

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2010

Present: Councillor : Mr Des Salmon (Chairman)
Councillors: Mr Tony Gatehouse, Mrs Chrys Smith, Mrs Andrea Maxted
and Mrs Lola Harris

In attendance: Central Bedfordshire Councillor : Mrs Marion Mustoe (Part meeting)
Mrs Carol Stephenson (Clerk)

One member of the public was present

ACTION

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Mr Geoff Shute and PC Wesley Hall.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (personal and/or prejudicial) (Parish Councils Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001

2.1 Cllr. Salmon declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda item 15.4, the Friends of Studham Common. Cllr Mrs Smith declared a personal interest in relation to Agenda item 9.4, The Studham Playing Fields.

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

3.1 A member of the public raised points concerning clearing roads of snow (See Agenda item 11).

4 MATTERS FOR THE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

4.1 Cllr. Mrs Mustoe asked for and received an appraisal of the gritting of the Village during the period of heavy snow. Cllr. Mrs Mustoe explained that the national shortage of salt and grit had imposed a policy upon Councils, Central Bedfordshire included, of prioritising A & B roads for gritting.

4.2 Cllr. Mrs Smith reported that gritting towards the end of January had been erratic.

4.3 Cllr Mrs Mustoe requested and received an update of the position with Long Yard

4.4 Cllr Mustoe was asked for an update on the possible reductions to the bus services. She understood that there are no proposals to cut the services to Studham.

5 POLICE MATTERS

5.1 PC Wesley Hall had earlier submitted a written report that during January there had been one Common Assault, one Harassment, one theft from a motor vehicle. The Common Assault and the Harassment were a linked crime, relating

to the same incident. There had been two arrests for the theft from the motor vehicle.

6 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

6.1 It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2010 were a correct record and were signed by Cllr. Salmon.

7 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES** (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

7.1 Agenda Item 5.4 – Complaints have again been received about unruly behaviour and rubbish dumping by a group of men believed to be engaged in a local construction. It was agreed that contact would be made with their employer.

DS/CLS

8 **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

8.1 Cllr. Salmon reported that he had attended the quarterly Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils meeting, a major topic of discussion being the introduction of Electronic payments by Parish and Town Councils

8.2 It was noted that largely due to the weather, Cllrs. Salmon and Gatehouse had been unable to attend the Community Safety Partnership event on 19th January.

8.3 The Clerk reported that the training session in the Village Hall by Louise Ashmore, BATPC County Officer, for Councillors and the Clerk on “The Power of Wellbeing” (a Government led quality initiative) had been arranged for 6.30 p.m. on 16th March 2010.

9 **REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

9.1 Highways

9.1(i) Cllr. Mrs. Smith explained that a report is being compiled to assess the damage caused to roads by the recent heavy snow.

9.1(ii) The outcome of the application for “Parish Partnership” funding should be known soon.

9.1 (iii) It was noted that there is a considerable amount of overgrowth on the middle section of the Dunstable Road between the Bell and Holywell entrance and it was agreed that an approach should be made to the landowner, requesting that it be trimmed, in order to ease passage on the narrow pavement.

9.1(iv) A further request has been made of Central Bedfordshire into siting a footpath opposite Studham Nursery to allow easier pedestrian access from the village to the sports club.

9.1(v) It was noted that the 30mph speed signs between the pubs and Common Road are obscured by overhanging trees. It was agreed that the growth should be trimmed. **CS**

9.2 Road safety sub-committee

9.2 (i) Cllr. Salmon reported that the recently implemented 20mph speed restriction had been well received

9.3 Studham Common

9.3(i) In the absence of Cllr. Shute, there was no report.

9.4 Playing Fields

9.4(i) It was reported that the Meeting had been cancelled and there was consequently no report.

9.5 Village Hall

9.5(i) Cllr Salmon reported with regret that after eighteen years in various roles including Trustee, and Secretary, but due however to increased personal commitments, Mrs Pat Fuzland had resigned as Village Hall Secretary. Cllr Salmon was delighted to report that Pat is continuing as the Bookings Secretary. The Councillors expressed their thanks for Pat's service to the community. The Committee now has two vacant positions.

9.5(ii) Cllr. Salmon reported that the Lottery application for electrical updating and weather sealing exterior walls had been unsuccessful. It was however noted that a great deal of funding had been raised through the lottery during the last eight years and applications were now being made to Central Bedfordshire Council for £3,078; Wixamtree Trust for £2,000, with £1078 from Village Hall funds to meet the £6156 cost.

9.5(iii) Cllr Salmon reported that due to the retirement of its Leaders, the Studham Rainbows group would shortly have to cease or transfer to a neighbouring group. It would no longer hire the Village Hall.

