

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2013 at the Village Hall

PRESENT:

Mrs. Walker (Chairman), Mrs. P Olney, R Baily, D Jones, P Phillips, G Sansom, R Saunders, M. Taylor, P White, the Clerk and 2 members of the public

1. Public Open Session:

Representatives from Addison Ousebank were concerned about the condition of the Willow Vale track, which was rutted and hazardous for pedestrians and cyclists. They had filled the worst potholes but this was only a temporary solution and they requested Council's assistance to provide a permanent solution. (see item 16b)

2. Apologies: Mrs. S Fardon (business), J Saunders (business)

3. Declarations of Interest:

Chair & Cllr. Olney for item 18c) as a trustees of the Day Care Centre. Chair for item 21c) as a relative of the litter picker

4. Dispensations:

Resolved: to grant dispensations to all Council members to enable them to discuss and vote on the precept

5. Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4th December 2012:

Resolved: to adopt the minutes

6. Clerk's Report:

Highways – two bollards had been installed in Burleigh Place and the church path widened. Clerk had reported the householder parking over footway in Grenidge Way, the road breaking up in Dewlands and flooding on path between Dewlands & Grenidge Way to Highways. Clerk had thanked Bedford BC for flooding signs at bridges and requested that they are removed promptly in future to deter motorists from ignoring them.

Browns Wood/Judges Spinney - Clerk had thanked residents who had helped with information boards. Reports that trees were being cut down in Judges Spinney had been reported to Bedford BC.

Playground Inspection – Clerk had requested annual independent inspection as required by insurance company

Riverside lease – Clerk had chased draft lease from Oakley Properties

Station Road Bus Shelter – new shelter to be delivered late February. Cost of removing old shelter would be £300 + VAT. Hedge had been cut back.

Oakley 20 – Bedford Harriers had applied for Station Road to be closed on 24.03.13. for the Oakley 20 race. Clerk to remind them to supervise parking and clear litter as they had done last year.

7. Matters Arising from minutes of Meeting held on 4th December 2012:

Cllr. Olney reported that a meeting had been held to discuss Judges Spinney and Browns Wood. The formal unveiling of the information boards had been delayed until 24.02.13, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. Mr. Fowler would be asked to speak at the event and Bedford BC would launch the Friends of Browns Wood/Judges Spinney Group. It was hoped young people, village organisations and Clapham would participate.

Cllr. Sansom noted that the Linch Furlong Volunteers Day had been cancelled because of the snow.

Action

8. Police Report:

There were 4 reported crimes in December, 2 assaults, 1 theft from a vehicle, and 1 criminal damage to a vehicle. Bobby Van to attend a W.I. meeting when their programme allows and visit Lovell Homes when the weather improves. Police & Crime Commissioner wanted to develop proposals for PCSOs and Specials and intended to meet with groups of parishes to discuss. Awaiting details of meetings once PCC budget agreed. Clapham PC had asked if Oakley would be interested in joining with other parishes to fund a PCSO if monies were available. Bromham was not interested, Sharnbrook was awaiting the outcome of the PCC meeting but was unlikely to be interested and Clapham had insufficient funds in 2013/14. PCC and Ch. Const. Hitchcock had attended a Borough Council meeting and had been asked if PCSOs could be given more powers, but Ch. Const. Hitchcock preferred them to be used in a community role.

Action

9. New Boule Pitch:

Three quotations had been received for £5,200, £5,500 and £5,790. Cllr. Olney confirmed that residents were now content for the boule pitch to go ahead. Cllr. Baily volunteered to oversee the work to ensure it conformed to the specification.

Proposed by Cllr. Baily, seconded by Cllr. R. Saunders that quotation for £5,200 be accepted

