



MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD

MONDAY 7th MARCH 2022 @ 7 pm

	<u>Councillors Present:</u> Bob Wilkin (BW), Mark Poyner (MP), Geoff Shute (GS), Mohammed Rashid (MR), Chrys Smith (CS), Lynne Smith (LS) & Alan Wright (AW) Ward Councillor – Eddie Perry (EP) <u>Also in attendance:</u> PC Jack Hollands (JH) Mandy Roberts (MRS) and Richard Hodge (RH) – Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators 3 Members of the Public (MOP) Clerk – Sally Harrop (SH)
1	Apologies for absence. Kevin Collins – Ward Councillor
2	Declarations of Interest. <i>Personal /or Prejudicial</i> 8 b) vii) Land to the rear of 48 Church Road - LS & CS
3	Local Policing – PC Jack Hollands - JH introduced himself, he has been in his current post for six months at Dunstable, in the police force for four years (part of that time in CID). He apologised for missing last month's meeting and confirmed he would be happy to answer any questions. MP arrived at 7.07pm - MRS asked JH what his role is. JH works in Studham, Kensworth, Slip End, Caddington and Whipsnade, primarily dealing with anti-social behaviour, not so much with criminality, also has a lot of contact with social services. Can be contacted via 101 or online - 999 is for emergencies only. Any issues reported will be brought to his attention. - RH asked about burglaries, of which there was a spate a few years ago. JH advised there have been 19 crime reports in total in Studham in the last six months. JH is aware of the vandalism issue this month. RH passed on the contact details for Neighbourhood Watch. - CS mentioned Pegasus (group helping communication for those with epilepsy/ learning disabilities). This can be added to Facebook and Parish emails. - BW mentioned traffic management - the 7.5 tonne HGV limit, parking and speeding. JH mentioned Speed Watch which may be a deterrent. GS has had a response re the 7.5 tonne HGV limit, there is a lack of funding, and more signage is needed. BW wondered if this could be a focus for the police quarterly community priority settings – JH will feed this back to his sergeant. JH advised he can try and speak to those involved re inconsiderate parking and may be able to speak to car owners if registration numbers are supplied. He does try and come into the village at least once a day when he is working and feels welcomed. - GS raised dog theft – none in the last six months. - BW raised drug misuse – no reports in last six months. JH, MRS and RH left at 7.45pm

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4	Public Question Time MOP raised the areas of hedge overhanging Kensworth Road. BW confirmed that SPC do not have the right to cut these back and charge the landowner, that right is with CBC. SPC have not been able to get CBC to engage regarding this issue in the past, CS will investigate this again.
5	Matters for the Ward Councillor Eddie Perry– Nothing to report other than: (i) he had been to a Sustainable Committee Meeting; (ii) Covid cases still reducing; and (iii) CBC had approved a 1.95% increase in its Council Tax for next year at a Full Council Meeting.
6	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on: i. Monday 7th February 2022 The minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising therefrom.
7	Report of the Chairman – Councillor Wilkin. <u>Mobile Telephone Mast Update</u> – Shared Access (SA) had a meeting with Whipsnade Zoo in early February, as the zoo is interested in acting as a site for the mast and will go back to SA with suggested sites. If this option doesn't work out SA will consult further with SPC. The ideal location is 600 metres from Common Road and Clements End Road junction. <u>Fibre to the Property Project</u> – Money has been allocated by DCMS to Openreach for Whipsnade and Studham. Openreach has opened website for sign up, this will be open for 12 weeks. AW advised we are currently at 21% of the target for sign ups, which is promising. MOP asked about the access route to properties, confirmed that the current route into properties (overhead or buried) will be used for fibre. BW mentioned that Studham Hall Farm and its business premises already have fibre to the property. Openreach will be at the May Fair with other volunteers to encourage sign ups. <u>Asset Register</u> – GS has compiled some information which needs to be reviewed. AW confirmed that the defibrillators are owned by the Community Heartbeat Trust. BW confirmed that SPC owns the land that the Village Hall and Sports Club are on. <u>Grass Football Pitches</u> – BW advised funding has been applied for from the Football Association via CBC to improve the pitches.
8	REPORT OF THE VICE-CHAIRMAN – Councillor Poyner a) <u>New planning applications</u> CB/TRE/22/00059 – Homelands, Swannells Wood, Studham LU6 2QB – Works to trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order SB/TPO/85/00015 G6 & T2. Comments were due by 02/03/02 and a response has been sent advising SPC has no material concerns. CB/22/000496/FULL – Hunters Moon, Common Road, Studham LU6 2NQ – Two storey rear extension. Following discussions SPC has no material concerns. CB/TRE/22/00014 – Kernow, Swannells Wood Studham LU6 2QB – Works to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order SB/85/00015/G7. Following discussions SPC has no material concerns. CB/TRE/22/00075 – 46 Woodland Rise Studham LU6 2PF – Works to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order SB/TPO/82/0003 (G26). Following discussions SPC has no material concerns.

