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. <u>Public Open Session:</u>

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. <u>Apologies:</u> Mrs. S Fardon (business), J Saunders (business)

3. <u>Declarations of Interest:</u>

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. <u>Dispensations:</u>

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

5. <u>Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4th December 2012:</u>

Resolved: to adopt the minutes

6. Clerk's Report:

<u>Highways</u> – 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.

<u>Browns Wood/Judges Spinney</u> - 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.

<u>Playground Inspection</u> – Clerk had requested annual independent inspection as required by insurance company

<u>Riverside lease</u> – Clerk had chased draft lease from Oakley Properties

<u>Station Road Bus Shelter</u> – new shelter to be delivered late February. Cost of removing old shelter would be $\pm 300 +$ VAT. Hedge had been cut back.

<u>Oakley 20</u> – 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. <u>Matters Arising from minutes of Meeting held on 4th December 2012:</u>

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.

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.

9. <u>New Boule Pitch:</u>

Three quotations had been received for $\pounds 5,200$, $\pounds 5,500$ and $\pounds 5,790$. 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

Action

Action

Clerk

	OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 22.01.13.	<u> </u>
	Clerk to confirm to Oakley Recreational Association and check the VAT status of the contractor. Cllr. Baily volunteered to investigate boule equipment and report back to Council.	Clerk RB
0.	Website:	Action
	A further meeting with website designer had been arranged for 07.02.13. Clerk had advised Rights of Way Team that Council was content to show ROW information on the website, however, copyright would prevent Council using Bedford BC maps. ROW Team suggested a link to the Bedford BC website for ROW information. Clerk had asked Ordnance Survey if Council could use their maps under the PSMA agreement. Councillors to forward contributions for the site to a member of the website team prior to the meeting.	ALL
1.	The Furlong:	Action
	Clerk and Cllr. Olney had chased Bedford BC for a site meeting to agree outstanding maintenance works. Clerk had had playground equipment inspected and the roof section on large multiplay is loose plus a bolt is missing; matta surfacing needs re-laying; dog grids need earthing up; a litter bin is needed and fence railings and a post need replacing. Inspection report had been passed to Bedford BC. Bedford BC had written to Barratts advising that they would be charged if maintenance works were not completed satisfactorily. Bedford BC had advised that the hedge at the entrance to The Furlong was not the Borough's responsibility. Councillors suggested that it was originally County Council land and Cllr. Olney to check planning conditions.	PO
2.	Christmas Tree:	Action
	Clerk had received quotations to plant Christmas tree for $\pounds 250 + VAT$ and for $\pounds 325 + VAT$ by hand or	
	$\pounds 525 + VAT$ with a digger.	
	Bedford BC to visit Grange site on 24.01.13. to consider an electrical connection to the street light. Clerk to ask them to consider a permanent connection on the corner opposite the War Memorial too so	Clerk
	that Council could put lights into the existing tree.	
3.	Tree Works:	Action
	Clerk had received 2 quotations to cut back trees on The Grange, Brockwell and Ruffs Furze greens and Dewlands/Church Lane junction for $\pounds 900 + VAT$ and $\pounds 740 + VAT$. One contractor had also quoted $\pounds 100$ to cut back bushes along Brockwell path Proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconded by Cllr. R. Saunders that quotation for $\pounds 740$ be accepted and	<u>- 1000</u>
	contractor be asked to cut back Brockwell path too Resolved	Clerk
	Replacement Beurre Bedford pear tree for the orchard to be delivered once weather improved.	
4.	Community Litter Pick:	Action
	Bedford BC had suggested a community litter pick on 30.03.13, 06.04.13. or 20.04.13.	<u>netion</u>
	Resolved that litter pick be held on 20.04.13. at the Green	
	Schools had asked to be informed of the date and Clerk to arrange with Bedford BC. Clerk to notify W. I. also.	Clerk Clerk
5.	Calendar of Meetings 2013/14:	Action
	Clerk tabled a calendar of meetings for 2013/14	
	09.04.13. Annual Parish Meeting 05.11.13. 07.05.13. AGM 03.12.13.	
	04.06.13. 02.01.14. Finance Advisory Group	
	02.07.13. 07.01.14.	
	03.09.13 04.03.14.	
	01.10.13. 01.04.14. Annual Parish Meeting	
	Council agreed that a Council meeting was unnecessary in April as Tuesday 2 nd fell immediately after Easter.	
	Resolved to accept	Clerk
6.	Highways Matters:	Action
	a) Flooding in Westfield Road	
	Cllr. R. Saunders reported that the drain at the far end of Westfield Road was flooding. Residents had reported the problem to the Borough but had had no response and had asked Council to chase. Cllr.	
	Olney noted that although the drain was under the road it was the responsibility of the landowner to clear. Clerk to ask Bedford BC to clarify who was responsible for the drain and advise residents.	

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 22.01.13.

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 Clerk Cllr. Olney to arrange a meeting. Cllrs. Olney & Baily volunteered to represent Council. **RB/PO** Monies had been included in the budget for Council's proportion of any repairs. Clerk to obtain Clerk quotations for permeable Eco-Grid type product and tarmac for consideration at March meeting. Cllr. Taylor reported that despite the article in the Newsletter, some hedges had yet to be cut back. He MT volunteered to advise Clerk who would write to residents. Clerk A large pothole had formed on the Bromham side of the twin bridges. Clerk to ask Bedford BC to Clerk repair. 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, Clerk copied to Head of Highways. 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. **Borough Councillor's Report:** Action 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 Clerk notices for notice boards.

18. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:

17.

Decisions notified since last Council meeting – 4 th 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. Parish Comments: Decision/Date:	12/02171/TPO –crown reduce 1 copper beech by 20% at Oakley House, The Drive No objection 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.					

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OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 22.01.13

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	ed since last Council meeting – 4 th December 2012	
a) Application No:	12/02225/FUL - roof extension with dormers. Single storey rear exter	sion & associated
	landscaping at The Old Orchard, Church Lane	
Parish Comments:	No objection as Bedford BC had confirmed that applicant would not be perm	nitted to extend the
	existing property and build an additional property under consent for applicat	tion 09/01480/FUL
b) Application No:	12/02405/TPO – re-pollard 2 poplars at 55A High Street	
Parish Comments:	No objection	
	5	
c) Application No:	02363/LBC - conversion of outbuildings to form one room for community	use at Old School
c) ripplication (to:		use at old selloor
Parish Comments:	No objection	
i ansii Comments.		
d) Application No.	12/02525/EUL single storey side & rear extensions and first floor rea	m automaion at 04
d) Application No:	12/02525/FUL – single storey side & rear extensions and first floor rea	ir 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	
	····· J ·····	
g) 11/00017/REF -	new Public Inquiry for Nun Wood wind farm to begin 11.06.13. as Inspec	ctor's Action
	al had been quashed by the High Court. Noted	<u></u>
decision on the uppe	an had been quashed by the fingh court. Noted	
An anneal had also	been lodged against the condition limiting the time for the gypsy site at Ble	tsoe
Hearing to begin on	09.04.15. Noted	Ι
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n) Consultation on (Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule. Council had no commen	ts.
C 1		A
Correspondence:		Action
	rchive Service – invitation to centenary celebration 24.01.13.	
No –one available		
b) Bedford BC – N	etwork Meeting 31.01.13.	
Chair & Cllr. Olney	to attend	PO/JW
c) Bedford BC – W	omen & Girls Sport & Leisure Festival 22.04.13.	
Noted		
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d) BATPC – nomin	ations for Buckingham Palace Garden Party	
Resolved to nomin		Clerk
e) Oakley Rural Da	y Care Centre – thank you for donation	
Noted		
rtoted		Ι
Grant Applications	" none	Action
or and Application.		<u>neuon</u>
Financa Mattara		Action
Finance Matters:	riod up to 22 nd January 2013	Action
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Income and balance		
	rent account balance at 31.12.12.	£37,029.26
	siness Reserve account balance at 31.12.12.	£22,753.57
NatWest Bank – Bo	nus Saver account balance at 31.12.12.	£40,608.01
NatWest - Fixed Ra	te Bond at 31.12.12. (Developer contributions for future maintenance)	£140,000.00
Received since pre-	vious meeting	
Interest/Donus	£20.06	

Total F	leceipts £446.67
Interest from Bond	£356.71
Interest/Bonus	£89.96

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 22.01.13.		5.
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
EEAOP - 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	C 1 1
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 wh an additional £390.50 for 11 cuts and £7,590 + VAT excluding The Furlong. Quotat Furlong and the orchard were £610 + VAT and £865 + VAT. Mr. Knight had advised th content to maintain Linch Furlong and the orchard for £700. Warners had also offere 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 added. 	ions for Linch at he would be d to freeze the	<u>Action</u>
verges for 2013/14 and 2014/15 and quotation for £700 be accepted for Linch Furl excellent standard of work in 2012/13 Resolved		Clerk
c) Review of bus shelter cleaner and litter picker performance and salaries for 2013 Council was content with the performance of the bus shelter cleaner and litter picker. Given the continuing difficult economic situation, proposed by Cllr. Jones, seconder Saunders that salaries be maintained at current levels from 01.04.13. Resolved		<u>Action</u> Clerk
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d) Precept 2013/14: Because of the reduction in the Council Tax base, precept income was expected to fa £48,552. However, Bedford BC had agreed to pay a top up grant to raise income to 2 Therefore Finance Advisory Group had recommended that precept be set £48,552 on t top up grant of £1,544 would be paid by the Borough Council.	2012/13 levels.	<u>Action</u>
The Finance Group recommended three new items of expenditure. £4,000 was recommended for speed reduction measures in Pavenham Road and possibl the village. (Committee also recommended that Borough Cllr. Olney should be asked 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 investiga and cost of purchasing average speed cameras for the village. If this was feasib recommended for speed reduction measures would be reassigned to this project. Comm that Council also consider replacing the signs on the entrance walls depending on c available.	ble the £4,000 hittee proposed	
Bedford BC had advised that average speed cameras (ASC) cost approximately £20,0 cameras are monitored by the police who send out the tickets and use the income to a Bedford BC was rolling out a programme of ASCs but it was likely to be 5 years before a be allocated to Oakley. Some parishes including Pavenham were interested in a sh Under the scheme cameras would remain the property of Bedford BC and the poles we by parishes. Some cameras would be dummies and would be moved round the system by	offset the cost. cameras would haring scheme. buld be owned	

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 22.01.13.	6.
A Bedford BC officer was content to attend a Council meeting to discuss further and Clerk to ask him	Clerk
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	

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

Chairman