

COPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council

Held on Monday 28 November 2011
in the Village Hall at 7:30pm

PRESENT:

Mr P Moore	Chairman
Mr S Smith	Vice Chairman
Mr M Vacher	Councillor
Mr D Hughes	Councillor
Mr D Whitehead	Councillor
Mr T Fisher	Councillor
Mrs C Ellis	Borough Councillor
Mrs J Pope	Clerk

APOLOGIES: Lin Davis & Stephen Moon

ABSENT: None

93/11 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were two members of the public present, Marjorie Bradbury, who did not wish to raise any questions and Nick Hawker, who attended the meeting in connection with the Planning Application for 34B Northhill Road. Mr Hawker is one of five owners of the property in question. A previous application was considered and supported by Parish Council in 2006 and subsequently refused by Bedford Borough Council and following an appeal the appeal was dismissed. Several plans have since been submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Mr Hawker asked that Parish Council consider the amended plans.

**Action/
Power**

Note

94/11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Lin Davis and Stephen Moon.

Note

95/11 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The meeting acknowledged that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2011 were a correct record.

Note

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2011 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

Chairman

Prop: Pete Moore, Sec: David Hughes, All in favour

96/11 **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

As previously declared and as recorded in the minutes.

Note

(a) Borough Councillors Report

Carol Ellis gave the following report:

The Olympics are coming to Bedford

Bedford has been chosen as an official Olympic 'Live Site' venue that will see the Council receive a grant of up to £15,000 from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For a week during the Games, Bedford Athletic Stadium will have a big screen that will televise events live. In addition, there will be 'taster sessions' from the Town's local sports clubs that will allow people to try new sports. Refreshments will be served.

The Olympic Torch will also make its way through Bedford on 8 July 2012.

Extra School Funding

The Government has provided the Borough Council with a sum of £766,690 to provide extra places for pupils in the Borough's schools. The Council will be considering how to use this money in the coming months.

Gypsy and Traveller Sites

The proposed site at Meadow Lane, off the A421 was rejected as assessments found that there were issues relating to odour and noise. As a result the Council had to issue a 'call for sites' which ended today, 28 November 2011. Pete Moore questioned Carol as to whether anybody had looked into the acoustics (noise levels) at the site. Carol stated that a petition had been submitted to Bedford Borough Council via a Councillor from Bletsoe as there appeared to be nothing wrong with the acoustics. Information had been received that a proposal had been submitted earlier today offering land at the landfill site on A603 for use by travelling show people. This should be noted that this has only been offered as a possible site, nothing more at present.

Christmas Parking

The Council has decided to extend the opening times of Lurke Street car park in Bedford during the Christmas period until 2am, beginning 1 December 2011 until 7 January 2012. It is hoped this will boost the town's night time economy by providing additional parking for shoppers and visitors to the town centres bars and restaurants

Festive Season

As the festive season approaches, we could experience freezing temperatures. Please be aware of senior residents who may need assistance during this time.

Parish Councillors highlighted the following issues to Carol Ellis

Tony Fisher had previously met with Alistair Rundell, a representative from Amey to discuss the tidying of the area around the bus shelter on the A603. No action has been done as yet. Carol said that she would follow this up.

Councillor
Ellis

David Whitehead brought to Parish Council's attention that the traffic islands in the centre of the road opposite the Golf Course do not light up making this area very dangerous. Tony Fisher gave information that the existing traffic islands were replaced by reflective islands. Carole Ellis said she would look into this.

Councillor
Ellis

Lastly Carol Ellis reported that she still had some Ward Funding monies, if there was anything that Parish Council would like help funding. The possibility of funding the new notice board had previously been discussed. Carol asked the Clerk to forward the notice board information on to herself for possible reimbursement of funds.

Clerk

(b) Neighbourhood Watch

Mike Vacher reported that the Parish Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch had not been appointed yet. 60% of the Village is covered by neighbourhood watch co-ordinators who receive information regarding crimes in the area, but due to data protection, publication of co-ordinators names is not permitted. It was suggested that perhaps co-ordinators could notify their neighbours as to their whereabouts. It was highlighted that residents could sign up to Ringmaster which gives regular updates on crime in the area and that the Ringmaster link could be published in the Parish News. Mike Vacher would look into this.

MV

98/11 UPDATE ON CURRENT ISSUES

(a) Village Trust Grant

Mike Vacher declared an interest.

Payment had been received from Bedford Borough Council for flooring work carried out by Serino Woods and Floors. Parish Council were now in a position to pay Serino Woods and Floors.

Clerk

A letter of complaint was received from Barry Wells who was chasing payment of two invoices for work carried out to the kitchen and toilets at the Village Hall. Enclosed were the two said invoices. The Clerk spoke to Mr Wells and explained that she would forward the invoices to Bedford Borough Council requesting payment. All work to the Village Hall was being paid for using Grant Funding from Bedford Borough Council. Unfortunately this would take approximately 3 weeks. Payment had now been received from Bedford Borough Council, and Parish Council were now in a position to pay Mr Wells. .

Note

(b) Diamond Jubilee

A meeting took place on 7 November 2011, with representatives from Parish Council and members from various organisations/groups within the Village. The purpose of the meeting was to find out if any plans had been made to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee and find out whether the representatives would like to join together in celebration.

Several ideas were put forward and it was agreed that each representative would go back to their respective organisations/groups to seek their views and ideas. Pete Moore also asked for suggestions for fundraising. Unfortunately Lynda Klimas was missed from the list of contacts, however, Lynda would represent the Church at the next meeting which takes place on **Monday 5 December 2011** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Note

(c) Allocations & Designations

Pete Moore had responded to the Allocations & Designations Consultation. Firstly the question of validity was addressed due to the omission of Gypsy and Traveller sites from the Plan. Secondly, the question of need for a development the size of the Bedford River Valley Park which would lead to increased traffic on the already busy A603.

Note

99/11 **PLANNING**

(a) **Planning Applications To Be Considered**

6 Grange Lane 11/02349/EXT

08/00768/FUL – One and two storey rear extensions linking house to outbuilding. Application for extension of time for implementation.

Agreed: No objection

Prop: Pete Moore, Sec: Tony Fisher, All in favour

34B Northhill Road 11/02062/FUL

Erection of detached dwelling.

Agreed: No objection

Prop: Pete Moore, Sec: Tony Fisher, All in favour

35 Grange Lane 11/02473/FUL

Two storey rear extension, side/front extension and loft conversion.

Agreed: No objection

Prop: Pete Moore, Sec: David Hughes, All in favour

(b) **Update on Decisions from recent Planning Applications**

Bedford Borough Council Granted

None.

100/11 **FINANCE**

(a) **Schedule of Receipts and Payments**

Parish Council received a copy of receipts and payments made.

Receipts	Detail	Total
BBC	Village Trust Grant	2,100.00
Bewick Homes	Hedge Cutting High Street 4/10/11	90.00
BBC	Village Trust Grant	14,842.43
Grand Total		17,032.43

Payments	Detail	Total
Serino Woods & Floors	Village Trust Grant Works	£2,100.00
Eon	Street Lighting Electricity October	£120.85
BBC Payroll	Clerk's Salary November 2011	£441.91
M Thomas	Noticeboard Pin Board	£42.00

J Pope	Expenses October/November (including Oct-Dec Home Working Allowance)	£132.00
B Wells Plumbing & Heating Ltd	Village Trust Grant Works	£14,842.43
Grand Total		£17,679.19

RESOLVED

That the schedule of receipts and payments made as above, as circulated, be approved.

Chairman

Prop: Pete Moore , Sec: Mike Vacher , All in favour

(b) Current Bank Balances/Bank Reconciliation

Bank Reconciliation	
Spreadsheet Balance	£15,642.37
Bank Balance	£18,527.13
Unreconciled receipts	£14,842.43
Unreconciled payments	£17,727.19
Balance	£15,642.37

Reserves	
Lloyds Flexible Savings	£6,375.99
NS & I Investment Account	£11,155.08

101/11 AMENITY & HIGHWAYS

(a) Hedge Cutting leading to Dog Field

No update. Clerk to chase.

Clerk

(b) Dog Fouling Signage

David Hughes had viewed the current dog fouling signage, attached to various lamp columns. The signs are fixed at approximately 7ft high, and in need of replacing. David had looked into the cost of self adhesive Vinyl 'clean it up' signage which is available from UK Safety Store.com. It was suggested we should look into purchasing 36 self adhesive Vinyl signs at a cost of £1.46 + VAT. Carol Ellis reported that Bedford Borough Council Enforcement Team would patrol problem areas upon request, if the specific area and times of fouling were reported to them.

RESOLVED

To go ahead with the purchase of 36 x 'clean it up' signs from UK Safety Store.com.

