

MINUTES

Studham Parish Council Minutes

Monday 5th December 2011

The meeting was called to order by Councillor Salmon at 7:03 p.m.

Councillors Present

Mr. Des Salmon (Chairman)
Mr. Tony Gatehouse (Vice Chairman)
Mr. Paul Burrett, Mrs. Andrea Maxted, Mr. Mark Poyner, Mr. Geoff Shute and Mrs. Chrys Smith

In attendance

Central Bedfordshire Councillor Mrs. Ruth Gammons (arrived 7.28pm)
Mrs. Julie Cooper (Clerk)

One member of public present

		<u>Action</u>
1	Apologies for Absence. Central Beds. Councillor: Mr. Richard Stay PCSO Dodkins	
2	Declaration of Interest. (Personal and / or Prejudicial) Parish Councils (model code of conduct) Order 2007 The clerk declared an interest in item 9(i) relating to garden fence Councillor Smith declared an interest in item 16 relating to 2012 Diamond Jubilee Celebration financial contribution	
3	Public Question Time. No questions were raised by the member of public present at the meeting.	
4	Matters for the Central Bedfordshire Councillors. Councillor Gammons reported to the meeting information with regard to the key measures of the Localism Bill, abolition of standards board and code of conduct. It is expected that CBC will produce a format for councils to follow. The 2012 budget proposed has set priorities to include no rise in council tax for 4 years and an additional £4 million to be invested in roads maintenance. This will ensure the quality of our roads remains in the top quartile. Footpaths are included in this budget and as always works will be carried out on a priority basis. Parish Councils will be invited to participate in the consultation and further discussions will take place at the PC meetings at CBC on 25 th January 2012 The Council also wish to build up reserves which are currently very low as part of the proposed budget plan. The Local Development Framework for the North of the council has been signed off for inspection. The Southern area were previously joined with Luton who subsequently pulled out leaving no core strategy banked, now having to move forward alone it is anticipated to take approximately 3 years. The strategy will take into account the needs of Gypsy & Traveler communities. Councillor Gammons reminded everyone about the new 101 non emergency telephone number. The Olympic Torch will be coming to Dunstable in July 2012 Following a request from Councillor Salmon, Councillor Gammons clarified the economic link with regard to the Busway. Councillor Maxted commented that she understood that there may be a shortfall in the funding of this project. Councillor Gammons concurred, and advised that CBC may have to support this shortfall. Councillor Gammons left the meeting at 8.15pm	

5	<p>Police Matters. No police representatives present but PC Dodkins had submitted a report which was unfortunately not available until after the meeting. 2 crimes were reported during November, the theft of a metal gate from the common and an official report of the previously mentioned burglary at the Sports & Social Club. 1 incident of antisocial behaviour which was in fact a neighbours' dispute. A serious concern was a large cannabis factory was found in the village. All products and equipment were removed and destroyed. Investigations are ongoing. Several proactive police operations are ongoing in attempt to combat burglary and offer support and reassurance to local residents after an incident as well as targeting nuisance vehicles and motorcycles in Dunstable, Houghton Regis and Rural areas.</p>	
6	<p>To Approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2011 The minutes were approved and signed as an accurate account of the previous meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Matters Arising from the Minutes. (for information only) There were no matters arising.</p>	
8	<p>Report of the Chairman. (Report of any major happenings / concerns raised affecting Studham) (a) Cllr. Salmon offered his best wishes to Cllr. Gatehouse who has taken on the roll of full time carer for his wife Connie following a recent operation on her foot. It is hoped she will make a speedy recovery. (b) Cllr. Salmon attended a 'Lets Talk' meeting at Caddington which is held for the benefit of country parishes, chaired by Councillor Richard Stay. Only about 20 representatives from the surrounding parishes which was disappointing. The main topics discussed were as follows; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police – PCSO's now not necessarily allocated to area and no longer know the 'beat' The Inspector reported around 20% cut in funding over 4 years should not affect front line policing. This comment was greeted with laughter! Has to deploy resources where most needed and that is the urban areas, not the villages. • Parking – This is now a civil offence in Central Bedfordshire, Police will not take action unless an offence has occurred, i.e. knocks somebody over. Vehicle Number Plate recognition vehicles will be deployed around school areas, as already discussed. Councillor Smith has also been to a presentation by CBC regarding parking and she will report on that in her Highways Report. • Library – A consultation paper has been issued. Pressure has been applied to ensure people do not lose out by not having a mobile library. Reminder that housebound people are able to have books delivered at home by volunteers such as Anne Salmon (c) A meeting of Parish Chairman for Studham, Kensworth & Whipsnade has now been agreed for January. Vice Chairs will also be included and it is hoped to discuss any items of common interest across the three villages. (d) Cllr. Salmon offered his thanks to everybody for their work and support during the year.</p>	
9	<p>Report of the Representatives.</p> <p>9.1 Highways (Cllr. Smith) (a) Following the car park resurfacing on Southern Way all foliage cuttings have been removed along with some additional rubbish including the old fence and posts. (b) 2 of the additional paving slabs installed along Dunstable Road as a retaining wall to prevent further slippage of soil need to be monitored. (c) The parking issue in Church Close / Church Mead and the opportunity to recover scrubland at the end of the garage block was discussed with the CBC Housing Officer, this looks to be an unlikely project as not enough gain to warrant the expense at approx £9k. Some additional parking could also be made available around the close but as with the first option local residents would be expected to contribute to a very expensive project which would not necessarily be of any benefit to them directly. (d) Verge clearance has begun along Dunstable Road. (e) Councillor Smith reported that she had attended a workshop on Parking in Central Beds. Issues all over the region with regard to parking were divided into 2 specific areas, How to improve the current situation and how areas of 'new build' could be improved. Full report from this and one further workshop will be collated and sent for further review. The resulting new parking strategy will come into force next summer. (f) During removal of branches overhanging the Church Mead Footpath the workmen damaged a</p>	

