



MEETING

Minutes of meeting of the Full Parish Council held

At 7pm on Monday 7th February 2022

At The Village Barn, Eastern Way, Heath & Reach

Item No	Agenda	Reporting / Action
680	INTRODUCTION:	
680.1	Meeting Attendees: Cllrs Thyer, Piciorus, Boyden Fitzpatrick, Bevan, O'Brien, Inns. Cllr Versallion, Clerk, and one member of the electorate in attendance	
680.2	Cllr Thyer informed the Parish Council of Cllr Chivers resignation.	
680.3	Apologies for Absence: Cllr Smith	
	Declarations of Interest: Cllr Thyer payment	
681.	APPROVAL OF PARISH COUNCIL / COMMITTEE MINUTES:	
681.1	Approval of Full Parish Council minutes January 2022 Approved Cllr Fitzpatrick	
682	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. Nothing to report.	
682.1	Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mark Versallion Report Update: Cllr Versallion has requested more traffic enforcement outside the Co-op on Birds Hill, and it has been actioned Council tax will increase by 2% for houses in band A-D, and there will be £150 rebate from HM Gov to compensate for increased energy costs. Cllr Versallion has been involved with the Leighton Buzzard pedestrianisation scheme . The consultation is being re-run if people wish to contribute their views. Cllr Versallion has £1000 match funding community fund available for a project that benefit the village. Applications close on 15 th	

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	<p>March. Clerk suggested the school may benefit or speed guns.</p> <p>Bryant's Lane Quarry restoration planning permission has been delayed pending agreement of the financial contribution to the Parish Council for future maintenance of the community woodland. Clerk, Cllrs Smith, Boyden, and Bevan met LB Silica Sands planning consultant where this was discussed, and a letter was signed on behalf of the Parish Council agreeing to take ownership of the community woodland in 2041. Clerk to speak to LB Silica Sands to clarify the situation.</p> <p>Traffic Calming into the village. In November 21 MV met the police and council on Teams, where it was agreed that the police have no objection to traffic calming in the village and it is in the hands of the Council. Due to the long term lack of progress, MV escalated to the Head of Highways , and was informed there has been a change of personnel and the situation is now that “ there is nothing stopping the building of speed cameras except for CBC deciding , because of other traffic calming measures that may come in like raised tables, pinch points, it might make null and void speed cameras, if they were already in place and it would not be a responsible use of public money”, even though it is Parish Council funds, CBC could be difficult.</p> <p>Because of new house building in Leighton Buzzard, circa 2500 houses, which will bring a large increase in traffic through the village, Cllr Versallion has been trying to secure 106 funding from these developments for traffic calming. This has meant modelling of the traffic from Leighton Buzzard to Milton Keynes which is now showing it will be a big issue for the village and CBC now agree physical measures, not just speed cameras could be useful, as the issue will be volume of traffic not just be speed.</p> <p>Cllr Versallion met CBC officers in the village to clarify what is needed</p> <p>Pavement Widening from St Leonard's Church to Pinkle Hill, this is nationally funded scheme that will happen in the next financial year 2022-2023. Cllr Versallion stressed the need for more raised tables, pinch points, and village entrance treatment and has requested the existing raised tables are reprofiled , outside the Heath Inn, where it</p>	
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	<p>has been agreed the pavement will be raised and outside The Dukes, Cllr Bevan asked for a timeline for this.</p> <p>Cllr Versallion said the speed cameras are the obvious solution, but they will need to co-ordinated with the other proposed measures.</p> <p>Cllr Thyer said that the Parish Council will obtain new quotations for speed cameras from CBC approved suppliers so they can be in place while CBC work on their proposals which may take another 2-3 years to implement. When CBC install other traffic calming measures the Parish Council will be able to relocate cameras to the most efficient location. The Parish Council is not prepared to wait on CBC timetable as this process has already taken at least 10 years. The Parish Council can now submit the application to install speed cameras, there will be a consultation by CBC and CBC will assess whether it is a good use of public funds.</p> <p>Cllr Bevan asked how Woburn and Ampthill have 20 mph speed limits - this is because there are lower schools are on the road. Cllr Boyden has previously asked for this, but the police said they cannot enforce a 20mph speed limit and it would have to be supported by traffic calming and/or cameras.</p> <p>Cllr Inns reiterated the Parish Council's request for Highways to show the master plan for traffic in the area, as proposals seem to stand in isolation, the housing estates will be complete and there will not be any measures in place.</p> <p>The Parish Council objected to pavement widening as there are often parked cars on the road which act as traffic calming measures, Cllr Fitzpatrick highlighted the danger of narrowing the road where there are parked cars and of hgvs coming out of Eastern Way which will not have an adequate turning circle, apparently this is under consideration. There will be a presentation to the Parish Council prior to the public consultation, but there is no timetable as yet. Cllr Versallion has been informed that the road is wider than it should be for a village and apparently this encourages speed.</p> <p>Cllr Versallion will advise the Clerk on the process of applying for the speed cameras permission in the next few days and Cllr Boyden will contact CBC preferred speed camera supplier.</p>	
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682.2	<p>Cllr Thyer stressed that the village has waited long enough for something to be done and Cllr Versallion agreed it was a top priority for him as well but urged the Parish Council to consider being patient a bit longer to achieve a better long-term solution, he has had a commitment from CBC that this is on their work programme for financial year 2022/23. He is trying to get a date for CBC to talk to the Parish Council to explain their thought processes.</p> <p>Finally, it was agreed that the process has progressed, but it is critical that this continues at pace.</p> <p>Police Report: As previously circulated</p>	
683 683.1 683.2	<p>MATTERS ARISING – for information only.</p> <p>Highways Speed restrictions update. See above.</p> <p>Clerk Replacement: Meeting was closed and Cllr Piciorus and the member of the public were asked to withdraw. Clerk has received 3 applications for the role to date, closing date 21st February, she will circulate CVs and there will be an interview panel made of up 3 councillors. Clerk has requested that she keeps on the role of cemetery clerk as she has long standing relationships with the local funeral directors, is trained and is familiar with the software. It was previously two roles before the existing Clerk was in place. It was agreed. Meeting was reopened.</p>	
684 684.1 684.2 684.3 684.4	<p>PARISH COUNCIL REPORT</p> <p>Cemetery Management Committee: Nothing to report other than Community Payback attendance is still erratic.</p> <p>Finance Committee: Nothing to report</p> <p>Planning & Environment Committee: Florindell, The Dell garage extension CB/22/00213/FULL Parish Council has no comment on this.</p> <p>Sports & Recreation Committee. Zip wire repair, an alternative quote has been sourced. Agreed in principle and to be resolved next month. Trim Trail – Cllr Thyer reported one piece was broken and he will repair/replace.</p> <p>H&R Scouts have asked to use the courts for one session and as a gesture of goodwill, they have not been charged.</p>	

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685	MATTERS FOR RESOLUTION	
686	VILLAGE MATTERS	
686.1	Speed watch and SIDs Cllr Boyden has been in consultation with Bedfordshire police, there are 12 people, but the major obstacle is the lack of equipment. Cllr Boyden has obtained quotations for speed watch equipment circa £2500 which are compatible with Bedfordshire police back office for the issuing of letters and fines. Cllr Inns has concerns about the reliability of volunteers and whether the equipment would be used. Cllr Boyden has checked that the volunteers are still able and willing.	
686.2	Silent Soldier on the Green Clerk has received an email from a villager, circulated to the Parish Council asking for the Silent Soldier to be removed and only be out for the remembrance period in November, the concern being it loses impact and could be considered ghoulis. The points raised were acknowledged and there were concerns about it being concreted in on the village Green and it was suggested the Cemetery would be more appropriate. After discussion the consensus was the Green, close to the Village sign, was a suitable location and it should remain.	
687	FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION Cashbook Summary & Bank Account Balances Current Account £18,051.48 Reserve Account £125,044.13 Markland Gardens £375.00 Reynolds Landscaping £345.60 Heath Village Barn £ 15.00 Flag pole Keyplate NStrofton £ 21.59 Axatax £185.00 BATPC affiliation fee £319.00 Bryants Lane tap repair £60.00 Creative Solutions £390.00 Francesca Sheppard £648.72	

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	<div>Direct Debits/Standing Orders</div> <table><tr><td>Anglian Water</td><td>£68.00</td></tr><tr><td>Waste Managed</td><td>£90.00</td></tr><tr><td>British Gas</td><td>£83.90</td></tr><tr><td>British Gas</td><td>£584.10</td></tr><tr><td>Pozitive Energy</td><td>£368.53</td></tr><tr><td>Alan Ward</td><td>£43.33</td></tr></table>	Anglian Water	£68.00	Waste Managed	£90.00	British Gas	£83.90	British Gas	£584.10	Pozitive Energy	£368.53	Alan Ward	£43.33	
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678	<div>Administration /OTHER MATTERS of interest</div> <p>Cllr Boyden has been contacted by Nigel Strofton, Chairman of Heath Village Barn to ask if the Parish Council has any plans to celebrate/support the Queen’s jubilee in June. Cllr Boyden asked for a volunteer to liaise with Mr Strofton. It is to be village/community organised event and have asked for financial/official support from the Parish Council. Cllr Thyer to get in touch with Mr Strofton.</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick expressed her concern about the Classic Car Event at the Dukes Head earlier in the month. There were blocked pavements, parking on the green and cars parked up Eastern Way. Sarah Smith has spoken to the Clerk and apologised for the disruption; the event was run by an external organiser who underestimated the popularity. She will speak to the organisers about proper marshalling and also stress that pavements should remain accessible and if the Green is inadvertently damaged, she will undertake to have it repaired.</p> <p>Cllr Inns and Bevan will attend the Rushmere liaison committee on 28th February.</p> <p>Meeting Closed at 8.15pm</p>													

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