



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS HELD ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30PM
AT THE PAVILION, FRIENDLESS LANE**

Number: 10/2022

Present: Cllrs Tim Parsons, Billy Pither, Natalie Crowie

Also present: Caroline Freer – Clerk; County Cllr Terry Douris

- 1. To receive and approve apologies;** Cllr Williams (funeral), Timmis (personal commitments) Poultney (work); Kent; Wild; Humphreys (unwell), Boothman (work)
- 2. To receive declarations of interest on agenda items:** None
- 3. To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 9th January 2023 are a correct record.**

Proposed by: Cllr Parsons

Seconded by: Cllr Crowie

It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th January 2023 having previously been circulated as a true and accurate record of the proceedings duly signed by the Chairman. All agreed

- 4. Public and press participation (15 minutes maximum)** Various people re Trowley Hill Rd, Friendless Lane, Football, Coronation party etc
- 5. County Cllr Terry Douris to update the meeting:** White Hill has been surfaced, the road sweeper cut up the verge and the attempts to fix it have been poorly executed. Requires top soil and seeding. Action: Contact HCC and road sweeping sub-contractors - email/call and insist they repair it. The hedge in Friendless Lane will be cut around the 20th Feb – delayed due to illness.

HGVs are choosing to drive down Friendless Lane/Pietley Rd to Trowley Bottom since the installation of the “Unsuitable for HGV signs” on Trowley Hill Rd. Ideally these signs need to be placed on the A5183 to prevent all large vehicles choosing to use the village as a cut through. Also these signs can be ignored as they are not enforceable, so the “7.5 tonnes” limit signs are preferable as lorry drivers do take notice of them as they are enforceable. On A5183 there will be a 7.5 tonnes weight limit for River Hill

Action: Tim to ask Andrew Freeman of Highways to initiate the installation of the 7.5 tonnes limit and to formally request that Cllr Douris sets this process in motion. The owners of the truck stop have contacted Tim Parsons to arrange a discussion re the plans.

Clare Scott of Trowley Bottom asked who can apply for the 7.5 tonne limit. Cllr Douris is prepared to would start the procedure, using funds from his locality budget to undertake a consideration of a 7.5 tonne limit. The time scale is onerous – up to 2 years due to number of relevant parties who have to be consulted. Relevant parties include residents, businesses, statutory services, police; all of which may throw up variations/objections as it is a traffic order. Tim Parsons said that it was unacceptable that it would take that long and that the PC would contribute to costs.

Allotments: Cllr Douris agreed to fund additional hosepipes on the site.

Tim Parsons was keen to point out that the complaints and frustrations made to Terry Douris were not directed at him, but at the organisation behind him – ie Highways. The PC is hugely grateful for the time and effort Terry dedicates to Flamstead related matters.

6. Planning:

i) To consider new Applications:

1	23/00149/FHA Everglades Old Watling Street	Side extension of existing office:	The PC objects to this application as it represents overdevelopment of the driveway area in front of the house and too much increase in the mass of the built area of this property.
2	22/03396/LDP 7 Trowley Heights	Replacement of an existing conservatory	No objection
3	23/00070/FUL Wood End Farm Grain Stores Wood End Lane	Change of use of an agricultural building to low-key storage (Use Class B8) including installation of personnel door	The Parish Council objects to this application due to uncertainty about its use and the potential of increase in noise disturbance, vehicle movements and other unknown factors. Increase in large vehicle movements would have a detrimental effect of traffic through Flamstead which is already suffering from congestion and damage to properties and private cars. There needs to be much clearer information as to the nature of the use of this building and it would be impossible to make any guarantees into the future that noise disturbance and increased vehicle movements would not be a detrimental factor. It is worth noting the rural nature of this area and the considerable use of the lane by horse riders and pedestrians.
4	23/00161/AGD: 1 Little Woodend Cottages Little Woodend	Construction of maintenance equipment store	Refused

ii) Planning applications received in last 6 days

1	23/00354/FHA Chads Den Old Watling St	Removal of Garage and Store. Extension to Rear to Include reconstruction of Roof at Slightly Higher Pitch and Increasing height	The PC would refer to the planning department to decide on best practice with this application
2	23/00304/FHA 4 Cotton Spring View Flamstead	Construction of Decking not higher than 300mm in rear garden and open pergola	No objection

