

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th June 2024 in the Village Hall

PRESENT:

R. Saunders (Chair), J. Abbott, C. Bays, P. Jones, P. Olney, J Walker, P. White, C. Worker, R. Worker, the Clerk, Mrs. Paice and 1 member of the public

1. Public Open Session:

Resident requested an update on the bollards in The Furlong which had still to be installed. Cllr. Abbott advised that he had chased Highways and the Portfolio Holder and had received no response. Cllr. Walker to chase too.

Resident also asked about re-painting of white lines in Church Lane. Cllr. Abbott and Clerk were chasing and Cllr. Abbott had forwarded photographs. Cllr. Abbott was also chasing re-painting of the H bar in the High Street.

Resident noted that grass cutting in Pavenham Road was very poor – see item 12 and that bushes were overhanging the footway in the High Street. Council asked resident to let Clerk know where bushes were a concern and she would write to home owners.

JA/JW

2. Apologies: Cllr. Fardon (business) Cllr. T. Saunders (business)

3. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr. Bays for item 7 as a relative of the ORA Chair. Cllr. White for item 18a) as a relative of the resident concerned. Cllr. Walker for item 18b) as a member of Messy Church

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2024:

Resolved: to adopt the minutes.

5. Clerk's Report:

Highways – bushes obstructing the view from Station Road at the roundabout, grass in Ruffs Furze growing over the footway and dead trees in Church Lane had been reported to Bedford BC. Overhanging bushes in Station Road/Lincroft alleyway had been cut back. Flooding on Grenidge Way/Dewlands path had still not been resolved despite Highways advising in February that it would be dug and cleared so Clerk and Borough Councillors were chasing Highways.

Fly tipping – car bumper dumped at Lovell Road bus shelter had been reported to Bedford BC and removed

Speed Watch – one vehicle was speeding at the event in Highfield Road 21.05.24. Reported to police.

Litter bins - mess was left when bins at Station Road bus stop and twin bridges were emptied. Reported to Bedford BC who agreed that the bin emptying service was not acceptable and advised that the refuse team had been asked to list bins which are getting too heavy/full as these might need upgrading to wheelie bins in a litter bin housing. Cllr. Jones suggested that bigger bins were needed at Reynes Drives/Station Road, Station Road bus stop, Post Office and possibly the twin bridges.

Christmas Lights – Clerk had met contractor on site and he had advised that the lights by the zebra crossing were unsuitable for Christmas decorations on safety grounds. Therefore, there were only two spaced apart lights between the crossing and the bridge. He suggested that lights could be put near the Station Road roundabout instead but Council agreed not to pursue this year.

Clerk

Quiz - profit for May quiz was £178.00. Church had thanked Council for the donation from the 2023 quizzes.

Directory – Cllr. R. Worker was not able to produce the Directory and an advertisement had been placed in the Newsletter.

Defibrillators – the new defibrillator had been installed at the Methodist Church but, following the passing of a resident, concerns had been raised that residents did not know the locations of the defibrillators in the village. Chair expressed Council’s sympathy for the family of the resident who had passed away. Cllr. White advised that a new Circuit system had been introduced to register defibrillators and only the Highfield Road and the OSSC units were registered. Council defibrillators were registered on the Webnos system and Council had previously been told not to register with Circuit but now the 999 service only had information on Circuit registered units. Attempts were being made to transfer Webnos information to Circuit but Cllr. White to ask why councils had previously been advised not to register. Clerk would register the Village Hall and Methodist Church units. Clerk would also advise Lincroft School and other Clerks that their units needed to be re-registered and ask the Newsletter editor to run an article in the Autumn edition about where and how to access the units.

PW
Clerk

Clerk

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th May 2024 :
none

Action

7. Reports – ORA meeting 21.05.24:

Cllr. R. Worker reported that new representatives from boules, pool and poker clubs were welcomed. Representative from the darts club was unavailable. Chair noted that ORA meetings were an “information exchange forum” and OSSC meetings were a “decision making forum.” ORA/OSSC AGM had been held 26.03.24. Lighting and flower beds had been installed in the patio area and improvements made to fencing. Between 11 – 13.07.24. an American Theme Night, Steam Rally and Fun Fair would be held. “Skools Out” event was scheduled for 19.07.24. and Firework Display on 02.11.24. Residents in the surrounding area would or had been notified of the planned events.

Councillors advised the new Committee members that Council attended to represent the interests of the wider village community and because Council paid the rent for the field. Council Chair and Vice Chair had been re-elected and Councillors R. Worker and T. Saunders would attend ORA meetings with Cllr Jones attending if they were unavailable. They encouraged all to use the Newsletter to promote their clubs and activities.

8. East West Rail (EWR):

a) Local Representatives' Meeting 23.05.24.

Following announcement of the General Election local representatives' meeting 23.05.24, community events and statutory consultation had been postponed. David Hughes had been appointed as new CEO.

Action

9. Police Report:

There were 4 reported crimes in May, 2 burglaries, 1 sexual offence and 1 theft of a motor vehicle.