Clerk

Prop: Pete Moore, Sec: Mike Vacher, All in favour

(c) Church Wall

Pete Moore had arranged a meeting for Tuesday 30 November 2011, with George Brassington and other representatives from Bedford Borough Council Tree Department to give advice on various trees including a large Lime tree in the Church yard, adjacent to the Church Wall which needs attention. Pete would report back to next meeting.

PM

(d) Notice Boards

David Whitehead had commented on the untidiness of the new notice board situated in Northill Road and highlighted that some of the items displayed were out of date. The Clerk advised that this was due to the fact that there was a problem with the door opening. It was agreed that David would become a keyholder and monitor notice board information in the future.

DW

102/11 **NEW MATTERS FROM COUNCILLORS FOR DISCUSSION AT THE NEXT MEETING**

None.

103/11 **CORRESPONDENCE (For Information Appendix A)**

- a) Bedford Bugle November 2011
- b) Application for funding from Village Trust

The Clerk had received a verbal request from the Village Trust for a donation towards maintenance of the playing field which they have received in the past on an annual basis, either as a one off payment or two payments a year. The Clerk contacted Catherine Bayliss, Treasurer of the Village Trust and advised her that the Village Trust may ask for a donation, but that this had to be in writing and any requests for subsidies or donations should be considered by Parish Council at its meeting. The Clerk advised Parish Council that it would be good practice to have a policy in place for the future.

RESOLVED

- a) To support the Village Trust with a £750 donation in accordance with the agreed budget
- b) Clerk to prepare a draft policy for approval at the next Parish Council Meeting

Clerk

Prop: Pete Moore, Sec: Tony Fisher, Abstain: Mike Vacher, All in favour

c) Letter from Jon Boswell BRCC

BRCC had contacted Parish Council approximately 18 months ago concerning the possibility of carrying out a Housing Needs Survey for Cople. This was never taken forward.

BRCC would like Parish Council to consider carrying out a Housing Needs Survey at some point in 2012.

Tony Fisher responded by stating that Parish Council had never been approached by any Cople residents indicating a need for affordable housing in the past.

RESOLVED

Clerk to notify BRCC that when consideration was given to carry out a Housing Needs Survey in the past. No suitable land was available and the situation remains the same.

Clerk

Prop: Pete Moore, Sec: Tony Fisher, All in favour

104/11 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 9 January 2012 at 7.30pm.

Note

Meeting Closed: 9.10pm

MINUTES AGREED: _____ **DATE:** _____

Correspondence:

Date	Type	From	Brief Details:	Action
17.10.11	email	Gareth Draper	List of New Planning Applications Received Week Ending 14 October 2011	JP
20.10.11	email	Margaret Clarke BBC	Cancellation of Rural Affairs Meeting - 1 November 2011	
20.10.11	email	Jo Tester BBC	Action note of the Parish & Town Council Network Meeting held 6 October 2011	Emailed PC
24.10.11	email	Gareth Draper	List of New Planning Applications Received Week Ending 21 October 2011	JP
24.10.11	email	Margaret Clarke BBC	Standards Committee Agenda - Monday 31 October 2011	Emailed PC
31.10.11	email	Gareth Draper	List of New Planning Applications Received Week Ending 28 October 2011	JP
2.11.11	email	Ann Collet-White CPRE Bedfordshire	Information re Planning Skills Workshop - 25 November 2011	Emailed DH/SS
7.11.11	letter	BATPC	Bedfordshire Bugle - November 2011	PC
7.11.11	email	Margaret Clarke BBC	Minutes of the Standards Committee - 31 October 2011	Emailed PC
8.11.11	email	Gareth Draper	List of New Planning Applications Received Week Ending 4 November 2011	JP
8.11.11	letter	Barry Wells	Complaint Re: Works carried out to Village Hall	JP & emailed PC
09.11.11	email	Catherine Bayliss	Village Trust Playing Field Grant	PC Mtg
09.11.11	letter	Trevor Roff BBC	Parish Precepts 2012/2013	JP
14.11.11	email	Gareth Draper	List of New Planning Applications Received Week Ending 11 November 2011	JP
16.11.11	email	Jo Tester BBC	Proposed change in Feed-In Tarrif legislation	emailed PC
16.11.11	email	Sonia Galaher BBC	Email acknowledging receipt of the Allocations & Designation Plan response from Pete Moore	emailed PC
21.11.11	email	Jon Boswell BRCC	Invitation to carry out a Housing needs Survey in 2012	PC Mtg