Both contractors would be able to carry out the work in late January/February 2010. BTCV had advised that they would be unable to do the work until autumn/winter 2010 and could not therefore provide a quotation.

Cllr. R. Saunders questioned whether monies should be spent on laying the hedge in the current economic climate. Proposed by Cllr. Sansom, seconded by Cllr. Fowler that the hedge should be laid.

Resolved by a majority of 7 for and 2 against

Proposed by Cllr. Sansom, seconded by Cllr. J. Saunders that the quotation for £2,500 + VAT be accepted as there was little difference in the figures and the contractor was known to Council

Resolved

Action

GS

Clerk

12. Oakley Sustainability Project:

Cllr. Sansom reported that the Mayor would be attending a meeting on 19.01.10. to discuss the allotment project and the community orchard, in particular the lease of the land and the availability of grants from the Borough Sustainability Fund. Cllr. Fardon had prepared a powerpoint presentation and Cllr. Olney was pursuing the land issue with Bedford BC. Cllr. Sansom noted that 50 residents had enquired about allotment plots.

Action

13. Calendar of Meetings 2010/11:

Clerk tabled a calendar of meetings for 2010/11 as follows

06.04.10. Annual Parish Meeting	02.11.10.
13.04.10.	07.12.09.
04.05.10.	04.01.11 Finance Advisory Group
01.06.10.	11.01.11
06.07.10.	01.03.11
07.09.10.	05.04.11 Annual Parish Meeting
05.10.10.	

Resolved to accept

Action

14. Borough Councillor's Report:

No report in the absence of Cllr. Olney. Chairman noted that a 2.3% increase in Council Tax was being discussed which would result in cuts in all Bedford BC departments.

Action

15. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:

Decisions notified since last Council meeting – 1st December 2009.

Application No: 09/02270/FUL – single storey side extension & associated ground works at 2, The Spinney, Parsonage Close
 Parish Comments: No objection
 Decision/Date: Permission 19.11.09.

Application No: 09/ 02241/FUL – one & two storey rear extension at 88, High Street
 Parish Comments: Objection because of the loss of light and privacy for the neighbour.
 Decision/Date: Permission 08.12.09.

Application No: 09/ 02264/TPO – works to 12 trees at Oakley Village Hall
 Parish Comments: No objection
 Decision/Date: Permission 09.12.09.

Application No: 09/02622/TPO – reduce oak tree by 20 – 25% at 55B, High Street
 Parish Comments: No objection
 Decision/Date: Refusal 22.12.09.

Application No: 09/01480/FUL – erection of two detached dwellings with detached garages and formation of additional access at The Old Orchard, Church Lane
 Parish Comments: Objection because of overdevelopment of the site. The scale of the proposed development is not in keeping with the surrounding area.
 Decision/Date: Permission 04.01.10.

Applications Received since last Council meeting

Application No. 09/02979/FUL – erection of two storey dwelling and garage at 38, High Street
 Parish Comments: No objection

Application No. 09/02987/S73 – change of use from dwelling (Class C) to office (Class B1) for temporary period of two years at The Gables, Westfield Road
 Parish Comments: No objection
 Cllr. Harris suggested that if granted Council would need to confirm the position at the end of the two year period.

16. Correspondence:

- a) Bedford BC – Bedford BC – Community Safety Forum 28.01.10. Chairman to attend.
- b) Bedford BC – Rural Transport Provision Meeting 02.02.10. Chairman & Cllr. Olney to attend
- c) Bedford BC – Bedford BC – Network Meeting 08.02.10. - noted
- d) Bedford BC – review of Statement of Gambling Licensing Principles – no comments
- e) Village Hall – thank you for grant - noted
- f) Rural Day Care Centre - thank you for grant - noted
- g) Insp. Hughes-Rowlands – introducing himself and committing to improving links with local communities and advising that issues should be dealt with by local teams.

Action

JW
JW/PO

17. Grant applications:

a) Villager Bus

Villager Bus had requested funds for the routine maintenance of the bus. Cost of the work is £2,800 and Villager Bus requested a grant of £300 or whatever Council agreed. Balance to be funded from grants from other parishes and concessionary fares. 2 regular passengers are Oakley residents
 Proposed by Cllr. Fowler, seconded by Cllr. Sansom that £300.00 be granted
Resolved

Action

Clerk

b) Oakley Lower School

Oakley Lower had requested a contribution towards a covered play area outside the Reception Unit. Cost of the project is £25,000 and balance to be funded from other grants, PTA fundraising and the school's Formula Capital Funding. 180 of the students are from Oakley
 Proposed by Cllr. Harris, seconded by Cllr. Fowler that £500.00 be granted
Resolved

Clerk

18. Finance Matters:

a) Accounts for period up to 12th January 2010

Income and balances:

National Westminster Bank - Current account balance at 31.12.09.	£87,246.27
National Westminster Bank – Reserve account balance at 31.12.09.	£15.00
National Westminster Bank - Treasurer's Reserve Account balance at 31.12.09.	£140,000.00