9.5(iv) Cllr Salmon also reported that all tables for the Annual Village Hall Quiz on 6th February had been sold and thanked Cllrs Mrs. Smith and Mrs Maxted for its organisation.

9.5(v) It was noted that 500 questionnaires on possible uses for the Village Hall had been delivered to households, with 19 responses (4%) received to date.

10 **CORRESPONDENCE**

10.1 The Correspondence was handed to the Chairman.

10.2 It was reported that one of a series of consultation documents on the Central Bedfordshire Site Allocations Development Plan had been received and that further stages would be received during the year.

10.3 The Clerk was asked to arrange Code of Conduct training on 25th March and 27th April for Cllr. Mrs Harris, Cllr. Shute and Cllr. Mrs. Maxted and a refresher **CLS** course for Cllr. Mrs Smith.

11. **SNOW CLEARANCE/ SALT BINS**

11.1 Mrs Ravor, Chairman of the School Governors described the problems of access to the school and the school's closure during the recent periods of heavy snowfall. Mrs Ravor suggested implementation by the Parish Council of plans to draw upon villagers and their resources to ease access to and also to transport pupils to the school. IT WAS RESOLVED to contact local farmers and

contractors to discuss possible future road clearing arrangements, using their equipment during heavy snowfalls. **CS**

11.2 Central Bedfordshire would have to be contacted in due course to ascertain if any liability could attach to the Parish Council from accidents arising from roads cleared by non council operators and also if there could be liability on the Parish Council for alleged damage to the roads by the equipment.

11.3 Cllr. Mrs Smith reported that it might be possible to source additional salt bins which might be filled by Central Bedfordshire. The possibility of meeting some of the costs through the "Parish Partnership" is to be investigated. Cllr Smith also reported that arrangements were in place for the Salt bins to be refilled in the near future

11.4 The Chairman thanked Councillor Smith for her work during December and January in ensuring constant gritting of roads by Central Bedfordshire.

12 **PLANNING**

12.1 It was reported that Central Bedfordshire Development Control had granted planning permission for the following applications:

CB/09/06608	9 Clements End Rd, LU6 2NG
CB/09/06334	Studham Lower School, LU6 2QD
CB/09/06490	Studham Hall Farm, LU6 2NL
CB/09/05883	4 Oakway, LU6 2PE
CB/09/005771	Barwythe Hall, Pedley Hill LU6 2NU

12.2 It was further reported that Enforcement Notice CB/ENC09/1378 dated 4th January 2010 and effective from 1st February 2010 had been served on the owners of Land at Long Yard, Dunstable Road, LU6 2QL.

13 **MATTERS OUTSTANDING**

13.1 It was reported that construction equipment had appeared at the Valley View site.

14 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

14.1 The following accounts were submitted and approved for payment:

	£
CPRE Membership 2010	29.00
Village Hall/ Committee Room Hire December	17.00
1and1 website Hosting 12/12/09 – 12/06/10	22.95
Clerk's Salary January 2010	507.75
Friends of Studham Common – Grant Assistance	200.00
Studham Playing Fields – Grant Assistance	<u>250.00</u>
	1026.70

15 **BUDGET STATEMENT PERIOD 10**

15.1 The Income and Expenditure statement for the Parish Council for the period ending January 2010 (period 10) was presented.

15.2 A request had been received from the Playing fields Committee for a £250 contribution towards the costs met by the Club for a compulsory weekly safety inspection and changing of bark flooring, to comply with regulations. In recognition of the benefit offered to the village by the Playing Fields, it was agreed that the full contribution be made.

15.4 Friends Of Studham Common had requested a contribution towards the costs of the work carried out by the Greensand Trust in relation to the five year Work Plan and the Parish Surgery held in November 2009. It was agreed that a £200 donation be made in support of the completion of the five year Work Plan, on the understanding that it would reflect the comments and pledges made by Parishioners and other attendees of the November Parish Surgery. A letter to this effect was sent to FOSC.

16 **ITEMS FOR INCLUSION IN THE "PARISH LINK"**

16.1 It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Maxted will mention the arrests for the motor vehicle theft, the dates of next Parish Council meetings and the new speed limit.

17 **REPORT OF CLERK**

17.1 The clerk reported that the transfer of the Parish website hosting to 1 and 1 was now completed and that work on the new website was well underway.

17.2 It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate the availability of a bursary to meet the cost of the Clerk's compulsory training.

18. **ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE OR FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

18.1 It was agreed that the following should be agenda items for the March meeting:

The Website

Speed Cameras

19 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

19.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 1st March 2010 at 7.00 pm. in Studham Village Hall.

19.2 The following Parish Council meeting, the Annual Council Meeting will be held on Monday 12th April 2010 at 6.00 p.m.in Studham Village Hall, to be followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.15p.m.

The Meeting ended at 9.25 pm