



Minutes of the Studham Parish Council General Meeting
Held at Studham Scout HQ
Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 6.30 pm

	<u>Councillors Present:</u> Jane Jacoby (JJ), Chris Morrell (CM) (Chair for meeting), Jennifer Rushmer (JR) <u>Also in attendance:</u> Clerk – Brian Mew (BM) Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) Ward Councillors – Kevin Collins (KC), Vicky Malone (VM) 4 Members of the Public (MoP)
	<u>Public Participation</u> MoP raised issue of possible double yellow lines for Kensworth Road / Dunstable Road junction. Meeting had been held with CBC Highways regarding this and other highways issues. MoP spoke regarding Land at Bell Cottages planning application.
148/202425	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Councillors Lola Harris (LH), Susan Holliman (SH), Jason Jackson (Jk), Mo Rashid (MR)
149/202425	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u> None
150/202425	<u>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</u> It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 5th December 2024 were approved as a correct record and duly signed by the Chairman.
151/202425	<u>REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN</u> None
152/202425	<u>REPORT OF PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u> <u>Councillor Holliman – Defibrillators; Planning:</u> BM had checked the status of defibrillators with the Ambulance Service who had advised that all were present and operational on their system. JJ advised replacement key pads had been ordered. Holywell battery may need recharging. <u>Councillor Jacoby – Salt Bins; Playing Fields/SSSC; Village Hall; Planning:</u> New salting volunteers had been signed up for Holywell. More volunteers required for other locations. <u>Councillor Rushmer – Footpaths; Rights of Way; Welcome Packs; Studham, Kensworth, and Whipsnade Good Neighbours (SKAW); Planning:</u> JR attended SKAW AGM on 16th December 2024. SKAW publicity to be promoted via parish email, website, etc. <u>Councillor Morrell - CBC Grass & verge maintenance; Friends of Studham Common (FOSC) Liaison; Planning:</u> Nothing to report. <u>Councillor Jackson - Playing Fields/Studham Sports and Social Club Liaison; Planning:</u> None <u>Councillor Rashid – Crime; School Liaison; Planning:</u> None

153/202425	REPORT OF WARD COUNCILLORS KC reported on CBC proposals regarding Household Waste sites – reduction to 5 day opening with 2 of 4 CBC sites open on any given day. Devolution – CBC expressing interest in discussions on high level sub-regional combined / mayoral authorities. Reorganisation / merger of current Bedfordshire unitary authorities unlikely. New CBC Local Plan underdevelopment. Very high current levels of housing growth in CBC so any new housing targets unlikely to have significant impact. Limited number of brownfield sites had been identified in recent call by CBC. Brief discussion regarding former CBC Watling Street offices in High Street North, Dunstable, currently up for disposal.
154/202425	PLANNING APPLICATIONS – To review and comment on new planning applications received from Central Bedfordshire Council. i. CB/24/03171/FULL - Land At Bell Cottages, Dunstable Road, Studham, Dunstable, LU6 2QG - Change of Use from A1 shop to F2(d) aquanatal swimming pool Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Pages SPC had a number of comments that it would request CBC to take into account in considering this application. SPC regretted the potential loss of the property as a village shop and considered it important that CBC ensures compliance with the Section 106 Agreement. SPC would prefer appropriate local community use to continued dilapidation of a vacant property. CBC will need to satisfy itself that this application constitutes a scheme for a Community Building and concerns were raised as to whether this was an appropriate facility for the community. The application was significantly lacking in detail. The construction material to be used to “build” the pool and its design need to be explained and it is unclear as to whether the pool requires excavation or is above ground. Noise mitigation needs to be a condition of change of use, and a detailed strategy needs to be provided. The location of the building and demographics of the area mean that it will almost entirely be used by visitors to the area, increasing vehicle use and potentially exacerbating parking issues. The pattern of parking, with users of pool sessions overlapping with each other, has not been addressed in the application. ii. CB/24/03537 - Eagle Field, Clements End Road, Studham, Dunstable, LU6 2NG - Construction of plant storage/workshop building Central Bedfordshire Council Planning Pages SPC decided to formally OBJECT to planning consent being granted. SPC considered that the proposal represented inappropriate development in the Green Belt and expressed concerns regarding visual impact, removal of the existing hedgerow and possible future development of the building.
155/202425	BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2025/26 It was RESOLVED to approve the proposed Budget for 2025/26, and a Precept request for 2025/26 of £26,997. This was an increase of £997 or 3.8%. This equates to an increase in the Parish element of Council Tax of 3.4%, £1.29 from £38.18 to £39.47 for a Band D property.
156/202425	CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION It was agreed to respond to CBC Budget Consultation expressing view that proposed budget savings should not impact disproportionately on rural areas.
157/202425	CHILTERNs NATIONAL LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PLAN CONSULTATION Changes to Management Plan largely concerned recent rebranding of Chilterns AONB as Chilterns National Landscape. Response to be made on some minor points.
158/202425	CARBON LITERACY ACTION PLAN JJ had produced brief factsheet on hints and tips to reduce the parish’s carbon footprint. To be promoted via website and the parish email, etc.
159/202425	EMERGENCY PLAN JJ had updated Emergency Plan with contact details, roles, etc. SKAW to added into Plan.
160/202425	ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT It was RESOLVED to approve accounts for payment for December 2024.
161/202425	BANK RECONCILIATION It was RESOLVED that the Bank Reconciliation for the year to 31st December 2024 was verified as correct and duly signed.

162/202425	BUDGET STATEMENT It was RESOLVED to approve the financial statement of income and expenditure for the year to 31 st December 2024.
163/202425	CORRESPONDENCE Correspondence circulated to Councillors prior to meeting was received: Beds Connected – Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner Budget Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils (BATPC) - Update Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) – Town and Parish Council Update Chilterns National Landscape - News DLA Town Planning Re: The Hangar Friends of Studham Common (FOSC) – Newsletter National Association of Local Councils (NALC) – Newsletters & Events Open Spaces Society - News
164/202425	ITEMS FOR THE NEXT PARISH LINK - Parish Council Precept 2025/26 - CBC and Police Council Tax 2025/26 - Carbon Footprint - Emergency Plan
165/202425	ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA - Neighbourhood Planning
166/202425	DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS General Meetings: Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7.00pm Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 7.00pm Both at Longrove Scout Site, Byslips Road, Studham, Dunstable LU6 2ND
167/202425	EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC It was RESOLVED that in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted.
168/202425	NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING The submission of a grant funding application to Locality was noted, and it was agreed to appoint ONH as consultants for the Neighbourhood Planning process.
169/202425	LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES PAY AGREEMENT AND CLERK'S SALARY 2024/25 It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting.
	Meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed by Presiding Chairman