Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7th June 2011 at the Village Hall

PRESENT:
Mrs. Walker (Chairman), Mrs. Olney, R Baily, D Jones, P Phillips, G Sansom, J Saunders, R Saunders, M. Taylor, the Clerk and 0 members of the public

1. **Public Open Session** – Cllr. Jones noted that each of his neighbours had received a copy of his planning application (item 16c) and were content.

2. **Apologies:** Mrs. S Fardon, (business), P White (illness)

3. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs. J. Saunders & R. Saunders for item 11 as a relative of the contractor. Cllr. Sansom for item 16a) as a relative of the applicant. Cllr. Jones for item 16c) as the applicant.

4. **Minutes of Council Meeting held on10th May 2011**
Resolved: to adopt the minutes.

5. **Clerk's Report:**
Lovell Road Phone Box – latest information is that the phone box is to be removed but no date available
Highways – Cllr. Taylor had chased pothole hit squad and worst potholes had been filled.
Bus shelter cleaner and litter picker posts – both advertised in Newsletter
Housing Needs Survey - to be delivered with Newsletter
Litter – Clerk had written to schools requesting that they reinforce the need to use litter bins. Sharnbrook School had advised that they constantly emphasize & reinforce the need to look after the environment and if either Lincroft or Oakley Lower were to organise a litter pick they would support it. They also commented that Sharnbrook students are village residents and they and their parents should be supporting the village to manage the environment and that not all the young people who use the Green are Sharnbrook students. (No response from Lincroft or Oakley Lower schools)

6. **Matters Arising from minutes of Meeting held on 10th May 2011** – none | Action

7. **Police Report:** | Action
PC Tott and PCSO Underwood had been unable to attend. There were 4 reported crimes between 05.05.11. and 02.06.11. of which 2 were burglaries at business premises in Station Road, 1 was the theft of lead from the roof of Lincroft School and 1 domestic criminal damage. There were 2 reports of anti-social behaviour. A group of around 20 rowdy youths with motorbikes were moved from the Green and a group of youths under the influence of alcohol were running into gardens.

8. **Provision of Christmas Lights:** | Action
Cllr. Baily reported that Cllr. White had investigated and 7 day batteries were available for less than quoted by the Speeditree company. Cllr. Baily was awaiting a revised quotation excluding batteries and Clerk could then order as agreed at the May meeting. The lighting expert was still interested in providing lights and would prefer to use the tree at the High Street/Pavenham Road crossroads. Because of Health & Safety requirements a cherry picker would have to be hired to put up the lights, which was likely to cost several £100s. There might therefore be insufficient monies allocated in the budget for lights and a speeditree. Council to consider again once quotations for putting up lights obtained.

9. **Allotments land lease and hard standing:** | Action
a) Land Lease
Awaiting draft lease from Bedford BC. Cllr. Olney to chase. | PO

b) Hard Standing
Clerk had requested 6 quotations and received 4 for road planings and 1for hoggin/planings mix.

Option 1			Option 2		
Area A1	Area B1	**Total**	Area A2	Area B2	**Total**
£2,368.75	£1,556.83	**£3,925.58**	£2,456.50	£1,670.50	**£4,127.10**
£2,900.00	£2,200.00	**£5,100.00**	£2,200.00	£1,800.00	**£4,000.00**
£1,980.00	£1,105.00	**£3,085.00**	£2,190.00	£1,225.00	**£3,415.00**
-	-	**£6,750.00**	--	--	--

Hoggin/Planings

£2,400.00	£1,525.00	**£3,925.00**	£2,610.00	£1,645.00	**£4,255.00**

Given the cost, Cllr. Baily questioned whether hard standing was necessary. Cllr. Olney noted that Council had agreed to install and Cllr. Sansom commented that it would prevent cars parking on the road.

Proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. Olney that quotation for £3,085.00 be accepted

Resolved — Clerk

Once hard standing was in place, side gate would be chained and locked. Clerk to advise Allotment Committee. — Clerk

10. Information boards for Linch Furlong & Community Orchard: — Action

Clerk had received 3 quotations

Sculptures Board	Community Orchard Board	Tree Labels
£391.00	£425.00	-------
£163.00	£181.00	£ 3.10 each (excludes stakes)
£116.00	£465.00	£42.00 each (includes stakes)

Cllr. Sansom noted that the tree labels could be fixed to posts sawn at an angle, which would be considerably cheaper than stakes. Proposed by Cllr. Baily, seconded by Cllr. Olney that quotation for £163 + £181 + £3.10 per label be accepted.

Resolved — Clerk

11. Mowing of Riverside land: — Action

Council resolved that W Saunders be asked to mow Riverside land on two occasions again this year. — Clerk

12. Youth Club Co-ordinator:

Youth Club Co-ordinator would be resigning at the end of the summer term and her assistant would be unable to take over because of changed family circumstances. Chairman had enquired whether any of those made redundant from Bedford BC Youth Service would be interested and the post would be advertised on notice boards and the website. Unfortunately the Newsletter had already been printed. The post comprised 4 hours per week at £11.00 per hour, of which 2 hours were planning/setting up and 2 hours supervision at the Club. Cllr. Olney to enquire whether one of the current volunteers would be interested. — PO

13. Highways Matters:

Cllr. Taylor reported that he & Cllr. Olney had walked round village with Amey representative and residents were pleased to see Amey in the village. High Street/Pavenham Road cross roads required major work which was being costed by Bedford BC. The work would require a Traffic Regulation Order for closure of the road and would be carried out during a school holiday but avoiding harvest. The blocked gullies in Station Road and High Street near the Methodist Church would be cleared, damage to footway opposite 52 Lincroft and Lovell Road kerb would be repaired, pothole squad would revisit Reynes Drive/Station Road and Ruffs Furze/Church Lane junctions, the car park outside 29 Grenidge Way would be patched and flooding on the footpath in Grenidge Way investigated. Cllr. Olney to request Bedford BC to rod the Grenidge Way drain too as residents had reported an unpleasant smell. The hole in the bridge was Anglian Water responsibility and had been referred to them. Vegetation was growing over the footway from the bridge to the church and Clerk to ask Bedford BC to cut back. Cllr. Baily to forward details and Clerk and Cllr. Olney to pursue Burleigh Place bollard with Bedford BC — PO — RB/PO/ Clerk

Cllr. Sansom noted that Lincroft School had been carrying out cycling training and suggested Council needed to press for the cycle path along Lovell Road. Bedford BC had applied for monies from the Government Sustainable Transport Fund and Clerk to write to Bedford BC Cycling Development Officer, copied to the Mayor, requesting some of that funding. Clerk also to write to Lincroft School suggesting more bicycle racks on site to encourage cycling. Cllr. Sansom had also met representative from Bedford bus users' association and Clerk to include an item on bus services on July agenda and invite representatives from Bedford BC Transport and Stagecoach to attend. — Clerk — Clerk — Clerk

Cllr. R. Saunders noted that residents in the High Street had requested action against motorists speeding through the village before 8.00am and after 5.00pm and Clerk to ask police if mobile camera could be deployed. Some councils apparently named and shamed residents who had — Clerk

been penalised for speeding and Clerk to make enquiries. Councillors also requested the number of tickets issued in Lovell Road. — Clerk / Clerk

14. Oakley Sustainability Project: — Action

Cllr. Olney reported that representative from Bedford BC would be discussing the formation of a Friends of Browns Wood and Judges Spinney Group with the Sustainability Group. The street lighting questionnaire would be included in the Autumn Newsletter. A very high percentage in favour would be required before Bedford BC would consider turning off street lights in the early hours of the morning. Cllr. Olney to discuss with Milton Ernest PC. An Open Day would be held in October for the allotments and community orchard and it was hoped to press apples again. Cllr. Sansom reported that the community orchard had been watered but the wildflower seeds might have to be re-sown as the weather had been so dry. Worn Linch Furlong stakes had been replaced with those left over from the orchard. — PO

15. Borough Councillor's Report: — Action

Cllr. Olney reported that the Bedford BC summer play scheme would run again this year on Mondays & Tuesdays. The Planning Inspector had passed the Twinwood incinerator decision to the Government. Cllr. Walker added that Milton Ernest PC was meeting Mr. Burt MP to discuss. Clerk to try and organise a joint letter from affected parishes to demonstrate local strength of feeling to the Communities and Local Government Secretary. Cllr. Olney noted that the parking situation in The Furlong had improved and fewer vehicles were parking on the verges in other parts of the village.

16. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:

Decisions notified since last Council meeting – 10th May 2011

Application No: 11/00538/FUL – proposed rear extension linking outbuilding to dwelling to create an annexe at Town Farm, Westfield Road
Parish Comments: No objection
Decision/Date: Permission 09.05.11.

Application No: 11/00541/FUL – erection of triple garage in rear garden at 55A Church Lane
Parish Comments: Objection as the proposed garage is too big for the plot and will intrude on 100, Ruffs Furze at the rear. The plan indicates that the floor slab is heated, which would seem unnecessary for a garage
Decision/Date: Refusal 10.05.11. as it would be harmful tot he character of the area. The height, width & scale of the building would detract from the outlook of adjoining properties which have very short gardens & would be out of keeping with its residential setting.

Application No: 11/00381/FUL – change of use of agricultural land to residential and erection of detached double garage with room in roof at 17, Highfield Road
Parish Comments: Objection as the proposed building is outside the SPA in open countryside and if granted, it would set a precedent for further development along the Bedford Northern Fringes in an area of open views across the Ouse Valley.
Decision/Date: Refusal 18.05.11. because of the adverse impact on the rural character of the area & it would set a precedent for similar changes to other areas of land in the immediate locality & harmful to the rural policy area.

Application No: 11/00715/FUL – single storey rear extension at Oakengates, 18 High Street
Parish Comments: No objection
Decision/Date: Permission 20.05.11.

Applications received since last Council meeting – 10th May 2011

a) Application No: 11/00677/FUL – single storey side and rear extension at 6, Bevery Close
Parish Comments: No objection

b) Application No: 11/00937/FUL – single storey rear extension at 28, Hunts Path
Parish Comments: No objection

c) Application No: 11/01073/FUL – extension & alterations to existing bungalow to form 2 storey chalet style bungalow at 2, Westfield Road

Parish Comments: No objection but concern that works are still too extensive to be considered an extension

d) Bedford BC – planning workshop 06.07.11. Cllr. Sansom to attend. — Clerk/GS

e) Government consultation on planning for traveller sites - noted.

17. Correspondence: — Action

a) Bedford BC – sports courses for 30+ and 50+ 06.06.11 – 31.07.11. - noted

b) Bedford BC – summer play scheme 01.08.11. – 26.08.11. – noted

c) Carnival Committee - thank you for donation. Chairman noted that Committee had invited Council to have a float. Cllr. R. Saunders volunteered a trailer and Councillors Baily, Jones, Sansom, Taylor & Chairman to man. — RB/DJ/GS/MT/JW

18. Grant Applications: none — Action

19. Finance Matters:

a) Accounts for period up to 7th June 2011

Income and balances:

NatWest Bank - Current account balance at 31.05.11.	£29,966.99
NatWest Bank – Business Reserve account balance at 31.05.11.	£8,745.02
NatWest Bank – Bonus Saver account balance at 31.05.11.	£40,000.00
NatWest - Fixed Rate Bond at 31.05.11.	£140,000.00

Received since previous meeting

Bishop – Newsletter	£15.00
Hazel Kaye - Newsletter	£60.00
Ridgeway - Newsletter	£50.00
Oakley IT - Newsletter	£105.00
SEC Services - Newsletter	£50.00
Clark (Jackson) - allotment	£24.00
Stables Therapy - Newsletter	£50.00
ORA - Newsletter	£120.00
Bedford BC – grass cutting contribution	£1,171.33
Total	**£1,645.33**

Payments Already Made:		**Chq. No.**
Oakley Scout Group - s. 137 payment	£200.00	645
Oakly Recreational Association - s. 137 payment	£1,000.00	646
Oakley Carnival - s. 137 payment	£250.00	647
BATPC - new councillor training course	£30.00	648
Aon Ltd - insurance	£3,426.38	649

Payments Made:		
Wildman Transport - emptying bottle bank 25.05.11.	£56.40	650
M J Granger Grounds Maintenance - grass cutting 23.05.11.	£660.00	651
Bedford BC - groundworks at community orchard	£1,086.00	652
Oakley Village Hall – Committee Room hire 07.06.11. 6hrs @ £6/ph	£18.00	653
Clerk – salary and expenses 01.05.11. – 31.05.11.	£655.02	654
D Steynor - bus shelter cleaning May	£29.90	655
J Walker – litter collection @ £47/wk (4 weeks)	£188.00	656
Friends of the Old School – donation of internal audit fee	£50.00	657
W Saunders & Son – mowing Riverside meadow	£156.00	658
Total payments this meeting	**£7,805.70**	

Resolved: to approve the accounts for payment. — Clerk

b) 2010/11 audit: Action

Internal auditor had no recommendations. Chairman signed sections 1 and 2 of audit return. Clerk

c) Insurance renewal: Action

Clerk noted that broker had been unable to obtain more a competitive quotation, therefore £3,426.38 had been paid to Aon Ltd.

d) Cricket Field lease: Action

Awaiting revised lease.

21. **Date of next Council meeting**: 5th July 2011

Chairman