

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4TH JANUARY 2010

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

In attendance: Central Bedfordshire Councillor : Mr Ken Janes
PC Wesley Hall
Mrs Carol Stephenson (Clerk)

No members of the Public were present

ACTION

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Mrs Marion Mustoe.

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

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

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

3.1 There were no members of the public present.

4 MATTERS FOR THE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

4.1 It was reported that gritting lorries had been frequently sighted during the period following the heavy snow fall before Christmas. Cllr Salmon suggested that a schedule should be requested from Central Bedfordshire showing what gritting had taken place since 20th December, to which Cllr Janes agreed. Cllr Janes explained that the gritting of major bus routes has been a Highways Agency **KJ** priority during this period.

4.2 Guidance from Central Bedfordshire will be sought as to the public's permitted use of the Salting Bins provided by Central Bedfordshire and Cllr Janes agreed **KJ** to pursue this.

4.3 Cllr Salmon reported that an agreement had been signed between the Holywell Road Residents Association and John and Len Thorne, covering the restricted use of land adjoining Holywell Road, Holywell Close and Dunstable Road.

An application for planning permission for residential accommodation and stating proposed use of the farm is in progress.

. 4.4 Cllr Salmon reported on the Magyar position - the planning permission has expired and the Building Regulations expire during 2010 .

. 5 **POLICE MATTERS**

. 5.1 PC Wesley reported that during December 2009 there had been 1 fraud and 1 instance of Criminal Damage.

. 5.2 PC Wesley also reported that a letter had been sent to the Bus company operating one of the local services, reporting that one of its buses had been seen speeding through the village.

. 5.3 Although the police had received reports of sightings of a man near the school shortly before Christmas, investigations to date had not produced any further information or evidence of the individual. Cllr. Smith passed on the thanks expressed by parents of the school for the very prompt police assistance in this matter.

. 5.4 A group of men have been seen on a small number of occasions in December and January, behaving in a rowdy manner in the middle section of Dunstable Road. The Police are monitoring the situation.

. 6 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

. 6.1 It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2009 were a correct record and were signed by Cllr. Salmon.

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

. 7.1 There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

. 8 **REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN**

. 8.1 Cllr. Salmon stated that at the December Meeting he had overlooked thanking the families of Cllrs. Mrs. Maxted and Mrs. Smith for handling the traffic control for the Remembrance Day Service and the Memorial.

. 8.2 Cllr. Salmon confirmed that he and Cllr. Gatehouse would be attending the newly formed Central Bedfordshire Community Safety Partnership event on 19th January and the Third Sector Assembly inaugural meeting in Flitwick on 3rd February 2010.

. 8.3 Cllr Mrs. Harris agreed to add liaison for the "Power of Wellbeing" initiative to her existing portfolio of duties.

. 8.4 It was agreed that a training session by Louise Ashmore, BATPC County Officer, for Councillors and the Clerk be arranged on "The Power of Wellbeing". The venue to be Studham Village Hall, with Kensworth and Whipsnade Councillors **CLS** invited.

9 **REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF OUTSIDE BODIES**

9.1 Highways

Although a number of reports received about fallen trees and lack of gritting had been promptly passed to the appropriate Central Bedfordshire departments. It was noted that Central Bedfordshire's ability to respond to the issues had been severely impaired due to the adverse weather conditions.

9.2 Cllr. Mrs. Smith reported that during the period of heavy snowfall, she had made requests for the refilling of Salting Bins Central Bedfordshire but that these had unfortunately not been met. Ways to gain a greater response and commitment to this are being investigated. Cllr. Mrs Smith will maintain regular contact with the relevant department at Central Bedfordshire.

CS

[The bins have subsequently been refilled]

9.3 The provision of adequate gritting facilities was discussed at length and it was agreed that the Parish Council would consider how to increase the number of Salting Bins available.

9.4 Smartwater Signs

The installation of the Smartwater signs during December had been delayed due to the adverse weather conditions, however it was expected that this should soon take place.

9.5 Road safety sub-committee

There was nothing to report.

9.6 Studham Common

Cllr Shute reported that the repair work which Central Bedfordshire had offered to conduct on the East Common Car Park was due to commence shortly. It was noted that the improvement work fell within Central Bedfordshire's Outdoor Access Improvement Plan 2006-2011 and that upon completion, the grassed area would be maintained by Central Bedfordshire. Posters explaining the work would be posted in advance of its commencement. The Car Park opposite the Memorial Clock is also to be upgraded.

9.7 The next Friends Of Studham Common "Winter Special" work party will take place on 23rd January, commencing at 9.00 a.m. Breakfast, Lunch & Afternoon tea will be served

9.8 Playing Fields

The next committee meeting will be held on Tuesday 12th January 2010.

9.9 Village Hall

An application has been made for a grant of £5233 which will contribute to the costs of the required electrical updating and exterior weather sealing. The result of the application is expected within weeks.

9.10 A questionnaire asking for suggestions for the use of the Village Hall had recently been circulated to households and the results will soon be calculated.

9.11 8 tables for the Annual Quiz on Saturday 6th February have now been sold, 2 are outstanding and will probably be sold. Thanks were expressed for all supporting the evening.

9.12 Cllr Salmon reported that "Body Blitz", a new Keep fit class had commenced on 4th January.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 The Correspondence was handed to the Chairman.

10.2 An invitation to comment on a Draft Private Sector Housing Renewal Policy had been received during the Christmas break. Due to the late receipt of the documentation and lack of time for due consideration by the Parish Council in meeting, it was agreed that Cllr Salmon would review the documentation and respond to Central Bedfordshire. **DS**

10.3 It was noted that no Councillors would be available to attend the Central Bedfordshire Council Housing Strategy day on 15th January.

10.4 An email had been received from Studham Lower school clarifying their letting policy.

11 MATTERS OUTSTANDING

11.1 It was agreed that no changes were necessary.

12 PLANNING

12.1 The report was received of the following decisions of the planning committee meeting on 15/12/09 :

(a) **CB/09/06608/FULL.** 9 Clements End Road, Studham, Dunstable, LU6 2NG.
No objections.

(b) **CB/09/0840** Valley View, Hemel Hempstead Road, Dagnall, Berkhamsted, HP4 1QR.
Objections were raised.

13 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

13.1 The following accounts were submitted and approved for payment:

	£
Chris Patton (Gardening Aug-Nov 09)	150.00
Cllr. Mrs. Smith. (Expenses)	41.46
Ms. L Moxon. (Smartwater signs)	272.55
Mrs. C L Stephenson. (Clerk's Salary & Expenses)	<u>541.25</u>
	1005.26

14 **BUDGET STATEMENT PERIOD 08**

14.1 The Income and Expenditure statement for the Parish Council for the period ending December 2009 (period 09) was presented.

15 **PRECEPT 2010/11**

15.1 The Precept was presented by Cllr Salmon and the Clerk. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the proposed £16,145 Precept 2010/11 be APPROVED. The Precept is £545 (3%) less than last year, mainly reflecting completion of a major traffic control programme during 2009.

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

16.1 It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Maxted will mention the availability of Salting Bins, advise of the CBC Work on the Car Parks, remind of Neighbourliness during adverse weather conditions and remind of the need to double lock PVC doors.

17 **REPORT OF CLERK**

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

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 February meeting:
(1) the date of next Surgery
(2) date of the next Newsletter and
(3) the date of the Annual Parish Meeting.

19 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

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

19.2 The following Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 1st March 2010 at 7.00 p.m.in Studham Village Hall

The Meeting ended at 8.55 pm