

Minutes of Cople Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th March 2010 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall

Present:	Mr P Moore	Charirman
	Mr S Smith	Vice Chairman
	Ms L Davis	Councillor
	Mrs C Ellis	Borough Councillor
	Mr T Fisher	Councillor
	Mr D Whitehead	Councillor
	Chris Simes	Stagecoach
	Zoe	Stagecoach
	Dave Hodgson	Mayor of Bedford Borough
	Mr Pearce	Member of the Public
	Ms A Baldwin	Clerk

The Chairman opened the meeting at 19:30.

1 **Apologies for Absence (64)**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hughes & Vacher.

2 **Approval of Minutes (65)**

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 25th January 2010 were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3 **Bus route through Cople (67)**

Chris Simes (CS) and Zoe Paget (ZP) from Stagecoach Bus Company introduced themselves to the meeting.

The Chairman stated that there was currently a problem with the bus route through Cople as it does not collect/drop off where parishioners wanted it to. The village has a high number of elderly residents in Rye Crescent and it's this area that the bus needs to stop at.

Mr Pearce a local resident stated that may of the older villagers cannot drive and have to rely on the bus service to Bedford for hospital appointments, shopping and visiting the library and Council offices. The service is not needed on a daily basis and suggested that two days during the week would be sufficient.

CS stated that he would look into ways of getting the service re routed to the areas that it is needed and would reply to the Council in writing. The Clerk is to provide CS with a list of meeting dates.

The Chairman thanked CS & ZP for their attendance and they left at 7.45 p.m.

A discussion took place regarding the issue raised and it was suggested that the Clerk contact Chris Pettifer regarding the use of the Borough vehicles as a Bus Service through Cople. Mr Pearce commented that if this happens then the local residents would be asked to hand in their Bus passes and they would not be able to travel elsewhere in the county.

4 **Welcome to Bedford Borough Mayor Dave Hodgson (68)**

Bedford Borough Mayor, Dave Hodgson (DH) reported that he is a quarter way through his term of office and has been concentrating his efforts on the budget for the year 2010/11 to try and reduce the Council's current deficit. He reported that there was going to be an increase in the Council Tax of 2.3% and that savings of 9 million pound have been made.

DH stated that the Bedford Valley Park development is going ahead and that villagers will be able to

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use the sports facilities being built.

The Government has stated that Bedfordshire must find 45 permanent Gypsy & Traveller sites. Dog Farm is a site being considered but it is expected that it will not be a viable option. When a permanent site has been decided residents will have to pay rent. They are also able to apply for Housing and Council Tax benefits and their children will have to attend local schools.

The Borough Council held 4.5 tonnes of salt in June 2009, and gritted as many routes during the recent bad weather as possible. When asked why more supplies were not held DH commented that the quality of salt deteriorates the longer it is stored. Local salt bins are an option to towns and villages but it cost £250 very time the bin is filled. Vandalism is also a major problem and they would need to be stored somewhere when not in use.

Pot holes in the county are causing major concerns and the Council have inherited the second worst quality roads in the country. To bring these roads up to an acceptable level a 3 million pound investment is required. If anyone has any concerns regarding pot holes they are required to call the Council's pothole line. Cllr Fisher reported that he had recent used this service and the repair was carried out very promptly.

Cllr Whitehead asked DH if the planning department are enforcing restrictions placed on the proposed Golf Course development. The owners of the site were granted a 3 year extension to their original application on the proviso that trees and shrubs were to be planted before moving onto the next phase. Councillors raised concerns as planting in this area has not been carried out. DH stated that he would look into the matter and report back to the Clerk.

5 Matters Arising from the meeting held on 25th January 2010 (69)

Minute 52 – Clerk spoken to Lloyds TSB Bank regarding online banking and has been informed that that this is not available.

Minute 57 – Clerk written to the Head of the Lower School regarding parking on the grass verge in front of the Churchyard and Village sign. Clerk has also met with DC Locke contractors regarding raised edging and it waiting for the Quote.

Minute 62 – Clerk informed Andy Muskett and Lawn Lord that their quotes have been accepted and the Clerk has asked for a copy of their public liability insurance certificates.

Minute 63 – Lawn Lord have cut back the overgrown shrubs and brambles in Dog Field and has suggested that its cut back 3 times per year at £50 per cut. **It was agreed to accept this quote.**

6 Standing Order & Finance Regulations (70)

A few minor amendments were made to the Finance Regulations and these along with the Standing Orders are to be adopted at the next meeting.

7 Planning Applications

The following Planning Applications and decisions were discussed as below

Plan Number	Location	Proposal
09/03035/FUL	Maalba 23 Northill Rd	Permission Granted

8 Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council (71)

None attended

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9 Correspondence (72)

The Clerk made available to Councillors the following correspondence:

Register of Electors full and restricted versions. **The clerk is to put these up on the notice board and send the revised version to the website.**

Neighbourhood Watch letter, contents of which have been noted.

Safer Routes to school notice stating that there is to be a no stopping zone outside the lower school between the hours of 8.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. **The Clerk is to contact Amey as the school bus needs to stop outside the school during these hours.**

Bedford High Street Planning Documents and Questionnaire. These have been noted and any comments to the clerk before 23rd March 2010.

Email from D C Thacker requesting a salt bin in Water End. **The clerk is to email Mr Thacker stating that clarification regarding the Councils insurance position regarding this request is being sought.**

An email has been received from Mr & Mrs Adams asking if the Council has managed to secure a site for allotments. **Clerk is to email back stating that land has not been found but their details will be kept on file should a suitable site become available in the future.**

10 Finances (73)

Current Financial Statement – Lloyds Current Account

Expenses			
Ref.	Payee/From	Detail	Total
DD	Eon	Street Lights 1 st Dec to 31 st Jan	£201.10
	Andy Muskett	Q4 Street Light maintenance	£113.56
	A Baldwin	Clerks Wages Feb 10	£414.86
	D C Locke	Fixing Dog waste box on pole	£30.00
Grand Total			£759.52

Bank Balances as at 8th March 2010

Lloyds Current Account (after above payments)	£1,197.33	
Lloyds Flexible Savings	£6,365.00	
NS & I Investment Account	£11,100.00	

The first half of the precept payment is due into the Council's account on 1st April 2010.

Ward Fund

It was decided that the Council would request a new notice board from the Ward Fund. A previous 1 door board had been purchased and it was felt that this was not large enough. The clerk has been asked to seek a quote from Greenbarnes for a double bay 6 x A4 landscape man made timber Noticeboard to match the existing one.

Cllr Moore stated that he had received a request from the Cricket Club asking for steelwork for a batting cage from the Ward Fund. It was resolved that the Clerk pass this request to Cllr Ellis and write to the Cricket Club informing them of this.

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