Resolved

Action

Clerk

b) Willow Vale Access	The track was owned by Bedford BC and under the allotment lease the Parish Council was responsible for a proportion of the cost of maintaining the section from the hedge to the first gate as a track. Council agreed to arrange a site meeting between Bedford BC Land & Property officer, councillors and residents/businesses to discuss. Clerk to formally request Bedford BC to consider the problem and Cllr. Olney to arrange a meeting. Cllrs. Olney & Baily volunteered to represent Council. Monies had been included in the budget for Council's proportion of any repairs. Clerk to obtain quotations for permeable Eco-Grid type product and tarmac for consideration at March meeting.	Clerk RB/PO Clerk
Cllr. Taylor reported that despite the article in the Newsletter, some hedges had yet to be cut back. He volunteered to advise Clerk who would write to residents.	MT Clerk	
A large pothole had formed on the Bromham side of the twin bridges. Clerk to ask Bedford BC to repair.	Clerk	
Streetlights in Pavenham Road which had never been connected had recently been switched on and residents had asked for them to be disconnected. They were not needed for safety reasons as they had never worked, there were already plenty of street lights in Pavenham Road and Council was trying to reduce light pollution and costs by turning lights off after midnight. Clerk to write to the Mayor, copied to Head of Highways.	Clerk	
Cllr. Olney had requested repairs to Reynes Drive, but Bedford BC had advised that the condition was not poor enough to warrant resurfacing. Road would be monitored and large potholes at the junction with the High Street repaired.		
17. <u>Borough Councillor's Report:</u>	<u>Action</u>	
Cllr. Olney reported that Bedford BC was tendering for the management of its leisure facilities to ascertain if they could be run more cost effectively. Both adults' and children's services were expected to be cut in the budget, which would be finalised in February. Planning Enforcement was dealing with the fence in Church Lane. Bins were not being collected this week because of the snow but a double collection would be made on 28.01.13. Clerk to check meaning of double collection and provide notices for notice boards.	Clerk	
18. <u>Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:</u>		
Decisions notified since last Council meeting – 4th December 2012		
Application No.	12/02048/FUL – roof extension with dormers to form first floor living accommodation at Longways, Church Lane	
Parish Comments:	No objection	
Decision/Date:	Permission 10.12.12.	
Application No.	12/02171/TPO – crown reduce 1 copper beech by 20% at Oakley House, The Drive	
Parish Comments:	No objection	
Decision/Date:	Permission 18.12.12.	
Application No.	12/01789/TPO – crown lift 3 oaks to 6ft at 45 High Street	
Parish Comments:	No objection	
Decision/Date:	Permission 18.12.12.	
Application No.	12/02249/TPO – various tree works at Fox Covert, Westfield Road	
Parish Comments:	No objection	
Decision/Date:	Permission 21.12.12.	
Application No.	12/02211/FUL – replacement tennis courts + MUGA with hard surfacing & perimeter fencing at Playing Fields, Station Road	
Parish Comments:	No objection but lighting should not be permitted without additional planning consent	
Decision/Date:	Permission 03.01.13.	
Application No.	12/02225/FUL – roof extension with dormers. Single storey rear extension & associated landscaping at The Old Orchard, Church Lane	
Parish Comments:	No objection as Bedford BC had confirmed that applicant would not be permitted to extend the existing property and build an additional property under consent for application 09/01480/FUL	
Decision/Date:	Permission 17.01.13.	

Applications received since last Council meeting – 4th December 2012

- a) Application No: 12/02225/FUL – roof extension with dormers. Single storey rear extension & associated landscaping at The Old Orchard, Church Lane
Parish Comments: No objection as Bedford BC had confirmed that applicant would not be permitted to extend the existing property and build an additional property under consent for application 09/01480/FUL
- b) Application No: 12/02405/TPO – re-pollard 2 poplars at 55A High Street
Parish Comments: No objection
- c) Application No: 02363/LBC – conversion of outbuildings to form one room for community use at Old School
Parish Comments: No objection
- d) Application No: 12/02525/FUL – single storey side & rear extensions and first floor rear extension at 94, Dewlands
Parish Comments: No objection
- e) Application No: 12/02526/FUL – two storey rear extension at 92, Dewlands
Parish Comments: No objection
- f) Application No: 3/00026/TPO – remove branches from 2 limes at The Spinney
Parish Comments: No objection
- g) 11/00017/REF – new Public Inquiry for Nun Wood wind farm to begin 11.06.13. as Inspector's decision on the appeal had been quashed by the High Court. Noted Action
- An appeal had also been lodged against the condition limiting the time for the gypsy site at Bletsoe. Hearing to begin on 09.04.13. Noted
- h) Consultation on Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule. Council had no comments. |

19. Correspondence:

a) **Beds & Luton Archive Service** – invitation to centenary celebration 24.01.13.
No –one available Action

b) **Bedford BC** – Network Meeting 31.01.13.
Chair & Cllr. Olney to attend | PO/JW

c) **Bedford BC** – Women & Girls Sport & Leisure Festival 22.04.13.
Noted |

d) **BATPC** – nominations for Buckingham Palace Garden Party
Resolved to nominate Chair | Clerk

e) **Oakley Rural Day Care Centre** – thank you for donation
Noted |

20. Grant Applications: none | Action**21. Finance Matters:** | Action**a) Accounts for period up to 22nd January 2013****Income and balances:**

NatWest Bank - Current account balance at 31.12.12.	£37,029.26
NatWest Bank – Business Reserve account balance at 31.12.12.	£22,753.57
NatWest Bank – Bonus Saver account balance at 31.12.12.	£40,608.01
NatWest - Fixed Rate Bond at 31.12.12. (Developer contributions for future maintenance)	£140,000.00

Received since previous meeting

Interest/Bonus	£89.96
Interest from Bond	£356.71
Total Receipts	£446.67

Payments Already Made:

		Chq. No.
Oakley Rural Day Care Centre – donation	£500.00	831
HMRC - PAYE	£669.68	832

Payments Made:

Wildman Transport - emptying bottle bank 05.12.12, 19.12.12. & 02.01.13.	£169.20	833
Warners of Bedford - grass cutting December & January	£1,078.00	834
Warners of Bedford - cutting hedges Station Road	£180.00	835
H M Parrott - playground repairs	£228.00	836
H M Parrott - The Furlong playground inspection	£42.00	837
EAAOP - replacement pear tree for orchard	£22.95	838
Friends of Old School - hire of room December - February	£141.50	839
Oakley Properties – Cricket Field rent 2007/8 – 2012/13	£3,000	840
Oakley Village Hall – Committee Room hire 03.01.13. & 22.01.13. 6hrs @ £6/ph	£36.00	841
Clerk – salary and expenses 01.12.12. – 31.12.12.	£670.58	842
M Hobbs - bus shelter cleaning December	£24.80	843
J Walker – litter collection @ 43.26 p/w (7 weeks)	£302.82	844

Total payments this meeting £7,065.53

Resolved: to approve the accounts for payment.

Clerk

b) Grass Cutting 2013/14:

Clerk had received 2 quotations for verges for £5,500 + VAT excluding The Furlong which would cost an additional £390.50 for 11 cuts and £7,590 + VAT excluding The Furlong. Quotations for Linch Furlong and the orchard were £610 + VAT and £865 + VAT. Mr. Knight had advised that he would be content to maintain Linch Furlong and the orchard for £700. Warners had also offered to freeze the price for further years if the contract term was extended.

Proposed by Cllr. R. Saunders, seconded by Cllr. Jones that quotation for £5,500 be accepted for the verges for 2013/14 and 2014/15 and quotation for £700 be accepted for Linch Furlong given the excellent standard of work in 2012/13

Action

Clerk

Resolved**c) Review of bus shelter cleaner and litter picker performance and salaries for 2013/14**

Council was content with the performance of the bus shelter cleaner and litter picker.

Given the continuing difficult economic situation, proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. R. Saunders that salaries be maintained at current levels from 01.04.13.

Resolved

Action

Clerk

d) Precept 2013/14:

Because of the reduction in the Council Tax base, precept income was expected to fall by 3.1% to £48,552. However, Bedford BC had agreed to pay a top up grant to raise income to 2012/13 levels. Therefore Finance Advisory Group had recommended that precept be set £48,552 on the basis that a top up grant of £1,544 would be paid by the Borough Council.

Action

The Finance Group recommended three new items of expenditure.

£4,000 was recommended for speed reduction measures in Pavenham Road and possibly elsewhere in the village. (Committee also recommended that Borough Cllr. Olney should be asked for a donation from her Ward Councillor Funding for this project).

£3,000 was recommended for hedge laying at Linch Furlong

£1,200 was recommended for additional Christmas lights

Given the level of Council reserves the Committee recommended that Council investigate the viability and cost of purchasing average speed cameras for the village. If this was feasible the £4,000 recommended for speed reduction measures would be reassigned to this project. Committee proposed that Council also consider replacing the signs on the entrance walls depending on cost and funds available.

Bedford BC had advised that average speed cameras (ASC) cost approximately £20,000 each. All cameras are monitored by the police who send out the tickets and use the income to offset the cost. Bedford BC was rolling out a programme of ASCs but it was likely to be 5 years before cameras would be allocated to Oakley. Some parishes including Pavenham were interested in a sharing scheme. Under the scheme cameras would remain the property of Bedford BC and the poles would be owned by parishes. Some cameras would be dummies and would be moved round the system by Bedford BC.

A Bedford BC officer was content to attend a Council meeting to discuss further and Clerk to ask him to attend the May meeting to discuss all available speed reduction measures.

Bromham PC had advised that the signs on the green and by the Swan cost £3,000 each between 2007 and 2009. Given the cost, Clerk to investigate carved stone signs, similar to those at Sharnbrook and metal signs, similar to those at Clapham.

Council agreed to increase the allotment budget to £6,000 to cover the cost of the Willow Vale track, to increase the budget for new projects to £17,000 for speed reduction works, to increase the Newsletter/Directory/website budget to £5,900 to allow for website improvements and to allocate £2,000 for a Neighbourhood Plan. Council was also concerned that grass was no longer trimmed between verges and footways and Clerk to investigate whether Council could take carry out the work on behalf of Bedford BC on an agency basis

Proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. R. Saunders that budget be accepted as amended and precept set at £48,552

Resolved

Chairman signed Bedford BC precept request form

Clerk

22. **Date of next Council meeting:** 5th March 2013

Chairman