	<p>lamp post and the fence which borders the footpath and the garden of No. 28 Church Road. The Lamppost was reported and has subsequently been repaired. The residents of No. 28 have requested a better quality fence be used to replace the existing chain link rather than a straight forward repair. They are willing to contribute to the extra cost incurred. The Clerk was requested to get some quotes to compare at the next meeting. Should the Parish Council claim the repair costs from the householder who was responsible for the workmen employed? Agreed to see what costs are first.</p> <p>(g) Cllr. Smith has placed a request for the new heritage style lamp posts to be repainted in the Spring / Summer of 2012</p> <p>(h) Gritting lorry has been around the village 3 times during this month and salt bins are at a reasonable level. These will be monitored during the winter. Householders are reminded that salt / grit from these bins is to be used on the roadway and public footpaths only, not drives and private footpaths.</p> <p>(i) Cllr. Salmon has purchased a bin for the Church Road bus shelter.</p> <p>(j) Parking on footpaths has become a major issue locally, particularly around the school area. Cllr. Burrett advised that he had taken a call earlier today to say that yellow lines would be painted at the school gates.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>CS</p>
9.2	<p>Special Projects (Cllr. Poyner)</p> <p>The new village sign has been ordered and should arrive early next week. It is intended that installation will take place on Monday 19th December.</p>	MP
9.3	<p>Road Safety sub-committee (Cllr. Salmon)</p> <p>Cllr. Salmon apologized for the delay in drafting a letter to send to the Transport Minister, Mike Penning, requesting his help concerning the speed limit structure on the main approach to Studham. Draft now completed and will be sent after approval by Cllrs. Gatehouse and Smith.</p>	DS
9.4	<p>Studham Common & Village Centre Triangle (Cllr. Shute)</p> <p>(a) The FOSC 5 year plan has now been signed off and is available on the CBC Website. Cllr. Shute to see if this could also go on the PC website.</p> <p>(b) Next working group will meet on the 3rd Saturday in January 2012 and they would like to include more local people.</p> <p>(c) The gate stolen from the common has been replaced but the area is vulnerable.</p> <p>(d) Stage one of the Triangle project is now complete. Thanks to Cllr. Gatehouse for supervising the installation of the bollards. Reflectors will be fitted next week. It was agreed that a suitable wood treatment should be applied to the bollards.</p> <p>(e) Cllr. Shute feels that in his opinion when the maintenance contract is renewed, a clearer expectation of frequency of grass cutting and edging be expressed – i.e. in spring to August the grass to be cut every 10 – 14 days. The grass edges need to be trimmed at the same time as the weeding, at least once per fortnight.</p> <p>(f) A course entitled 'Commons & the Law' is coming up and it was agreed that Cllr. Shute would be the ideal candidate to attend.</p>	<p>GS</p> <p>GS</p> <p>GS</p>
9.5	<p>Playing Fields (Cllr. Smith)</p> <p>The committee only held one emergency meeting to discuss the burglary. No other report.</p>	
9.6	<p>Village Hall (Cllr. Salmon)</p> <p>(a) The Hall painting has now been completed by the Community Service Personnel.</p> <p>(b) Reached the stage of getting quotes for replacement floor. Need names of any local floor layers to contact.</p> <p>(c) Reminder that there will be 'Carols in the Hall' from 3.30 to 5pm on Sunday 11th December, arranged in conjunction with the Friends of Studham Church. Free entry, refreshments, no raffle. A collection box will be made available at the exit.</p> <p>(d) The Annual quiz night has been arranged for Saturday 4th February to include a fish & chip supper. Thanks are extended to Chrys Smith & Andrea Maxted and their families for once again providing the questions.</p>	
10	<p>Correspondence (For information only)</p> <p>(a) Data protection Act – disclosure of information - PC exempt as only PC's with income and expenditure over £200K are required to comply.</p> <p>(b) Consultation regarding 'Libraries for the future'. Central Bedfordshire is seeking a councillor to</p>	

