

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 3rd AUGUST 2009

Present: Councillor: Mr Des Salmon (Chairman)
Councillors: Mr Tony Gatehouse, Mrs Chrys Smith, Mrs Andrea Maxted,
Mrs Lola Harris and Mr Geoff Shute
Central Bedfordshire Councillors: Mrs Marion Mustoe, Ken Janes
5 members of the public were present

ACTION

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 The Police were not represented.

2 CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

2.1 Mrs Lola Harris was co-opted to the Parish Council.

2.2 It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Harris becomes the Environment representative.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Personal and/or Prejudicial) (Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001)

3.1 No members had any declaration of interests in any of the items under consideration at this meeting of the Parish Council.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

4.1 There were 5 members of the public present. Their views and comments are summarised:

- 3 of those present have helped on the Common but were not members of FOSC.
- Those present did not necessarily agree with the nature of all the work, but somebody has to manage the Common otherwise the whole area will deteriorate.
- The 26 names on the petition is small in relation to the total population and do not necessarily represent the majority.
- The petition had printed names, normally petitions have actual signatures.
- There is no contact person on the petition document for the public, or any other body, to contact.

The Chairman stated the matter would be discussed by the Parish Council in agenda item 15.3, and a Parish Surgery would probably be arranged for a full public review of all the matters.

5 MATTERS FOR THE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

5.1 Cllr Janes had received a complaint from a resident regarding grass cutting and is looking into the matter. **KJ**

5.2 It was reported that the work at 9 Church Close had now moved from garage alteration to a house extension. Central Bedfordshire Council have already said they will look into the matter. Cllr Janes will pursue this. **KJ**

5.3 Cllr Mrs Mustoe reported that it may still be possible to receive the £250 grant from Central Bedfordshire Council formerly given by Bedfordshire County Council.

5.4 Cllr Salmon asked what is happening with the long running planning dispute. It is understood that the person concerned has asked to be re-housed and then the temporary building will be removed. Cllr Janes will investigate. **KJ**

6 POLICE MATTERS

6.1 There were no members of the police present and therefore no report was made. Cllr Gatehouse reported a high number of reported thefts in a neighbouring Parish and that parishioners should remain vigilant.

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

7.1 It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th July were a correct record and signed by the chairman.

8 MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

8.1 **Item 15.3 - Valley View.** The Chairman advised that he will find out what is happening. **DS**

9 REPORT OF CHAIRMAN

9.1 The Chairman had nothing to report that had not been covered elsewhere in the minutes.

10 REGISTRATION OF COMMON LAND

10.1 A paper (included in Central Bedfordshire Council's map of Studham Common) previously circulated by Cllr Salmon was reviewed. One area was identified for clarification with Central Bedfordshire Councillors to advise if any further areas need to be registered under the Commons Act 2006. **DS/
LR**

11 THE STATUS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

11.1 Matters were reviewed relating to continuing as a Quality Parish Council when the

current validation expires in November 2010. There were detailed items which Cllr Salmon was asked to clarify with Louise Ashmore, BATPC secretary. Cllr Mrs Harris agreed to administer the re-accreditation process if required. **DS**

12 PARISH PLAN

12.1 Cllr Gatehouse has forwarded the Parish Plan idea to Ian Milne who is on the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations Committee and he will put this to the Committee with a view to them becoming involved. The matter will be discussed at the next meeting. **LR**

13 RISK ASSESSMENT

13.2 The clerk circulated the proposed Risk Assessment for review which will be formally adopted at the next meeting if approved. **LR**

14 COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

14.1 Cllr Salmon had circulated a Complaints Procedure and it was Proposed, Seconded and Resolved that it be adopted.

15 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Highways

15.1 Cllr Mrs Smith reported that the footpath in Holywell Road which has received the £8,000 grant was being done today. Four drain covers in the area were stolen and all were replaced in 24 hours. The theft was reported to the Police who are investigating. The overgrowth in Woodland Rise is to be cut back. Cllr Mrs Smith is to get advice on the clearing of growth over the footpath which creates algae. Cllr Mrs Smith said that several road signs need cleaning and she will try to find out if anyone can clean them. Cllr Mrs Harris said that overgrown bushes on Dunstable Road were dangerous. Cllr Mrs Smith will endeavour to get them cut back. **CS**

Special Projects

Road safety sub-committee

15.2 The proposed installation of 20 mph speed signs will be advertised in the local press and Central Bedfordshire Council will write to nearby residents as part of a consultation process.

Studham Common

15.3 Following the comments from the members of the public attending the meeting (item 4) and the petition lodged with the Parish Council, it was Resolved to have a Parish Surgery on Saturday morning, 14th November, in the Village Hall.

Playing Fields

15.4 Cllr Mrs Smith said there had not been a meeting but said that the extension looks very good. **ALL**

Village Hall

- 15.5 Cllr Salmon reported that previously reported damp rot in some underfloor beams was concentrated at the Kitchen end of the Hall. These have been replaced where needed. The underfloor at the Kensworth Road end has now been checked and there is no major damp. The floor appeared to have dropped, but is satisfactory and the skirting has been repaired.
- 15.6 Cllr Salmon will contact Central Bedfordshire Council to see if anything can be done regarding the pavement tarmac area outside the hall. The old County Council had previously said “No” but it is felt that an attempt with CBC should be made. It will cost approximately £500 if the Village Hall has to do the work. DS
- 15.7 Cllr Salmon reported that the Annual General Meeting was poorly attended. No members of the public were there but it was well supported by the User Representatives who form the Village Hall Committee along with the Management Committee. All of the Management Committee was re-elected.

16 CORRESPONDENCE

- 16.1 There was no correspondence for distribution at the meeting.

17 PLANNING

Notice of Planning Application (Town and County Planning Act 1990)

- 17.1 Notification had been received from Central Bedfordshire Council as follows:
9 Oakway – Granted
18 Dunstable Road – Granted
- 17.2 The Parish Council Planning Committee had decided as follows:
Bell Farm – Object but suggest 24 events a year
“Penzance”, Valley Road – No objection
- 17.3 Cllr Shute reported that a resident had complained that trees and a garden at the School had been destroyed. They had been referred to Central Bedfordshire Council.

18 MATTERS OUTSTANDING

- 18.1 No changes were made to the list.

19 ACCOUNTS (Local Government Act 1972)

- 19.1 The following accounts were submitted and approved for payment:

B Laverty (cleaning bus shelter)	£ 78.00
L.E. Randall (clerks remuneration and expenses)	521.41
B.D.O. Stay Hayward (Auditors fees)	155.25
A Maxted (Wallets for Welcome Pack)	<u>5.86</u>
	760.52

20 BUDGET STATEMENT PERIOD 04

- 20.1 The Income and Expenditure statement for the Parish Council for the period ending July 2009 (period 04) was presented.

21 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PARISH LINK

- 21.1 Items suggested for inclusion in the Parish Link are the Parish Surgery on 14th November, a welcome to Cllr Mrs Harris, there is a vacancy for a Councillor and the clerk and the Harpers hotline number in case of noise.

22 REPORT OF CLERK

- 22.1 The clerk had nothing to report that had not been covered elsewhere in the minutes.

23 ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- 23.1 There were no items of this nature.

24 PARISH COUNCIL VACANCIES (closed session) Clerk and Councillor

- 24.1 Arrangements for recruiting the Parish Clerk were discussed.

25 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

- 22.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 7th September at 7.00 pm. in Studham Village Hall.
- 22.2 The following Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 5th October at 7.00 p.m. in Studham Village Hall.

The meeting ended at 9.31 p.m.