

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011 at the Village Hall

**PRESENT:**

Mrs. Walker (Chairman), Mrs. S Fardon , Mrs. P Olney, R Baily, D Jones, G Sansom, J Saunders, R Saunders, M. Taylor, P White the Clerk and 1 member of the public

**1. Public Open Session**

Mr. Nicholas advised that there were 26 full allotment plots and 16 half plots in use. 3½ vacant plots would be let to those on the waiting list. There had been some complaints about the roughness of the tracks and he suggested that the mound of soil on site could be used to level them.

**2. Apologies:** P Phillips, (personal)**3. Declarations of Interest:**

Cllrs. Jones & White for item 11 as members of the Oakley Recreational Association

**4. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

**Resolved:** to adopt the minutes with the addition of “which” in place of “Cllr. Olney added that” and “would include” in place of “Bedford BC would be considering” in item 18k.

**5. Clerk’s Report:**

Highways – still no response from Bedford BC about the bollard at the end of Burleigh Place. Bedford BC had yet to carry out the speed survey on Pavenham Road. Clerk had chased the renewal of white lining in Lovell Road and was advised that this is being monitored. No response from Bedford BC to Clerk’s letter detailing concerns about the bridge closure signage.

Allotment Lease – not yet received

Riverside Picnic Bench – order had been made for bench to be moved

Riverside Trees – works to trees completed. A member of the public had donated £30.00 to Council for some of the wood.

Highfield Road Path – Clerk investigating who was responsible

National Planning Policy Framework – Clerk had forwarded comments to NALC and BATPC

**6. Matters Arising from minutes of Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Cllr. White to pass contact details of the landlord of the property in Burleigh Place where the fence was falling down to the Clerk.

Cllr. J. Saunders reported that the tree on the Green was not rotten.

Cllr. Taylor was in the process of noting overhanging trees/bushes in the village and would report to the Clerk.

Action  
PW

MT

**7. Police Report:**

PCSO Sharratt had been unable to attend. There were 3 reported crimes between 01.09.11. and 01.10.11. of which 1 was the theft of a vehicle and 2 uncategorised offences. Residents had raised concerns about anti-social behaviour on the Green and PCSO Sharratt had patrolled the area on late weekend shifts. There had also been a problem with nuisance motorcycles around Reynes Drive and the Green and PCSO Sharratt pursuing.

The meeting arranged for 16.09.11. with Supt. Turner to discuss rural policing had been cancelled because of police operational commitments. Insp. Everett to contact the Council to discuss. Council agreed that Clerk should write and thank PC Tott and PCSO Underwood, who had moved to new posts, copied to their superiors.

Action

Clerk

**8. New Sport and Leisure Facilities:-**

Cllr. Baily reported no progress yet on the boule pitch but he was pursuing.

Chairman had shown disabled swing options to families of disabled young people and they preferred the cradle seat with harness suitable for 5 – 14 year olds

Proposed by Cllr. Baily, seconded by Cllr. Jones that Clerk to check seat would fit existing frame and if so order seat at a cost of £893.00 + VAT + carriage be purchased

**Resolved**

Action  
RB

Clerk

**9. Blacksmith’s Forge at Bedford Arms:**

Councillors had met with Charles Wells’ agents again. Wells had advised that as the building had no foundations and serious cracks in the walls it would cost around £60,000 to renovate. They agreed to forward the surveyor’s report to the Council. A local expert, Mr. Knight, had also

Action



for the loan of the masher. The walnut tree in Linch Furlong had died and Cllr. Jones offered to donate a replacement. Council gratefully accepted his offer. A resident had kindly mowed the community orchard and Clerk to write and thank him. Residents were concerned about a naturist in Brown's Wood and Clerk to ask PCSO Sharratt to investigate.

Clerk  
Clerk

**16. Borough Councillor's Report:**

Cllr. Olney reported that the bridges would be closed day and night on 22. & 23.10.11. for further gas works. The crossroads would then be closed 8.00am – 6.00pm between 24. & 25./26.10.11. or 25. & 26./27/10/11. if the bridge works overran, for resurfacing. Lovell Road would be closed overnight on 29.10.11. for a railway bridge inspection. Chair suggested Network Rail be asked to clean the graffiti on the bridge at the same time. Cllr. Olney had discussed signing for the works at length with Bedford BC and boards would be erected in Pavenham Road, Highfield Road, Station Road and the High Street. Cllr. Jones suggested posters be put in public places and Cllr. Olney to ask Bedford BC to provide.

