



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AS HELD ON MONDAY
10th JULY 2023 AT 7.30PM AT THE PAVILION, FRIENDLESS LANE**

Number: 4 /2023

Present: Cllrs Tim Parsons, Dave Humphreys, Jane Timmis, Nancy Wild, Billy Pither, John Williams, Natalie Crowie, Jonathan Humbert

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

- 1. To receive and approve apologies;** Cllr Abel Smith (away), Cllr Boothman (work)
- 2. To receive declarations of interest on agenda items:** None
- 3. To resolve that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of June 19th 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 June 19th 2023 having previously been circulated as a true and accurate record of the proceedings be duly signed by the Chairman. All agreed

- 4. Public and press participation (15 minutes maximum):**
- 5. County Cllr Terry Douris to update the meeting:**

Update from Chairman re Chequers Hill egress plans: Truck stop owners have been in touch, and they are forging ahead with the plans for the development – Andrew Freeman from HCC is also in the loop.

It was asked if the Police could give data on how many times the M1 is closed. A Green line bus was seen driving through Flamstead and managed to damage a van. What is the system for the diversions? Commercial sat navs are relying on Road Traffic Orders (RTO) and data which is 39 year old as HGVs are directed through the village. Personal phone navigation used by car drivers does the same.

Terry is going to carry out a feasibility and consultation study for a 7.5 tonne weight limit in the 2024-25 budget. This would, subject to the outcome be added to the RTO of 1984.

Terry suggested a speed and volume count to review the possibility of a 20 mph: 3 sites: Hollybush Lane, Chequers Hill and Trowley Hill Rd. There is capacity for one more road to be included in the survey. The PC could fund a study for a 20 mph limit at a cost of £5,000. This money could be saved by using a device from Drive Safe Herts (via the Police and Crime Commissioner's department in Hertford), with volunteers from the village. On River Hill – there is now a 7.5 tonne weight limit, but we are still waiting for the relevant signs which are to go on the A5183 to stop lorries turning into River Hill in the first place. The amount of time it takes to get a simple sign installed is extraordinary. This sign was being chased a year ago – and it still has not materialised.

Cllr Humphreys to organise and train up this project. 10 volunteers are needed in total to take turns on each location. It is necessary to write the registration, speed and car type of each vehicle. This data is then collated and assessed for possibility of a reduced speed limit through the village.

Action: Grapevine note from Cllr Humphreys and Wild. Dave Humphreys to set up a meeting to explain process. Nancy to organise the volunteers

Claire Scott suggested that we have a speed test location on Hollybush Lane into the village, Singlets Lane along the straight part, then past the school.

6. Planning:

i) To consider new Applications:

1	23/01539/FUL Cheverells House	Conversion of under-utilised accommodation within an existing garage block to provide a single residential dwelling (Use Class C3).	Whilst the Parish Council is not objecting to the plans, there is concern about the impact on the parking availability which appears to have no further capacity for any extra vehicles. Further congestion may impact the enjoyment of the current residents. There was also a question as to whether there would be sufficient natural light entering the proposed dwelling.
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ii) Planning applications received in last 6 days

1		None		
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iii) Planning Decisions taken by DBC

1	Everglades -	Refused		
2	Kings View	Granted		
3	15 High St	Application withdrawn		

- 7 Working Group Reports: **Pavilion:** damage to changing rooms by cricket away team; The culprit has owned up and will be paying for the repairs.
Flamstead Cricket Club held a party at the pavilion with loud music until 10 pm (no licence) which affected the neighbours. A fence panel was taken out behind the pavilion and when asked politely the music was not turned down. The club secretary did not respond with an explanation before the meeting so Tim and the Clerk to draft letter to discuss this abuse of the hospitality. The contract is for recreational cricket, not for parties with loud music.
Fencing for post storage: There is now a change of plan as we will concentrate on making the garden area at the back for children to use at parties. Turf work waiting for a quote;
Playground repair; in hand; Playground maintenance programme; Action: Cllr Humphreys has kindly taken on the role of monitoring the playground maintenance programme. Clerk to send the inspection report.
Overspill car park destruction of barrier: The barrier has been destroyed by a large HGV trying to turn around. The movements were caught on CCTV so the Clerk will track the owners down to claim compensation.
Luton Airport; The Secretary of State will be making a judgement on whether the expansion plans can go ahead – because it is such a massive infrastructure project and due to the conflict of interest with Luton Borough Council owning the airport and agreeing the planning applications. The latest application is for a second terminal which involve a toxic landfill site, destruction of parkland/wildlife spaces and an increase of passenger numbers from 19 million to 32 million per year. Decision time late summer 2024
- 8 Affordable Housing Survey interim report: the initial interim report brief was read out. Full report to come in October.
- 9 Methodist Church window contribution: Andrew Lambourne is keen to know the outcome of this as he is helping the team at the church to raise some money. The Clerk checked with the CIL department at DBC and it is permissible to use CIL money for the windows as it is an infrastructure project.
Proposed by Cllr Williams, seconded by Cllr Timmis to donate £5,000 from CIL money towards the window funds. Action: Clerk to write to Andrew Lambourne to confirm agreement.
- 10 On Line Watch Link – for more speedy Police reports which affect the local area you are urged to sign up to the: www.owl.co.uk
- 11 Warden – on going

- 12 Finance: To consider receipts and payments reports from 20 June to 10 July 23 as circulated - To authorise payments by BACS as itemised; to consider expenditure against budget report, to sign off invoices against payment report and to sign off bank reconciliations and bank statements to month end @ 30 June 23. To agree to payments by BACS as per report presented.
- 13 Correspondence: Nancy Wild commented on the state of the gates at God's Acre: This is a PCC matter
Tennis court path lights are coming on during the night
Julian Taunton's memorial for the bench – all went very well and the family were very pleased with the lovely bench.
- 14 Agreed Action/By Whom

	Actions from July meeting	Results
DH	GV note for Drive Safe campaign	
DH	Start on playground maintenance prog	
NW	Get volunteers for Drive Safe	
	Action from June meeting	
CF	New bin from DBC for next to History Board	On order
CF	Quote for returfing behind pavilion and door blinds	Awaiting quote for turf. Blinds on order
CF	Spec new job Parish Assistant	
CF	VGS to spray gutters	
NC	To register with HAPTC	Done
NC	Bin location	
	Actions from Jan Meeting	
JT	Inform DBC re Linnins Pond path blockage	
	Planning Enforcement matters	
JT	Request updates on Enforcement Orders for: Shipping container in field on Abilea Meadows, Friendless Lane Barn on Cotton Spring Gates/barn – not enforced inappropriate gate for a wood yard. Stable at Wood End Farm – refused and has not been removed Newlands Wood – have been spoken to as they are selling parcels of woods for camping, encouraging camp fires – dangerous in woods etc. As they sell more plots they are being visited – drive in and park on road which is hazardous Chalkdell Cottages – container in field and other earth works	On-going Appeal has been lodged Semi hard core road to be challenged Planning Enforcement – on it

Cllr Tim Parsons
Chairman – 10 July 2023