



HEATH & REACH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes – Full PC Meeting

Minutes of the Full Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4th March 2024 at 7.00pm at The Village Barn, Eastern Way, Heath & Reach

Signed – S D Grierson-Hill

03.24.0 INTRODUCTION:

- a) Meeting attendees: *Cllrs. Fitzpatrick (DF), Boyden (MB), Inns (AI), Bevan (JB), Loomes (HL) and Reading (CR)*
- b) Apologies for absence: *None*
- c) Absentees: *Cllr. Smith (SS)*

03.24.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: *None*

03.24.2 APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL/COMMITTEE MINUTES:

- a) Approval of full Parish Council minutes for February 2024: *Approved and signed by Cllr. DF.*

03.24.3 PUBLIC FORUM – members of the public have a cumulative 15 minutes to address the Parish Council. No resolutions other than those on the agenda can be resolved from items raised in the public forum.
4 MOP present.
MOP 1 i) Concerns raised against road closure on Woburn Road. He feels the Village is being treated with arrogance with regards to issuing a very vague notice to close the road and with no notification to residents in said road. Business will be seriously affected, including lorries to and from the sand pits. Requested PC to write to CBC Chief Executive expressing frustration & anger at lack of consultation on this matter.

ii) Village maintenance – It is not apparent what work has been carried out during month with regards to Village maintenance, are Villagers getting value for money! Request Clerk to detail work carried out during month. Shelter in Bryants Lane recreation ground was instructed to be painted September 2023, still not done. Cllr AI confirmed that work is instructed through the Clerk with invoices checked against work issued before payment is made. Painting of shelter scheduled for Spring (warmer weather).

iii) Hedge along Linslade Road – quote ‘untidiest hedge for miles around, needs cutting before bird nesting season starts’. Cllr. AI confirmed this has been requested, and will be carried out imminently.

No further address from MOP’s.

Item 03.24.7 f & g - Cllr. DF proposed a motion to exclude public from meeting where publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Vote – unanimously agreed to close meeting to public.

‘Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 S1(2)’



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03.24.4

PARISH COUNCIL REPORTS:

a)

CBC Councillor Mark Versallion report:

i) CBC budget approved, 5% on council tax and a £55.00 charge on green bins from April 24, details to follow.

CBC have tough decision ahead with flood alleviation budgets & Highways issues.

ii) Cllr. MV has a meeting with residents of Emu Close, Linslade Road & The Stile on 11th March 24 to discuss further the flooding issues and to explain the facts about work required and actions taken. CBC delayed whole scheme because of two things, the new soakaway that is needed in Emu Close, CBC are awaiting for work to be authorised and due to statutory objection were legally advised to withdraw. CBC to also look at drainage at top of Thrift Road. To rectify problem fully will take another 12 months so to compromise is to mend 80% of the problem (raised tables), 'shovels in ground by end of month (March)'. Enda Garvey, leaving CBC, end of month.

iii) Closure of Woburn Road for footway improvements and speed limit change – CBC made a mistake, no speed limit change, closure now scheduled for June 24. Work to be carried out is path widening from Reach Green to the bus stop other side of Brickhill Road. It is hoped the path widening may help reduce speeding and assist traffic calming. Cllr. MV said CBC plan to divert all traffic including lorries down Linslade Road. Concerns raised over lorries turning out of quarry as there is insufficient room for a left turn. Cllr. MV suggested a traffic light system may work better allowing lorries to turn right as usual being directed down small road behind The Green. For path widening to work, the triangular Green needs to be moved back to fence line but will then be restored in 2042 when quarry finishes. Cllr. MV stated everyone agrees with this apart from PC. Cllr. DF said that a request for this had never been received in writing.

iv) No update on traffic calming.

Cllr. DF asked if there was any further news on Bedford speed cameras being removed. Cllr. MV has made enquiries no response although after speaking with a Bedford Councillor he is aware that as the cameras come up for commissioning, they are not re-commissioning them.

Cllr. MV confirmed he has emailed regarding Anglian Water cover work on Woburn Road to Head of highways to ask what work was done and notified them drain still a problem with noise.

b)

Clerks report: Report sent out via email prior to meeting.

03.24.5

MATTERS ARISING (for info only):

a)

Traffic Calming update: As noted above 03.24.4 iv, no update at present.

b)

Speed watch update: Cllr. MB has put out two appeals on Facebook for new volunteers but had no response so far. Posters to be put up on notice boards. He is currently sending out information for new training dates before the end of March.



03.24.6

Planning & Environment:

- a) CB/24/00304/FULL – Gladley House, Rushmere – Single storey rear extension. – *NO COMMENT*
- b) CB/24/00340/ADV – Garside Sands, Eastern Way – Advertisement: 6 internally illuminated fascia signs – Cllr. HL confirmed *lighting does meet requirements. Concern raised over address. Clerk to confirm that this application relates to the site on the A5 Watling Street and report back to PC for response.*
- c) CB/23/03845/VOC – Garside Sands, Eastern Way – Change to position of coffee shop. *Concern raised again over address. Clerk to confirm this relates to the site on the A5 Watling Street (as above)*

03.24.7

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION & RESOLUTION (where possible)

- a) Meeting with Andrew Selous:
Cllrs.DF & MB and Clerk met in Thrift Road with Andrew Selous on 23rd February 2024 to discuss the following:
 - i) *Thrift Road – Cllr. DF explained residents concern with parking. AS felt there was work to be done but CBC input would be very minimal financially. AS will liaise with CBC Traffic Officer and arrange meeting with PC. PC recommended a survey to understand fully what the residents want and suggest options. Cllr.MB to prepare survey and distribute to all residents in Thrift Road including The British Legion and St Leonards Lower School. Nobody knows who owns land at top of Thrift Road, AS advised there is no obligation for a Landowner to register his land.*
 - ii) *Flooding – Photos of recent flooding in Emu Close shown to AS. He was keen that some work should happen to alleviate further damage. Requested photos, Clerk emailed them across same day.*
 - iii) *Communication with Cllr. MV – Cllr. DF informed AS that things were improving and felt no need for further discussion.*
- b) *D Day anniversary: Cllr. JB has looked at events going on throughout the Country. Lighting a beacon or raising a DD commemorative flag are options. Propose 3ft x 5ft flag at a cost of £ 28.80 Vote – unanimously agreed - IT WAS RESOLVED.*
- c) *Wildflower seeding: Cllrs.HL & DF would like wildflowers from the pond to start of private property on Leighton Road. Land will need rotovating first. Clerk to speak to TM for price. Small area marked out without wildflowers for duck feeding to continue. Cllr.AI raised issue of Health & Safety, therefore no. Wildflower seeds could also be placed at both sides of entrance to Church Hall. Church Warden was at the meeting and happy for this to go ahead – IT WAS AGREED.*
White post railings next to pond badly damaged - reported on fix my street.
- d) Village maintenance:
 - i) *Heath Green looks cluttered. Suggestions were: reposition 'Tommy' figure flush against pumphouse. Whilst work to pumphouse is being done ask builders to creat a soil border round its perimeter and plant daffodils or plant directly into ground. Remove concrete planter, replace rubbish bin with*



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wooden style and reposition beside the bench, move bus stop bench.
Cllr. AI & MB pointed out many covenants on Village Green so limited work could be done.

ii) Slope opposite Gig Lane – full of brambles. This is privately owned land and no obligation for home-owner to tidy up. However, Cllr. HL with a member of the public will approach owner.

iii) Black metal railing on Birds Hill by Gig Lane – Cllr. HL would like to ‘vamp’ up with planters etc. Cllr. MB pointed out the railings serve a safety purpose so limited improvement can be done.

iv) Grass verge outside The Vicarage – gets messy from people walking over it. Suggested Idea was to pave part of it. It was pointed out as mentioned above that there are many covenants on Village Greens and paving would not be allowed.

vi) BT Phone box (Birds Hill) – This will be removed at some stage by BT as no longer used.

- e) Bus shelter – Woburn Road: Price to supply & fit new wooden shelter in excess of £14,000. Cllr. HL suggested bus shelter on south side of road is lifted (as there is a further shelter very close to The Heath Inn) and resituated on north side of road just past Brickhill Road. Clerk to obtain quote.
- f) New contract for AW (litter picker at Bryants Lane): New contract to be drawn up to include agreed pay increase (minimum wage) and 1 x extra hour per month (as agreed in Finance meeting when setting the budget)
- g) Extension of car park lease, subletting of gym & costs: AWE (landowners) have agreed to increase lease agreement of the Car Park to bring in line with the recreation ground, both to run until 2048. PC to cover all legal costs as clause in existing lease agreement. New sublet agreement to be drawn up for Gym owner to continue in property.
PC to use a solicitor who is familiar in the Parish Council sector.

03.24.8 FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION:

- a) Treasurers: £3,523.76 Savings: £ 54,713.41
32 day notice account: £ 100,799.40
- b) **Payments:**

Markland Gardens	£ 504.00
Reynold Landscapes	£ 532.80
Sue Grierson-Hill	£ 820.66
HMRC	£ 205.00
Sue Grierson-Hill (expenses)	£ 11.00
Heath Village Barn	£ 43.75
- b) **Direct debits/Standing orders:**

Bri Gas (Bryants Lane)	£ 227.81
Bri Gas (Clock tower)	£ 40.57
Alan Ward	£ 43.33
Anglian Water	£ 86.00
NEST Pension	£ 15.64
Waste Managed	£ 90.00



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03.24.9 **Items to go on next agenda:**
Local Plan
SID's

03.24.10 **Date of next meeting:**
8th April 2024

Meeting closed at: 8.05pm

In accordance with The Data Protection Act 2018 all attendees of the meeting are hereby notified that the meeting will be recorded as an aide memoire for the clerk when compiling the minutes. The recordings are held securely and are deleted after the resolution that the minutes are a true and correct record.