Action

Clerk  
PO

The draft Allocations & Designations Plan had been issued for final consultation and comments were due by 14.11.11. The draft 2012 – 2016 Bedford BC budget had also been issued for consultation. Proposals included one visit by the rural skip instead of the current two and a zero budget for the community alcohol partnership. The Bunyan Centre and the Foyer centre for young people would be closed but other facilities would be kept open with reduced opening hours. Staff reductions would impact on services and as the budget was front end loaded the majority of the cuts would occur in 2012/13.

**17. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:**

**Decisions notified since last Council meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

Application No: 11/01575/FUL – installation of 3 aluminium louvres in place of glazing to 3 existing windows at telephone exchange, Church Lane

Parish Comments: No objection

Decision/Date: Permission 12.09.11.

Application No: 11/01716/FUL – side, front & rear extensions and loft conversion at Parklands, The Drive

Parish Comments: No objection

Decision/Date: Permission 12.09.11.

Application No: 11/01781/FUL – loft conversion with rear and side dormer at 90, Lovell Road

Parish Comments: No objection

Decision/Date: Permission

**Applications received since last Council meeting – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011**

a) Application No: 11/01835/FUL – erection of 2 bedroom dwelling at 74, High Street

Parish Comments: Objection because the proposed dwelling is out of keeping with the surrounding cottages and the environment in which they sit; the application represents back garden development and would set a precedent in the area; the proposed dwelling will still impinge on neighbours and the right of way and will intensify use of a steep, shared access and drainage from the site onto the road could present problems.

b) Application No: 11/01246/FUL - amended noise report for proposed standby generators at Twinwood Business Park

Parish Comments: No objection

c) Appeal against refusal of 11/01458/FUL – erection of garage in rear garden at 55A Church Lane – no additional comments

d) BATPC/CPRE – Planning workshop 25.11.11. Cllrs. Sansom & J. Saunders to attend.

**18. Correspondence:**

a) Bedford BC – Network Meeting 06.10.11. – Cllrs. Olney and Chair to attend

b) BATPC – AGM 20.10.11. - noted

Action

c) Boundary Commission - consultation on proposed new Parliamentary constituencies. Chair noted that in the proposals Oakley would remain within Alistair Burt's constituency. Bromham and Biddenham would move to the Bedford & Kempston constituency and Wootton would be incorporated into Mr. Burt's constituency. The Central Bedfordshire constituency would no longer exist.

d) Mayor – surgery in the Bedford Arms 21.02.12. - noted

19. **Grant Applications:** none

Action

20. **Finance Matters:**

a) **Accounts for period up to 4<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

**Income and balances:**

NatWest Bank - Current account balance at 30.09.11.	£10,422.57
NatWest Bank – Business Reserve account balance at 30.09.11.	£14,847.17
NatWest Bank – Bonus Saver account balance at 30.09.11.	£40,082.84
NatWest - Fixed Rate Bond at 30.09.11.	£140,000.00

**Received since previous meeting**

Interest	£1.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1.31</b>

**Payments Already Made:**

H M Revenue & Customs - quarterly PAYE payment	£643.07	<b>Chq. No.</b> £643.07
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**Payments Made:**

Wildman Transport - emptying bottle bank 14.09.11.	£56.40	679
M J Granger Grounds Maintenance - grass cutting 06.09.11. & 27.09.11. + reissue of lost cheque 661 for £1,320.00	£2,640.00	680
Friends of the Old School - rent for Old School room Sept - Nov 2011	£141.50	681
BDO LLP - external audit	£480.00	682
H M Parrott - playground inspection	£48.00	683
Oakley Village Hall – Committee Room hire 04.10.11. 3hrs @ £6/ph	£18.00	684
Clerk – salary and expenses 01.09.11. – 30.09.11. + back pay 01.07.11 - 31.08.11.	£688.86	685
D Steynor - bus shelter cleaning September	£29.90	686
J Walker – litter collection @ £47/wk (4 weeks)	£188.00	687
Peter Stopford Tree Specialists – Riverside tree works	£450.00	688
<b>Total payments this meeting</b>	<b>£5,383.73</b>	

**Resolved:** to approve the accounts for payment.

Clerk

**b) External Audit**

External auditors were content with the accounts and had no matters to draw to Council's attention. Closure of the audit had been advertised.

Action

**c) Allotment Rent 2012**

Councillors noted that the allotments should be self financing apart from capital costs. Clerk had yet to receive a water bill from Anglian Water so water charges would be billed separately. Council is required to give 12 months notice of rent increases, therefore proposed by Cllr. Sansom, seconded by Cllr. Olney that rent be increased to £13 per half plot and £25 full plot in October 2012

**Resolved**

Clerk to obtain quotations for levelling the tracks

Action

Clerk  
Clerk

21. **Date of next Council meeting:** 1<sup>st</sup> November 2011