

# STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.00 PM ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Present: Councillor : Mr Des Salmon (Chairman)  
Councillors: Tony Gatehouse, Mrs Andrea Maxted, Mrs Chrys Smith, Mr Geoff Shute and Mr Mark Poyner.

In attendance: Central Beds Councillor : Mrs Marion Mustoe (Part Meeting)  
Central Beds Councillor : Mr Ken Janes (Part Meeting)  
**Two members of the public**

Mrs Carol Stephenson (Clerk)

ACTION

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Personal and/or Prejudicial) (Parish Councils. (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007)

2.1 There were no declarations of interest in any of the items under consideration at this meeting of the Parish Council.

### 3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

3.1 Members of the public expressed concern over :

(a) the gradual loss of trees in Holywell Hill and the fact that underground utility connections prevented their replacement. Cllr Smith explained that many were Silver Birch trees which had in fact reached the end of their natural life and that their replacement was still an outstanding matter for discussion.

(b) Demolition works in the corner of Holywell Road and Oakway is causing disruption and interrupting passage, particularly for school children. It was agreed that the concern should be drawn to the attention of the Highways Department.

CS

(c) Public buses churning up grass in Common Road, particularly at the pedestrian entrance into the Playing Fields. Cllr Maxted explained that several emails and phone calls of complaint had been made to the Bus company. Cllr Smith agreed to email the Highways Department.

CS

(d) The Parish Council's attention was drawn to the third alternative High Speed route which would pass through Pedley Hill. The Parish Council reassured the speaker that it was aware of this.

### 4 POLICE MATTERS

4.1 No police were in attendance and it was reported that it had not been possible for the report from the police to be completed, due to an increase

in their scheduled duties.

4.2 Cllr Gatehouse reported that he and Cllr Poyner would attend the Call Handling Centre at Police HQ in Kempston on 26<sup>th</sup> April **AG/MP**

**5 MATTERS FOR THE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS**

5.1 Cllr Mustoe reported that the Central Bedfordshire budget will shortly be decided upon.

5.2 Cllr Maxted asked Cllr Mustoe to look into the likelihood of implementation of the bus reduction plans. **MM**

5.3 Cllr Mustoe was informed that the problems in Church Rd had been resolved as the residents had moved.

5.4 Councillors repeated their previous request to Cllr Janes to investigate the grant of planning permission given Barwythe before the Planning Committee had been able to consider the application. **KJ**

5.5 Councillor Janes reported that a resident in Oakway had informed him of dissatisfaction over refusal of a planning application. Councillors informed him that an arbitration process has already been conducted and that the matter is outside the Parish Council's remit.

(Cllrs Mustoe and Janes left the meeting at this point).

**6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 were a correct record and were signed by Cllr. Gatehouse.

**7 MATTERS ARISING (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

7.1 There were no matters arising.

**8 REPORT OF CHAIRMAN**

8.1 He and Cllr Gatehouse had attended the bi-annual Central Bedfordshire Council Town & Parish Council Conference on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January and found it much improved on the previous meeting. The theme was localism. Many attendees thought this vague and something already being carried out in each area.

8.2 Cllr Salmon had attended the Bedfordshire Town and Parish Councils Finance Committee when a new Chairman was elected. Bedford Borough had proposed reforming into 7 parishes, to give greater democracy and Cllr Salmon alone voted against this on the basis of cost.

**9 PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

9.1 It was agreed to discuss this closed session matter at the end of the meeting so that the members of the public could remain in the meeting.

**10. CONTRACTS**

- 10.1 The Clerk was instructed to write to the Gardener, Chris Patton and the Roadside maintenance contractor Malcolm Cooper – to confirm their agreements with the Parish Council. **CLS**
- 11 **PARISH SURGERY**
- 11.1 The surgery was confirmed for 26<sup>th</sup> February. Fliers were being printed and circulated the week ending 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> February. A summary of the Studham Common Management Plan (for public viewing) will be left in each of the Studham Pubs, the Sports and Social Club and Harpers coffee shop and added to the web. **GS**
- 11.2 Cllr Gatehouse reviewed the timetable.
- 11.3 Cllr Maxted offered to arrange the refreshments **AM**
- 11.4 It was agreed that the next Surgery would be held on 18<sup>th</sup> June and that the Clerk would book the Village Hall. **CLS**
- 12 **SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB ROYAL WEDDING STREET PARTY.**
- 12.1 It was reported that this would take the form of a picnic from 15.30 onwards with tea and coffee provided.
- 13 **NEWSLETTER**
- 13.1 As a Quality Status requirement, this would have to be distributed to households in hard copy and so would have to be printed. It would also be viewable on the website. The final draft will be circulated to councillors by 22<sup>nd</sup> February. **AM/CS**
- 14 **REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
- 14.1 **(i) Highways**  
 (a) Details of the imminent road resurfacing in Church Road and other road between 2012-2014 were discussed .  
 (b)The Right of Way Officer is producing a definitive plan of rights of way.  
 (c) Councillor Smith was following up on the installation of the Heritage lampposts and in particular, the early installation of one in replacement of a broken lamppost. **CS**  
 (d) In response to a letter from a resident relating to the provision of salt bins it was agreed that since no further salt bins can be acquired, the PC is unable to further pursue this. The Chairman and Clerk agreed to respond to the resident. **DS/CLS**
- (ii) Special Projects**  
 (a) Car Park Lighting  
 This was now timetabled. Also, see 13.1 (i) (c)  
 (b) **War Memorial Plaque**  
 External advice was still awaited and in the meantime the possibility of a Grant for the Festival of Britain 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be investigated. **CS**
- (iii) (a) Studham Common**

