

STUDHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6^h JUNE 2011

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

In attendance: Central Beds Councillor : Mrs Ruth Gammons (Part Meeting)
Central Beds Councillor : Mr Richard Stay (Part Meeting)
PCSO's Dodkins and Jenkins (Part Meeting)
Mrs Carol Stephenson (Clerk)

Two members of the public were present.

ACTION

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

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

2.1 Cllr Salmon notified his membership of Studham Thursday Evening Carpet Bowls club in relation to Agenda Item 3.

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

3.1 Two members of the public described a car parking problem in the village centre car park affecting members of the Carpet Bowls Club arriving for their play sessions in the Village Hall. It was explained that the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee have no control over a Central Bedfordshire Council car park, however a couple of recommendations were suggested.

4 MATTERS FOR THE CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCILLORS

4.1 Cllr Salmon welcomed recently elected Cllrs Ruth Gammons and Richard Stay. Cllr Stay thanked Cllr Salmon and outlined his and Cllr Gammons' long service to the Council.

4.2 The Central Bedfordshire Councillors were invited to attend the forthcoming surgery on 25th June.

4.3 Cllr Stay indicated solutions to ensure the continued viability of Village schools within the outlying areas of Dunstable and Houghton Regis.

4.4 Cllr Gammon reported on the recent elections.

4.5 Cllr Gammons gave an update on the projects being considered for the Bedfordshire Energy and Re-cycling Project (BEAR).

4.6 Cllr Gammons reminded councillors of the "Let's Talk Together" open meeting on 23rd June. Councillors confirmed their attendance.

- 4.7 Cllr Salmon outlined the Parish Council's concern about the processing of the Barwythe Hall planning application, asking Cllrs Stay and Gammon to investigate. Cllr Stay offered to do so. The Clerk was asked to provide the background to the matter. RS/CLS

Councillors Gammons and Stay left the meeting at this point)

5 POLICE MATTERS

- 5.1 PCSO's David Dodkins and Luke Jenkins were in attendance. They reported that PCSO's will now attend meetings and report to the Parish Council. Issues reported to the Police will now be responded to by the receiving team member, not a warranted police officer.
- 5.2 Clarification of the Parish Council's power to place a polite notice on inconsiderately parked cars was sought.
- 5.3 The PCSO's were informed of the expected increase in parking during the Sponsored Walk on 18th June
- 5.4 Councillors expressed concern that only an answerphone message to ring an 01234 number was in place for calls to the Dunstable Police station. It was felt that an automatic call transfer system should be used. The PCSO's agreed to report this to their superiors.

The Dunstable and Rural Parish Anti Social Behaviour Incidents report for May reported a Nuisance in Byslips Road.

6 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th MAY 2011

- 6.1 Minute 17.2 was amended by adding to the final sentence "Highway furniture". The amended minutes were then approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct copy of the minutes of the meeting on 9th May 2011.

7 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

- 7.1 6.4 Ken France, school governor, would be asked for a Report on the proposals for schools CLS

8 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

- 8.1 Cllr Salmon reported that :

(a) A suggestion had been made that the Joint Parishes (Whipsnade, Kensworth, Studham) Chairmen's meeting should comprise both Chairmen and Vice Chairmen.

(b) He had attended the BATPC General Purpose & Finance Committee in May, where it was reported that Central Government wished to change local council to Charities' accounting methods in order to save money. The committee considered the proposed changes to be unsuitable for public money accounting, recommending in principle, the current audit and accounting requirements should continue.

(c) He and Cllr Gatehouse would be attending the "Let's Talk" open

meeting on 23 June 2011.

(d) Any questions relating to the Police should be directed to the portfolio holder – Cllr Gatehouse.

9 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES

9.1 (i) Highways

(a) The Fire Service had found 3 fire hydrant faults which have been reported to Central Beds Highways.

(b) The footpath between 9-11 Woodland Rise overgrown with nettles has been reported to Central Beds.

(c) Pedley Hill/Leighton Buzzard Rd corner verges are due to be cut.

(d) An overhanging tree at 20 Church Close reported to Arbor team.

(e) 2 lampposts awaited in Dunstable Road will be erected before the end of June.

(f) It was felt that Central Beds would have to agree the cost of removal of leaves and rubbish left in the Woodland Rise triangle, (previously discussed in May, Minute 18.3)

(g) Councillors would make a site visit to investigate a complaint about the footpath between Church Mead and Church Road. CS/DS

(ii) Special Projects

Memorial Plaque

Cllr Poyner reported the costs of different materials for the reproduction.

Ranging from £65 to £450, the most cost effective, hard-wearing and appropriate material was considered to be stainless steel, to be mounted on a wooden board. The total cost would be approximately £200, plus fixings. MP
Cllr Poyner would arrange a mock up.

(iii) Road Safety sub-committee

Following a recent serious road traffic accident, it was once again suggested that the 30 and 40 mph speed restriction area be rationalised and the 30 mph be extended. Cllr Salmon reported that previous letters had not been answered. It was agreed to write with copies to the Chief Executive of Central Beds Council.

(iv) Studham Common

(a) A report was received on the on paths and access cleared and opened up by the work of the Working Parties.

(b) A resident's had written to request that the bridle path grass on west common be kept longer. This was being looked into.

(c) FOSC's (Friends of Studham Common) presence at the May Fair was smaller than previous years, due to fewer volunteers. CLS

(d) A request from Kensworth Rd resident to lay a hedge bordering on the

Common would be forwarded to Central Bedfordshire and the Clerk was asked to respond to the email.

(e) Councillors were pleased by the newly planted triangle at the village centre. The decision on planting of a hedge in completion of this awaited the Central Beds decision on the raising or otherwise of the kerb.

(iv) Playing Fields

(a) The AGM was poorly attended.

(b) The installation of solar panels to reduce energy costs was reported.

(v) Village Hall

(a) It was noted that the water heater has been replaced.

(b) Reference was made to the parking problems of the Indoor bowls and U3A Bowls clubs and discussed earlier during Public Question Time (Item 3).

(c) The AGM will be held at 8pm on Friday 1st July, when refreshments will be served and to which all are welcome.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

10.1 A Central Beds press release discussed the three tier school system and also grouping of schools to provide greater flexibility and financial stability.

10.2 Further communication on the Local Development Framework had been received and it was agreed to continue to monitor this.

MP

11 WEBSITE UPDATE

11.1 The website team had reported the hits for weeks ending 9th- 30th May : 309, 341, 301, 16.

12 COMMUNICATIONS AND THE ANNUAL REPORT

12.1 Dates of forthcoming Newsletters were discussed and a timetable will be produced.

CS

13 UNAUTHORISED SIGNS

13.1 A Department within Central beds is understood to deal with unauthorised advertising signs around the village. The balance between promoting local business and the impact on the Conservation Area was discussed. No complaints had been received and it was agreed that residents feeling strongly about this should raise it with Central Beds.

14 MEMORIAL CLOCK

14.1 It was agreed to take out a three year annual maintenance service contract at £189 before discount.

15 **MOBILE LIBRARY**

- 15.1 Councillors discussed the possibility of sharing existing services with neighbouring villages and local business sponsorship . Cllr Gatehouse will contact Markyate Parish Council, as they have a vehicle. Statistics on membership would help to decide appropriate solutions. AG

16 **PLANNING**

- 16.1 There was no report.

17 **MATTERS OUTSTANDING**

- 17.1 **2012**
On 18th June a Sponsored Walk would be taking place. Sponsorship money raised would be shared 50/50 between selected charities and the 2012 celebrations fund.

18 **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The following accounts were submitted and approved for payment:

18.1 <u>June</u>	£
Ray Foster/Annual Audit	80.00
Chiltern Society 2010/11	25.00
Steve Ayres/paving slabs	150.00
Village Hall committee/1st qtr rental	48.00
CL Stephenson/ May salary + refund of newsletter printing	597.09
Total	900.09

19 **BUDGET STATEMENT PERIOD 2**

- 19.1 The annual Internal Audit forms which had been completed by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer were approved and then signed by the Chairman.

The Income and Expenditure statement for Parish Council for the period ending May 2011 (period 02) was presented.

20 **REPORT OF THE CLERK**

- 20.1 The Clerk reported that following the recent application, an £815.00 VAT refund had been received.

21 **REPORT ON THE COUNCILLOR AND CLERK VACANCIES (Closed sessions)**

22 **ITEMS OF AN URGENT NATURE, THE NEXT AGENDA AND PARISH LINK**

- 22.1 Cllr Maxted was asked to insert into the July Parish Link :
– Cutting hedges and overhang
– Reporting overgrown footpaths
– Website comments/improvement suggestions

23 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

- 23.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 4th July 2011 at 7.00p.m. in Studham Village Hall
- 23.2 The following Parish Council meeting will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 1st August 2011 at 7.00p.m. in Studham Village Hall.

The Meeting ended at 10. 17pm.