Action

10. Renewal of Kindergarten Licence to Access Brockwell Meadow

Solicitors had advised that it would be possible to extend the licence to between 3-5 years, but it would likelier be construed as a lease the longer it was, therefore it would not be advisable to grant a licence for a term of more than one year. However, the licence was drafted so that Council could use it as a template and (but for the changes which were needed with regards to the fence this year) re-issue it themselves just changing term and termination dates.

Proposed by Chair, seconded by Cllr. Abbott that licence term remain as one year and quotation for £250 + VAT to renew be accepted

Resolved

Council had previously agreed that Kindergarten should pay for lease

Action

Clerk

11. Beacon Lighting for D Day 80th anniversary:

Beacons were being lit nationwide at 9.15pm on 06.06.24. to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D Day and Clapham had suggested a joint event at Browns Wood. However, trees had been planted on the previous beacon site and Clapham PC had been unable to formalise a new site in time so were unable to proceed on this occasion. Cllr. Walker noted that a new site had been agreed in principle on Bedfordia land on the new development off Milton Road but the agreement could not be finalised in time. Clapham PC was holding a wreath laying ceremony at their War Memorial at 10.00am on 06.06.24. to commemorate the event.

Action

Cllr. Abbott added that the new customer hub was open 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and 10.00am – 5.00pm Wednesday and no appointments were needed. Growing Innovation Fund grants were available to local businesses and a byelection would be held in Wyboston on 04.07.24. as the councillor had resigned on health grounds. Bedford BC was continuing to work on the Local Plan and the Universal site was moving forward. Armed Forces Day was 29.06.24. and the River Festival would be held 20-21.07.24.

17. Planning Applications and Decisions and other planning matters:

Decisions notified since Council meeting – 13th May 2024

Application No. **24/00688/FUL** - single storey rear/side extension, incorporating garage conversion and replacement pitched roof over existing flat roof at 8 Ruffs Furze
 Parish No objection
 Comments:
 Decision/Date: Permission 21.05.24.

Applications received since Council meeting – 13th May 2024

Application No. **a) 24/00970/FUL** - single storey side extension at 73 Dewlands
 Parish No objection
 Comments

Application No. **b) 24/01020/FUL** - installation of velux windows to front at 2 Chapel Pound
 Parish No objection
 Comments

Application No. **c) 21/00332/EIA** – revised masterplan and design code for up to 500
 Parish No objection
 Comments

18. Correspondence:

a) resident concerned about trees on Burleigh Place green

Resident was concerned that trees on Burleigh Place green were too tall and had asked Council to reimburse cost of trimming away from their property. Clerk had explained that the trees are owned by the Borough Council and it would be for them to trim or remove. Council had in the past arranged a site meeting with the Borough Council to discuss the trees but not could contribute to the cost of cutting trees owned by someone else. Clerk to ask Bedford BC to inspect the trees again.

Action

Clerk

b) Messy Church request to use Linch Furlong

Messy Church had asked to use Linch Furlong for their Summer picnic 18.06.24. Council had no objection.

b) request for support for Parliamentary Bill to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries

Lord Foster had requested for support for a Parliamentary Bill to ensure greater safety in the use and disposal of lithium batteries because of concerns over fires. The Bill proposed third party independent approval testing for e-bikes, e-scooters and their batteries before entering the UK market; regulations for the safe disposal of lithium ion batteries and measures for safer access, charging and storage of batteries.

Proposed by Cllr. White, seconded by Cllr. Jones that Council support the Bill

Resolved

Clerk

19. Finance Matters:

Action

a) accounts to pay**Income and balances:**

NatWest Bank - Current account balance at 31.05.24.	£35,903.18
NatWest Bank – Business Reserve account balance at 31.54.24.	£2,390.03
Nationwide - Savings Bond	£63,147.25
Hampshire Trust - Savings Bond	£85,013.20

Received since last meeting:

Bedford BC	Contribution to grass cutting 2024	1836.72
Worker	May quiz	234.00
NatWest	Interest	2.94
	Total	£2,073.66

Payments Already

Chq.

Made:

No.

Old School	Rent for upper rooms May	153.83	s/o
Salaries	May payment	1588.21	s/o
Country Days	S. 137 donation	50.00	1938
Oakley Kindergarten	S. 137 donation	750.00	1939

Payments Made:

V C Property	Installing defibrillator at Methodist		
Maintenance	Church	374.40	1940
JDT Contracts	Tree works at Parsonage Close	276.00	1941
	Hire of Hall 02.04.24. and		
Village Hall	Committee Room 04.06.24.	50.50	1942
	Total	£3,242.94	

OAKLEY PARISH COUNCIL 04.06.24.

7.

b) Review of Financial Regulations

NALC had issued revised financial regulations and Clerk had circulated a draft tailored for Oakley to councillors.

Proposed by Cllr. Abbott, seconded by Cllr. Jones that revised financial regulations be adopted

Resolved

Action

Clerk

20. Date of Next Meeting: 2nd July 2024