CLlr Shute reported that :

(1) The last Work Party had a high attendance of 50. The cost (including hall hire and refreshments) was in excess of £500, covering a day lasting from 8.30 a.m. until 5.00 p.m.

(2) Paving slabs beneath a seat in West Common need to be re-laid. CLlr Gatehouse will approach a local builder.

**AG**

**(b) Roe End Lane**

(1) It was reported that one of the recently installed signs at the start of the track prohibiting motor cycle entry erected by CBC has been vandalised.

(ii) Ways of preventing unauthorised access were further discussed.

**(iv) Playing Fields**

(i) A Working Party to discuss the AGM questions on will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

(ii) The next meeting is 24<sup>th</sup> March.

**(v) Village Hall**

(i) £643 was raised from the Quiz on 5<sup>th</sup> February. CLlr Smith & CLlr Maxted were thanked for their enormous effort, so far spanning 16 years.

(ii) The Village Hall AGM will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

15 **CORRESPONDENCE**

15.1 The latest correspondence was handed to the Chairman.

15.2 CLlr Salmon expressed concern over the increasing volume and size of central government reports and studies with close response dates.

15.3 CLlr Salmon reported that on 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March Planning Workshops will be held at Chicksands. Councillors are deciding on dates they wish to attend.

16 **WEBSITE UPDATE**

16.1 No report was necessary.

17 **PARISH SURGERY FOLLOW UP**

17.1 It was agreed that following the "Good Neighbour" surgery in October, a facilitator has to be found from amongst those attending to muster support and maintain continued interest.

**ALL**

18 **PLANNING**

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

18.1 The Studham Planning Committee had :

Refused : CB/10/04470/FULL. 17 Woodland Rise, LU6 2PF

Erection of two storey side extension

Approved : CB/10/04136/FULL. 21 Common Road, LU6 2PE

Erection of front porch canopy, two storey side and rear extension and triple detached garage.

CB/10/04590/FULL. Hillcrest, Church Road, Studham, LU6 2QD

Alterations to roof, brick parapet wall.

18.2 Central Bedfordshire Development Management had refused the following application :  
CB/10/04209/FULL. Newlyn, 17 Oakway, LU6 2PE

18.3 Cllr Salmon reported a letter received in relation to the ownership of a property over which the PC had made a planning decision. It was agreed that when considering a planning application, it was not within the Parish Council's remit to address questions of ownership of the land.

## 19 **MATTERS OUTSTANDING**

19.1 It was agreed that there should be a follow up to the matter "Replacement trees in Holywell Road". **CS**

(One of the two members of the public present left at this point)

## 20 **ACCOUNTS** (Local Government Act 1972)

20.1 The following accounts were submitted and approved for payment:

### **FEBRUARY**

NALC - Quality Status reaccreditation	£ 60.00
Studham Playing Fields - donation	£490.00
A Maxted – stationery	£ 8.97
Parish Link - Councillor vacancy advert	£ 15.50
C L Stephenson - Clerk's January Salary	£555.09
G Shute - Quality Status expenses	£ 27.08
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1156.54</b>

## 21 **BUDGET STATEMENT PERIOD 10**

21.1 The Income and Expenditure statement for the Parish Council for the period ending January 2011 (period 10) was presented.

## 22 **REPORT OF CLERK**

22.1 The Clerk reported on the higher interest rates available for the Parish Council bank account and was asked to report back on the best and most appropriate rate available. **CLS**

## 23 **ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

23.1 There was nothing of an urgent nature or for the next agenda.

## 23 **ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE "PARISH LINK" & WEBSITE**

24.1 It was agreed that Cllr Maxted should insert the following items in the February "Parish Link" and on the Parish Website : **AM**

- Advance Notice of the Surgery
- Road resurfacing programme
- The Annual Parish Meeting

## 25 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

25.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.00p.m. on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>

March 2011 in Studham **Village** Hall.

25.2 The following Parish Council meeting will be held at 6.00 p.m. on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.15 p.m. in Studham Village Hall.

The other member of the public present, left at this point.

**PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

Closed session. Moved from Agenda Item 9.

**The Meeting ended at 9.50 pm**