	participate. (c) Letter of thanks received from Bill Bowman for the £550 donation to the senior's Lunch. Bill has advised that he will not continue to organise this event in the future.	
11	Good Neighbour Scheme Jim Rees has chaired his first meeting and contact has been made with BRCC to establish whether a setting up grant may be forthcoming. A second meeting has been proposed for 12 th December. The Clerk will liaise with Jim to confirm the start time and suggest that he makes arrangements for papers to be circulated prior to that date.	Clerk
12	Planning The Clerk reported receipt of a further 4 planning applications and a meeting of the planning group was arranged for Monday 19 th December at 6.30pm Cllr. Salmon advised that he had followed up the query with regard to the application for a liquor license at the Nursery. There seems to be some confusion over the difference between a 'Nursery' and a 'Garden Centre' and this needs to be clarified. Cllr. Salmon has requested a copy of the previous planning application to establish the facts before any further action is discussed.	DS
13	Matters Outstanding (<i>Update on matters outstanding from previous meeting</i>) All items to be carried forward with 'Parish Plan' from 2009 being amended to read 'Parish / Neighbourhood Plan'	Clerk
14	Accounts for payment The following accounts were submitted and subsequently approved for payment; J.Cooper (Salary Net) £404.09 G.Shute (Village Triangle purchases) £356.17 Family Trees & Gardens (Annual road sign cleaning, (vegetation clearing plus shrub clearance) £310.40 Revenue & Customs Deduction Team (Clerk salary) £101.00 Central Bedfordshire Council (Charges for election) <u>£ 73.54</u> £1,245.20	
15	Budget statement Period 8 The income and expenditure statement for the Parish Council for the period ending November 2011 (Period 8) was presented and approved.	
16	Parish Precept (<i>Preliminary thoughts</i>) a) It was suggested that the amount budgeted for the website might need to be increased for next year b) It was agreed £1k be set aside in current year as a provision for assistance to village groups for the Queens Diamond Jubilee expenditure and costs which the council may incur. c) £500 for the Good Neighbour Scheme d) It was agreed that the Parish Council would aim to set the next 4 years budget with no increase on the council tax in line with CBC	
17	Parish Newsletter & Surgery Items to include in the next newsletter; Welcome Paul Burrett as new co-opted councillor, telephone lines being followed up following Parish Surgery comments, parking, salt bins, finance to end of December 2011. Next Parish Surgery to be held Saturday 4 th February 2012. Topic to be confirmed.	CS
18	Vodaphone No comments were made regarding this agenda item	
19	Report of Clerk The Clerk reported receipt of 'Declaration of Office' for Councillor Burrett which was duly signed and witnessed. Cllr. Burrett has also completed the 'Register of Councillors Interests' which will remain on file. The Clerk reminded everyone that any changes to their register of interests should be notified as soon as possible and queried whether those held on file need to be updated. Copies of files will be made available in order that councillors may check their own records.	Clerk
20	Items of an Urgent Nature or for the next meeting.	

	No items were declared.	
21	Date and Time of Next Meeting	
<p>The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 9th January 2012 at 7pm Studham Village Hall.</p> <p>The following meeting will be held on Monday 6th February 2012 at 7pm Studham Village Hall</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 9.48 pm</p>		

----- Chairman

----- Date