

Minutes of Studham Annual Parish Meeting

Held on Monday 9th April 2018@ 8.15pm

Present: Councillor Eddie Perry (Chairman)

Councillors' Andrea Maxted, Melissa Newland, Mark Poyner, Chrys Smith & Alan Wright.

Ward Councillors Kevin Collins & Richard Stay.

7 Residents of Studham

1 representative of The Village Hall

In attendance: Mrs. Julie Cooper (Parish Clerk)

1. Welcome.

Councillor Perry opened the meeting by welcoming those present and explained the legal requirement of holding the Annual meeting to report on the activity of the Parish Council during the year, on behalf of Parishioners. EP introduced the Councillors and explained their roles.

2. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Geoff Shute, Ward Councillors Kevin Collins & Richard Stay.

3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2017 were proposed by Des Salmon & seconded by Tony Gatehouse and resolved to be an accurate account after the correction of one spelling mistake, (Attendee, Grozier, not Crozier before being signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the previous meeting. (For information only)

No matters were considered.

5. Central Bedfordshire Councillors Report.

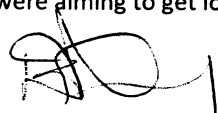
No report available on this occasion.

6. Chairman's Report.

- Memorial rededication, number of locals working and giving their time free of charge. Project been delayed by weather but anticipate completing on time and within budget. June 16th all welcome and encouraged to attend.
- 2nd defibrillator now installed at Sports & Social Club – training later this month all welcome to attend.
- Additional dog poo bin now been installed and is now on emptying schedule.
- Interesting year regarding burglaries – including copper from bus shelter within the last week. PC to arrange repair.
- Successful year with Neighbourhood Watch, now operating well. Studham Village Facebook is being used effectively.
- Number of planning applications have been considered throughout the year and as part of the Neighbourhood plan seven sites have been identified through a 'Call for Sites'.
- Five properties and shop development have now been completed.
- Very busy year and EP believes the next year will be even more so.
- EP thanked all the Councillors for all the time they give up.
- Precept this year has been underspent, but larger projects have been funded from reserves.
- EP advised that after one more year on the Parish Council he is going to stand as a Ward Councillor.
- Residents were reminded of the CBC consultation regarding changes to collection schedule of bins.

7. Planning Matters.

- Trend over the last year or more shows that CBC have been very supportive of the PC over greenbelt AONB issues.
- Three sites in village where developers are looking known to PC
- CBC were aiming to get local plan in place by end March, this has now been deferred to August.



- National Planning Policy Framework agreement drafted 2012 has been out to consultation, strengthening green belt policy.
- There have been a number of applications during the year, MP feels we are considerate in responses and CBC are now taking account of the PC's comments.
In particular 106-126 Dunstable road proposed development. Following PC response CBC used many of the comments in their own response
- Worrying trend in recent building without planning permission, this is being reported and retrospective applications are subsequently being submitted. Once again CBC are being very supportive of the PC in this regard.
- Neighbourhood Plan (NP) – disappointed taken so long to get to this stage but now preparing draft.
- Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) looking at 16-year plan of homes required, this plan is important - section 106 money – managed by CBC, if replaced by Community Infrastructure Levy the PC would get 10% of any levy, however with a NP plan in place this would increase to 25%
- Under local plan CBC need to have a 5-year supply of building land, currently have 5.18 years supply, a NP would reduce this need to having a 3-year supply, this would therefore protect the village.
- Isobel Randal explained how the policies included within the draft NP thanks to the sterling work of MP and Mike Dowd, can all be traced back to evidence collected.
- Hope to be able to hold a referendum September / October if draft is accepted by CBC.

8. Public Question Time.

- Notice board – complaint regarding WI notices not being put up and removed in a timely fashion. EP advised that he had answered an e-mail in this regard. Non-business, charity and local group notices are welcomed, space permitting, but must give lead time. PC documents in general have to be displayed 3 working days in advance.
- An email alert from CBC regarding Community Led Housing Scheme workshop on 14th May was brought to the PC's attention with the suggestion that it might be possible for a Councillor to attend.
- HGV pictured in centre of village – changes in Dunstable, Link road, and Leighton Buzzard being downgraded from A to B classification may have caused this. It will take time for weight restrictions to follow through into the village. EP to follow up and enquire on current situation.
- Common is a mess at present at entrances to footpaths, could bark be provided to soak up wet? CS to investigate.
- Parking outside the village hall was mentioned in a recent issue of The Link which instigated a response regarding wanting people in the village, so parking has to be shared. People try to accommodate events at the village hall. Parking within the village in general is being constantly investigated.
- Bench on East Common has been broken for some time. PC will investigate and deal with this as soon as possible.
- Des gave thanks to all Councillors for all their work.
- Moss on footpath in Woodland Rise extremely dangerous. – Also, the Meads footpath, CS to follow up with CBC.
- John Bassil (resident unable to attend in person) has several comments, brief synopsis and outcome below:
 - Pot holes, should have been repaired before Easter but been delayed due to weather. PC have written to cyclist's clubs and advised that this area is not suitable. (Concern of potential accident as roads not in suitable condition for advertised cycle route)
 - Poor parking by users of village hall / pub. Yellow lines are not appropriate in this rural area and not wanted by local people, any ideas to resolve this issue are welcome? Parking as always in the centre of the village is a constant concern.
 - Residents pay more than average in council tax than many other areas but suffer from poor condition of footpaths and overhanging hedges damaging vehicle paintwork. At this time of the year the PC write to residents requesting hedges are kept cut back. PC would rather not have to be dictatorial constantly chasing to get this done but have limited power and hope residents in general are considerate of pedestrians and road users alike. Some hedges are a persistent problem unfortunately, partly though poor understanding of house holders' responsibilities.
 - Feels village has deteriorated over recent years.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm

Refreshments were then available for anyone who wished to partake.