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	v. CB/TRE/22/00097 – The Swallows, 6 Oakway Studham LU6 2PE – Works to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order SB/73/0004/G4 & G3 and SB/73/0005/A1. Following discussions SPC has no material concerns but will ask that the number of trees to be felled is checked as this should only be done when required. b) Other Planning Matters i. CB/21/0/1831/FULL – Clements End Farm – MP confirmed that SPC has written 3 letters: to CBC, to which we have received an acknowledgement, to Councillor Kevin Collins which he has acknowledged and partly responded to, and to Councillor Eddie Perry who has been away on holiday. SPC will now write to these 3 recipients again giving them a three week deadline to respond. SPC will then continue with its process and call an extraordinary meeting. MOP mentioned the problems at the site (including the Troy Homes development) which is very untidy after recent storms. All trees and hedges apart from one have been removed, the pond has gone. Tanks for gas and drainage are to be buried. MP confirmed that we do have photographs of the site prior to the work commencing which will be a useful comparison. MP also noted that SPC cannot be involved in any of the decision making regarding the conditions of the equestrian centre planning application. ii. CB/21/01361/FULL – Land to the rear of 48 Church Road, Studham APPEAL REF APP/P0240/W/21/3278516 – Erection of two dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping – MP has chased, no update, matters are with the planning inspectorate, a decision should be made within the next couple of months. iii. SPC Planning meeting arranged, online Monday 21st March at 7pm to discuss two further applications. c) Other Matters i. Section 106 money and possible balances available. MP has had a request asking if there are monies which could be used to relocate the children's play area. MP has acknowledged this request, but there are concerns re the cost which could be up to £50000. MOP asked if we could install play equipment similar to what Whipsnade have near their village hall. SPC will contact Whipsnade PC to see what this cost. ii. Neighbourhood Plan – MP has chased but had no response. Update needed before April meeting; MP will chase again. iii. Land on Church Road between Swannells Wood and The Red Lion – SPC has received a request for more information regarding plans on providing parking in the village, to which a response will be sent. MP suggested that we try to maintain dialogue concerning the access issue. It was also suggested that SPC contact CBC and ask to be consulted before any decisions are made.
9	REPORT of Councillor Rashid. a) Crime – Already discussed with JH. 2 instances of crime reported this month. There is concern that reports of crime are not being recorded. BW will follow up. b) Platinum Jubilee and May Fair – 2nd positive meeting on 21st February, BW has circulated notes. WI, Sports and Social Club events, Tree Planting, Jubilee Walk and Memory Book are all being planned. Next meeting Monday 14th March, representative from school will attend. Jubilee flag available to purchase from The Royal British Legion, BW proposes we buy one, cost £16.00 + P&P, which can be flown on flagpole in the village. GS advised cost of trees will be around £250 - £300.
10	REPORT OF Councillor Shute.

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	a) Public Footpaths – See notes provided, fallen tree has been cleared. b) Renewal of Gardener's Contract – GS proposes renewal for another year and a 3% increase, agreed. BW will prepare a document to confirm.
11	REPORT OF Councillor C. Smith. a) Car Parking – Still waiting for meeting date. b) Highways – See notes provided. c) Sports and Social Club – See notes provided. d) Playing Fields – See notes provided.
12	REPORT OF Councillor L. Smith a) Village Hall – BW and MP have attended a meeting about the rebuild of the village hall, CS & LS have reported a couple of snagging issues for the builder to deal with. Awaiting quote for kitchen repainting due to leak. A blocked toilet was dealt with. b) Welcome Pack – delivered to 67 Holywell Road.
12	REPORT OF Councillor Wright. Defibrillators – Nothing to report.
13	ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT (relating to February 2022) Accounts payable were approved for payment and schedule signed. MP will approve online payments.
14	BUDGET STATEMENT (Distributed) The financial statement of income and expenditure for the year to 28 th February 2022 was approved.
15	CORRESPONDENCE. CPRE Membership – Renewal agreed at £36.00, payment will be made online. Country Days – Request for funding declined.
16	REPORT OF CLERK. Pay increase - agreed by NALC, 1.75% backdated to August 2021 (when employment commenced).
17	REVIEW ONGOING ACTIONS LIST The list will be reviewed at meeting on 21 st March
18	ITEMS FOR THE NEXT PARISH LINK. Fibre to the Premises, Welcome Packs, Considerate parking.
19	ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA.
20	DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS Monday 4 th April 2022 @ 6pm – Parish Council Meeting Monday 4 th April 2022 @ 8.15pm – Annual Parish Meeting Monday 9 th May 2022 @ 7pm Meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed