

## Minutes of the meeting of Fairfield Parish Council held in Fairfield Community Hall on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 at 7:30 pm

**Councillors present:** C Bidwell (Chairman), B E Dack, P Daffarn, S L Jones and T Milliken

**Officer present:** Katrina Henshaw (Parish Clerk)

**Also present for all or part of the meeting:** Ward Member Councillor S Dixon and nine members of the public.

### 38 Apologies for Absence

38.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Foster (family commitments), N P Hanks (work commitments) and Ward Member Councillor B Saunders.

### 39 Disclosures of Interest and Dispensation requests

39.1 No disclosures of interest and no requests for dispensation were received.

### 40 Council Minutes

40.1 Minutes of the annual meeting held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 had been circulated to all Councillors and it was

#### **RESOLVED**

**That these minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman.**

### 41 Public Participation Session

41.1 No member of the Public requested to speak.

### 42 Central Bedfordshire Council Ward Members Report

42.1 Councillor Brian Saunders has been elected as Vice Chairman of CBC.

42.2 After the election on 8<sup>th</sup> June, Councillor Dixon will ask the elected MP to chase up Royal Mail for the postal address consultation.

42.3 Local Plan – Under regulation 19, the Local Plan will be sent to all Town and Parish Councils for consultation on 12<sup>th</sup> June. CBC will be holding workshops during the consultation period.

42.4 Street Lights – Some lights have been repaired but it has been identified that some CBC lights (with CBC numbers) do not appear on the CBC system so CBC is investigating this further. Councillor Dixon requested that FPC continue to send him updates on the faulty street lights.

42.5 Broken bollards on Hitchin Road – Councillor Dixon has reported these to CBC. Two have been replaced and two will be replaced shortly.

42.6 Damage to Eliot Way Roundabouts – Councillor Dixon has reported this to CBC.

42.7 Parking on pavements – CBC confirmed this is a police issue. However, the police will only take action if there is an obstruction. It was agreed that FPC will write to residents who continually park dangerously and politely ask them to park more considerately as FPC will report all future dangerous parking to the police.

42.8 CCTV – Councillor Dixon to arrange for a consultant to visit Fairfield and offer free advice.  
**Action: SD**

42.9 Hall completion certificates – CBC has a plan of action which will be discussed with FHMC.

42.10 Letchworth Sewerage Works – The smell has been particularly bad again recently and CBC has been speaking to Anglian Water. Neil Chamberlain, Letchworth Area Water Recycling Manager has advised that they are no longer importing sludge. CBC is satisfied that the proposed actions are correct but is still waiting for accurate timescales as do not believe it will take until November to complete the actions. FPC is still waiting for answers to questions sent to Anglian Water on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

### 43 Gritting

43.1 Following a discussion it was

#### **Resolved**

**That FPC sign the Service Level Agreement between CBC and FPC for the provision of gritting adopted roads and in accordance with Standing Orders it was duly signed by two Councillors and the Proper Officer witnessed their signatures.**

43.2 As there are now several adopted roads, it was agreed that FPC and FPRA will meet and agree how future payment of gritting by MBS is carried out. **Action: BD**

### 44 Christmas Lights

44.1 Councillor Daffarn advised the following costs:-

- £1,500 to add sockets to 4 lampposts in Dickens Boulevard
- 1 Year hire package (12 posts) £3,420 pa (£10,260 over 3 years)
- 3 year hire package (12 posts) £2,160 pa (£6,480 over 3 years)
- To buy - £4,200 one off cost. Annual running costs £1,500. (£8,700 over 3 years but this reduces every year).

Following a discussion, it was agreed

- To only consider lighting the 8 lampposts with sockets previously installed.
- To light the tree in the urban park with battery operated lights purchased last year.
- To ask the school if the children wish to decorate the tree on the Dickens Boulevard roundabout.
- To investigate lights for the tree on the Dickens Boulevard roundabout.

Councillor Daffarn to obtain further quotations for discussion at July meeting. **Action: PD**

### 45 Transfer of land from Hotbed Investments

45.1 No updates.

### 46 Bedfordshire Police Group Meeting

46.1 Councillor Dack attended the meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May which proved extremely worthwhile and interesting and was very well attended. It was a forum to talk and discuss ways in which we as a community can work with and help the over-stretched and understaffed police offer a more efficient service. These meetings are to be held quarterly, with the next one in August.

Reference was made to the area meeting which Ward Councillor Dixon attended on FPC's behalf and also the feedback from the survey monkey responses put out on Beds Alert. These responses showed that the overall concern in Bedfordshire was speeding with anti-social behaviour ranking high in Fairfield area but not over all in Bedfordshire.