3	23/00364/FUL The Maple Roe End Lane	Construction of an agricultural storage barn (Amended scheme to 22/01997/FUL)	The PC objects on the basis that it is too similar to the previous application and it is not clear what changes have been made. This is a very industrial looking building in an AONB/Green Belt and would not be in keeping with the rural area.
---	-------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

iii) Planning Decisions taken by DBC

1	Chad's Den Refused	The proposed roof extensions, replacement side extension and rear extensions, by reason of their cumulative size, height, scale and bulk together with the existing annexe would represent a disproportionate addition to the original building and would therefore constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt. The extensions proposed result in significant additional mass and bulk that would be sited in close proximity to and directly in front of four habitable windows of the adjacent dwelling (dormer and ground floor windows)
2	Flintstone Cottage Granted	Work to trees

- 7 Presentation by Nick Hulin on EV charging points. Agree to sign letter of commitment to facilitate installation. However Nick was a no show. Clerk to enquire
- 8 Affordable Housing Survey – all in hand to go live on 1 April and will last to 12 May – information will be in the April magazine and on Grapevine/facebook.
- 9 Trowley Hill Road – more Police call outs: Following pressure from Claire Scott, UK Power networks have finally agreed to put some of the electricity cables underground between house nos 122- 126 due to the low hanging cables.
- 10 Village hall ramp update: There was no fee for planning permission for the ramp – so the cost will be refunded. More detailed plans were submitted to the planning department for consideration. Jane Lutman asked if the PC would enter into a legal agreement for the maintenance of the ramp/barriers: It was agreed that the PC would cover future maintenance costs. ACE Builders will quote for the works to install the ramp; plus 2 further quotes are needed.
- 11 Coronation event – Friends of Flamstead School: Christy Lee and Nick: the FOFS hopes to kick start a fund raising process to help the school provide necessary resources. It is hoped that the village will engage positively in helping with their fund raising. The school's finances are in a poor state due to a series of unfortunate issues which lead to an overspend on wages; the admission numbers are also down so the school has not received its full budget (this appears to be a demographic blip in birth rates). FOFS hope to host a variety of events as part of their marketing campaign to showcase the desirability of the school starting with a day of celebration for the Coronation on Sunday 7th May on the recreation ground. There will be a Coronation (football) Cup with teams playing in red, white and blue; plus a bbq, bar, café, bouncy castle, music. Majestic Trees has kindly offered to lend a truck for a stage. Action: Christy to submit budget/proposal

so the Annual Event budget item can be monitored. Cllr Terry Douris gave advice as to how the school can seek help from HCC (with regards to funding and the management of facilities). Pupil numbers are going down – and this is affecting future school admission levels. Cllr Douris kindly offered to provide £300 (towards the Coronation event) so long as the PC matches it. The PC agreed to this.

- 12 Grant ideas for activities at the pavilion eg repair shed, art and craft groups - defer
- 13 Working Groups: Pavilion costs for alterations, improvements to recreation ground – all finished, Defibrillator for rec – this needs to be installed; climate change, discuss and agree a purchase of e device for card payments. Agreed to purchase second hand phone to use for square reader.
- 14 Luton Airport – Consultation of expanding the airport to 36 million passengers per year: Tim Parsons would like someone to take over the committee position for the Consultation - defer to March meeting.
- 15 Warden:
- 16 Finance: To consider receipts and payments reports from 9 January 2023 as circulated - To authorise payments as itemised; to consider expenditure against budget report and to sign off bank reconciliations and bank statements to month end @ 31 Jan 2023. To agree to payments by BACS as per report presented.
Authorise increased cost to garage due to extra work to ensure roof is watertight – new tiles and flashing, installation of improved drainage: all agreed
- 17 Correspondence
- 18 Agreed Action/By Whom

	Actions from Feb Meeting	Results
CF	Friendless Lane verge to be fixed	Repaired by neighbour
	Defib to be installed at garage	
CF	Ascertain EV charge points situation	
C Lee	Events budget proposals	
TD	To initiate plans for a 20 mph zone in village	
TP	Initiate weight limit restrictions - Highways	
	Actions from Jan Meeting	
TP	Speak to Highways re narrowing road on High St	
TP	Clarify how village is closed off for access when M1 is shut	
NW	Climate change projects for children	c/f
JT	Inform DBC re Linnins Pond path blockage	
	Actions from Nov Meeting	
TD	Investigate Valley Lane kerbs	Under investigation
JT	Request updates on Enforcement Orders for: Shipping container in field on Friendless Lane – notice could be given Gates/barn – not enforced inappropriate gate for a wood yard.	On going



	<p>Stable at Wood End Farm – refused and has not been removed</p> <p>Dog walking paddock at Woodend Cottages – planning app required</p> <p>Newlands Wood</p> <p>Chalkdell Cottages – container in field and other earth works</p> <p>Hills and Coles – no landscaping has been done it seems</p>	

Cllr Tim Parsons
Chairman
February 13th 2023