

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD

MONDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 2019 @ 7 PM

Councillors' Present: Bob Wilkin (BW), Mark Poyner (MP), Mo Rashid (MR), Geoff Shute (GS), Chrys Smith (CS), Lynne Smith (LS), Alan Wright (AW).

Also, in attendance:

Ward Councillors Eddie Perry (EP) & Kevin Collins (KC) arrived 7.15pm

5 members of public

Julie Cooper (Clerk)

1. Apologies for absence.

None

2. Declaration of Interest. (Personal and / or Prejudicial)

Item 8 - School crossing site– CS & Clerk.

3. Matters for the Central Bedfordshire Councilors.

- a) EP welcomed the two newly elected Councillors.
- b) EP not quite all stop, some projects are continuing at CBC despite being in period of purdah.
- c) East West railway is being backed by Government.
- d) Town & Parish Conference has been cancelled due to purdah.
- e) A Meet the Highways Team event has been planned – EP intending to attend.
- f) Schools for the Future project – Shefford & Stotfold & surrounding area is expected to need additional school places with large housing development being considered. Consultations now being undertaken. There is also a new school being planned for Houghton Regis, but houses need to be built first.
- g) Local Plan is in abeyance. BW concerned that the PC Neighbourhood plan has been delayed due to this.
- h) London Luton Airport Consultation local next drop in is in Flamstead. LLA suggest in next five years planes will get quieter, this has been promised before. BW advised a roadshow will be held in Markyate on 18 November. A second terminal is planned but no new runway. KC advised that taxiways will possibly be extended. Very extensive documentation and presentations have been prepared. Unless a strong representation of parishioners' is made, BW is of the opinion that a PC response is not necessary and that individuals should respond as they feel fit. Consultation open until 16 December, then planning process will begin.

EP & KC left the meeting at 7.30pm

4. Public question time.

- a) Liesa Coates asked about Heath Wood, BW advised it falls under Whipsnade Parish and is privately owned. This is a commercial logging exercise, which would have required them to obtain permission from Forestry Commission before proceeding.
- b) Liesa also questioned the response received having approached PC regarding the new website and her appeal for a page for Parish events which was rejected. AW advised that in the opinion of the web providers it was not practical and if pursued it would cost between £300 to £400 plus the inclusion of separate tabs at £80 per tab, plus additional costs. Liesa made suggestions as to how she felt this could be managed. GS suggests that The Parish Link would be a far better option to advertise village events. BW suggested that PC website is not the obvious source of information for the May Fair. Whilst this request was still not being granted it was agreed that 'Latest News' box would be used for this purpose. BW suggested that one Councillor ought to be a point of contact for all May Fair related contact. MR volunteered to act in this capacity. There followed a discussion around allowing organized parking on the Common, Liesa has contacted CBC but was advised by the PC that it will be highly unlikely due to protected species.

5. To approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 7th October 2019.

- a) The minutes were amended at Item 9 b), wording altered from 'large property' to 'single dwelling' and subsequently approved as a correct record
- b) Matters Arising therefrom:
All addressed within portfolio holder reports.

6.	Error in numbering on Agenda, no Item 6	
7.	Error in numbering on Agenda, no item 7	
8.	Report of the Chairman – Councillor Wilkin. A formal complaint has been made against two Councillors, responses would be submitted to CBC. a) London Luton Airport Expansion see note above. b) Church Road gates & posts – BW was invited to meeting 10th October, called by CBC, to understand the detail of the letter following up on correspondence from PC. Also invited to attend the meeting were EP, representatives from CBC's Management of Commons, Highways, Rights of Way and digital mapping (invited not present) departments and its lawyer dealing who was unwell and unable to attend. BW advised the meeting that one of the gates had been locked from time to time and that one member of public had raised a safety concern over the finish of posts. CBC now updating their lawyer and awaiting outcome. c) School Crossing Site - nothing to report, waiting for CBC to submit a plan. MP suggests we ought to be chasing this up. BW suggests he will liaise with the school Chair of Governors. 2 members of the public left the meeting at 7.55pm d) VE Day – 75th Anniversary. Communication received suggests PC might feel it appropriate to take part in a 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' on Friday 8th May, it was noted that this is a bank holiday next year. BW suggested that someone might go into school and discuss with the children. CS suggest perhaps the S&S Club may hold some event for 3pm in the afternoon. They do have a screen and projector if anyone has suitable material. Club has suitable music tapes. MP suggested possibly having a 'toast' at 3pm. Liesa suggests that the Poppy yarn bombing of the war memorial planned for the May Fair be undertaken on this Friday ahead of the May Fair. BW requested a coordinator to take this project forward, LS volunteered. e) Emergency Plan has been submitted to CBC, no response to date. f) The PC has been informed of an 'app' What 3 Words; this is an emergency scheme which can locate your position. Each one square metre within the whole country is allocated three random words. 2 members of public left the meeting at 8.20pm	BW LS
9.	Report of the Vice-Chairman – Councillor Poyner. a) Parish Plan. Councillors suggestions to be incorporated into a simple plan 'wish list'. Hope to sign off at January meeting. • Play area. (GS). • Retaining Wall to replace slabs on Dunstable Road. (MP). • Footpath map / improved signage. (MP). • Replacement Village Hall (BW). • Car parking. (BW) b) Other planning matters. • No separate meeting has been held in October. • No O2 update on mast. General consultation presently open for masts in general. • No update from Bridgewater homes re front land at Longyards, scheduled to meet Martin Grant Homes regarding the rear. • Leighton Buzzard Road no further development. c) Other matters • Village Hall meeting scheduled for December. • Signs meeting attended, approved payment of insurance. • Spreadsheet detailing all past planning applications produced by Clerk very useful document. • Parishioner been in touch regarding a potential development which they feel is being supported by PC. MP advised accordingly; PC have commented on proposal. Great site but poor access.	
10.	Report of Councillor Rashid. • Nothing to report.	

11.	Report of Councillor Shute. a) Salt bin – need new responsible person for Woodland Rise as current volunteer is moving. b) Suggest Meads Footpath be re adopted by CBC as becoming a burden for PC. Suggest we offer to maintain vegetation via Gardener. Special Project to be undertaken by MP. c) Friends of Studham Common, last working party for year will be November 16th. d) The triangle is scheduled for planting by 8th November. e) Reported that War Memorial railings still need to be secured. f) Work is underway clearing overgrown foliage in Studham /Whipsnade Lane. g) Notice Boards have been oiled but some places showing excessive ageing. Suggest 6-9-month maintenance rather than annually. h) Water gully (outside Hedgeside) still needs clearing to allow efficient water runoff.	MP
12.	Report of Councillor L Smith. • Nothing to report.	
13.	Report of Councillor C Smith. a) Sports & Social Club – Nothing to report. b) Playing Fields – Nothing to report. c) Highways issues are now reported through the CBC portal. Several local road works information circulated. Request action from CBC regarding poor visibility at Kensworth Road / Byslips Road junction due to overgrown foliage.	
14.	Report of Councillor Wright. a) Website search facility quote at £135 + vat. b) Request from May Fair for dedicated page to advertise events. AW investigated with web designer but felt the costs (as circulated) were prohibitive. It was also felt that the PC site was not an obvious place for people to search for such events. The Parish Link being more suitable. c) Website updated to show photograph of new Councillor Mo. d) Bulk e-mails – GDPR message sent to all contacts (175) 81 have responded to date but apparently some parishioners have been concerned that it might be a scam. Suggest explanation be included in Parish Link report. Councillors being copied into messages circulated for information. e) Nothing to report on defibrillator.	
15.	Accounts for Payment. • A request for payment of accounts relating to October 2019 (Period 7) was presented and approved for payment. This included a replacement cheque to HMRC in relation to an uncleared payment from May 2019, assumed 'lost in transit'.	
16.	Budget Statement Period 7 • The budget statement and bank reconciliation were presented and approved as an accurate account of the current financial position. • The Clerk provided a breakdown of costs charged to 'Parish Communications' as this is over budget. Once clarified it was accepted to be correct.	
17.	Correspondence. a) Liesa Coates – May Fair request re parking, dealt with above.	
18.	New Planning Applications to be considered. • <u>CB/19/00148/FULL</u> - Clements End Farm, Clements End Road, Studham, Dunstable, LU6 2NG Amended application. (Demolition of existing buildings. Land change of use. Erection of 8 new dwellings, with associated landscaping and access). No additional documents provided with this correspondence. MP to follow up and view online and report back if appropriate prior to submitting a response. • <u>CB/19/03385/FULL</u> – 38 Woodland Rise, Studham. LU6 2PF Ground and first floor extension to existing garage and proposed new entrance porch. No comments. • <u>CB/19/03501/FULL</u> – 34 Holywell Road, Studham, LU6 2PA Proposed demolition of existing 1.5 storey, 2-bedroom chalet bungalow and construction of a new 3-bedroom family home. AW advised that nearby residents have no objection to the proposal apart from the height of the ridge. PC relaxed with design, but CBC may have a view about impact on street scene. • <u>CB/19/03545/FULL</u> – Cherry Trees, Swannells Wood, Studham. LU6 2QB	

	Demolition of existing single garage proposed single storey rear extension, front porch modifications and internal first floor structural alterations. Existing documents provided by CBC but not proposed. Viewing documents online show minimal change from existing, addition of window at ground level, two dormer windows making better use of roof space. No material concerns.	
19.	Report of the Clerk. - Planning database update – suggest all highlighted in red be ‘blacked out’ unless remaining outstanding. MP gave appreciation of very useful document. No other commentary. - Outstanding enforcements, Clerk needs name of CBC contact to submit list to for explanation of current position. - Bagpas – funding request (from circulation box). The meeting also considered a corresponding payment to East Anglian Air Ambulance should be made. MP Proposed £100 to each, Seconded CS. Approved. - Precept application documents have just arrived. BW requested general consensus on feeling of setting. Clerk to send previous year documents to show how calculated. MP noted good balance in reserves have increased gradually over a period of time.	
20.	Review ongoing actions list. No comments.	
21.	Items for the next Parish link. Parish Link Report (Double issue – December & January) to include – CBC portal, dustbin collections, salt bins, e-mails, merry Christmas & happy new year.	
22.	Items for next agenda. Precept application.	
	Date and time of future meetings. - Monday 2nd December 2019 @ 6pm - Monday 6th January 2019 @ 7pm	

Meeting Closed at 10.25 pm