This quarter the emphasis will be on speeding and there was a presentation on Speedwatch. The next training session for volunteers is in July, so FPC need to try and get approximately six people registered for that session. An individual vehicle is allowed three warning letters, however, the third will be hand delivered by a police officer who will discuss with the registered keeper the situation. As someone pointed out, the vehicle could be driven by spouse or child and the registered keeper be unaware. It was explained that the police database tracks all motorist caught regardless of a specific area. Thus, they can tie in vehicles that are caught in various parts of the county.

Neighbourhood Watch and Streetwatch also got a mention.

The new sergeant, PS Ruth Connelly introduced herself and admitted that it would take time to get to know the area because of its sprawling nature of 140 square miles.

Communication was discussed with one or two people pointing out that incidents reported received no response – not even an acknowledgement. This is an area they need to improve on. But they recommended comments on their Facebook account and twitter accounts as well as using the 101 or 999 system.

At the end of the meeting everyone was invited to talk to the team on a one to one basis. Councillor Dack spoke to the person in charge of Beds Alert, Facebook and Twitter who agreed there was a problem with identifying Fairfield addresses and said she had referred to their national team but nothing easy could be done. Councillor Dack informed her about the proposed change of addresses and she is going back to national level to see if they draw their addresses from the central Royal Mail database, in which case the situation will solve itself in time. She has promised to email FPC with the response. In the meantime, Councillor Dack suggested she flagged the problem up on her system, and if there was a major incident then she asked one of the local neighbourhood team whether it was in Fairfield or Stotfold.

Councillor Dack then spoke with PCSO Anne Jeeves and PS Ruth Connelly about pavement parking, anti-social behaviour and Tesco. Both were more than relieved to hear about the idea of putting railings up but PS Connelly asked to talk to Tesco about agreeing to let the police see their CCTV footage. Evidently, the camera is now pointing in the right direction but Tesco policy is not to share it with the police. They were delighted to hear of FPC's proposals for CCTV.

The police advised that pavement parking was the responsibility of CBC. They said they could only act under s42 of the Road Traffic Act if an individual complained.

## **47 Operation Beneke**

47.1 Councillor Dack reported that a steady stream of people attended the Police shindig outside Tesco on Wednesday 24th May. The main issue raised was parking, in particular in Dickens Boulevard and the police referred those people to Councillor Dack so he could explain what FPC planned and also what FPC was being hampered from doing because of land ownership.

Anti-social behaviour, drug taking around Bannatyne's Gym and their overspill car park, and the dumping of vehicles were also discussed.

Leaflets were put through letterboxes in Dickens Boulevard and Kipling Crescent.

Amazingly, despite a strong police presence, several motorists turned up and parked their vehicles right on the corner by Tesco and went in to do their shopping. Two left their vehicles in a position that caused an obstruction. They all seemed amazed that a PCSO was waiting for them to talk to them about their selfish and inconsiderate behaviour. PC Sally Bonham explained that they could not issue tickets because of the lack of white lines and the width of the pavement meant that an obstruction could not be proved.

## **48 Parking and safety issues around the school**

48.1 No updates.

## **49 Speed Watch / Neighbourhood Watch / Street Watch**

49.1 Councillor Dixon advised he had met with Ken Smith, Clifton and identified some potential set up sights and are both happy to assist setting up a scheme in Fairfield. FPC to supply information to residents via the email newsletter and website and ask volunteers to contact the parish clerk. **Action: BD/KH**

## **50 Maintenance Contract 2017-2019**

50.1 The clerk has requested a quotation from MBS.

## **51 Fairfield Clean-up Day**

51.1 Councillor Daffarn advised that the Clean-up Day will be held on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The insurance company has been advised of this date. The church will be supplying drinks. FPC to send details in the email newsletter and include an article on the website. **Action: BD**

## **52 Fairfield Youth Club**

52.1 Councillor Daffarn met with the Youth Club and discussed the increasing numbers. Currently they have 150 children on the register with between 35 and 50 attending every Friday.

## **53 Fairfield School 5KM Run and 1km Family Fun Run**

53.1 The event was very well organised and it appears everyone had a good time.

## **54 Orchards**

54.1 Councillor Daffarn advised that more pruning is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> June.

## **55 S106 Public Arts Money**

55.1 CBC is liaising with BRCC and will advise FPC of proposals.

## **56 Annual Report**

56.1 The Annual Report is complete and will be available on FPC website by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

## **57 Neighbourhood Plan**

57.1 FPC is waiting to receive a report from the examiner.

## **58 Former Pig Testing Site, Hitchin Road**

58.1 CBC has advised:-

**Sunday working** – The relevant planning permission for the development (CB15/03182/FULL) does not have any restriction upon Sunday working.

CBC is currently investigating if there is any noise or dust pollution and will take action if required.

**State of Hitchin Road** – The Build Manager has been contacted and informed of the concerns about the condition of the public highway adjacent to the development site and the need to achieve improvements. On behalf of the developer he has provided CBC some photographic evidence of a clean and tidy carriageway. In response to a further complaint from a local resident received on Monday 15 May 2017 the Build Manager was immediately contacted and advised to review the procedures in place for checking the condition of all HGVs leaving the site given that there is not only a wheel wash facility on site but a road sweeper is available to travel along Hitchin Road as required. It is sincerely hoped that the Build Manager will ensure that any highway related issues are quickly resolved.

**Direction of traffic flow** – The recent increase in HGVs turning out in the Hitchin direction has been in association with a reduction in the size of the spoil stockpile kept on site. There is no restriction on the direction of entry/exit of construction traffic.

**Conduct of employees in the local area** – The Build Manager has been informed of the Parish Council concerns and has indicated that such bad behaviour would not be tolerated. Without the Build Manager having full details of the alleged incident and the vehicle details it would appear difficult for any type of disciplinary measures to be taken.

Councillor Dixon has asked FPC to call him with details of any specific problem so he can take action if required.

## 59 Planning Applications

### 59.1 CB/17/00002/FULL 4 Brunel Walk

Single storey rear extension.

FPC has no objections to the basic principle of the application other than conditions are that all materials are to match existing bricks and windows

### 59.2 CB/17/02007/FULL 6 Brunel Walk

Single storey rear extension

FPC has no objections to the basic principle of the application other than conditions are that all materials are to match existing bricks and windows

### 59.3 CB/17/02007/FULL 24 Heathcliff Avenue

Single storey rear extension

It was agreed to delegate authority to the clerk to respond to CBC by 6<sup>th</sup> June 2017 after consultation with Councillors Hanks, Jones and Milliken. **Action: KH/NH/SJ/TM**

### 59.4 CB/17/01870/FULL 6 Gladstone Drive

Single storey rear extension and 1st floor rear/side extension. Insertion of new roof window to existing loft room.

It was agreed to delegate authority to the clerk to respond to CBC by 7<sup>th</sup> June 2017 after consultation with Councillors Hanks, Jones and Milliken. **Action: KH/NH/SJ/TM**

### 59.5 CB/17/02172/FULL 7 Bronte Avenue

Single storey rear extension

It was agreed to delegate authority to the clerk to respond to CBC by 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 after consultation with Councillors Hanks, Jones and Milliken. **Action: KH/NH/SJ/TM**

### 59.6 CB/17/02224/FULL 50 Heathcliff Avenue

Single storey rear extension

It was agreed to delegate authority to the clerk to respond to CBC by 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 after consultation with Councillors Hanks, Jones and Milliken. **Action: KH/NH/SJ/TM**

## 60 Planning Decisions

### 60.1 CB/17/01443/FULL 1 Nickleby Way

To remove existing and erect new pvcu conservatory to the rear of the property.  
CBC granted full planning permission 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

- 60.2 **CB/17/01511/FULL 56 Bronte Avenue**  
 Single storey rear extension (as variation to previously approved application CB/11/03670/FULL).  
 CBC granted full planning permission 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017

**61 Finance**

61.1 Receipts

To whom	Description	Total
HMRC	VAT Refund 010217 to 310317	£1,005.48
<b>Total</b>		<b>£1,005.48</b>

It was

**RESOLVED**

**That receipts of £1,005.48 be noted.**

61.2 Payments

To whom	Description	Total
EE	Mobile phone	£46.09
Chris Bidwell	Microphone stand and printing	£45.43
Fairfield Scouts	Rent - Feb - May	£497.50
Community Heartbeat	Adult pads	£87.60
AuthSMTP	Renewal of email newsletter subscription	£60.00
MBS	Grass verges - May	£706.00
MBS	Dog bins - May	£38.40
MBS	Fleming Drive - May	£38.00
MBS	Grass outside Community Hall - May	£64.99
MBS	Salisbury Close - May	£32.50
<b>Total</b>		<b>£1,616.51</b>

It was

**RESOLVED**

**That payments of £1,616.51 be paid.**

**62 Date of next meeting**

- 62.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 7.30 pm

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm