

Date: Thursday 25th May 2017

Councillors:

C Bidwell (Chairman), B E Dack, P Daffarn, S Foster, N P Hanks, S L Jones and T Milliken.

You are hereby summoned to attend the following meeting:

Fairfield Parish Council

Date/ Time: Thursday 1st June 2017 at 7.30 pm.

Venue: Fairfield Community Hall, Kipling Crescent.

Members of the press and public are invited to attend.



Katrina Henshaw, Parish Clerk

Meeting Agenda

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 To receive any apologies for absence from Councillors.

2 Disclosures of Interest and Dispensation requests

2.1 To receive any declarations of interest from Councillors on matters contained in the agenda. If, at any time during the meeting, a Councillor feels they have an interest in an item being discussed they should declare it at that point.

2.2 To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.

2.3 To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.

3 Council Minutes

3.1 To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Parish Council annual meeting held on 11th May 2017.

4 Public Participation Session

4.1 15 minutes is allocated for public participation. Up to five members of the public will be given no more than three minutes each to speak, provided the correct notice has been given to the Parish Clerk prior to the meeting.

5 Central Bedfordshire Council Ward Members Report

- 5.1 To receive a report from a CBC Ward Members on matters pertaining to Fairfield.
- 5.2 To receive an update
 - Street lights
 - Damage to Eliot Way roundabouts
 - Parking on pavements
 - CCTV
 - Hall completion certificates
 - Letchworth Sewage Works
 - Sunday working by contractors and noise pollution issues

Decision items

6 Gritting

- 6.1 To resolve from FPC to sign the Service Level Agreement between CBC and FPC for the provision of gritting adopted roads.
- 6.2 To receive an update from Councillor Dack following a meeting between FPRA and MBS.

7 Christmas Lights

- 7.1 To receive an update from Councillor Daffarn and to agree budget.

Information items

8 Transfer of land from Hotbed Investments

- 8.1 To receive an update from Councillor Bidwell.

9 Bedfordshire Police Group Meeting

- 9.1 To receive a report from Councillor Dack. **(Appendix A)**

10 Operation Beneke

- 10.1 To receive a report from Councillor Dack. **(Appendix B)**

11 Parking and safety issues around the school

- 11.1 To receive an update from Councillors Bidwell, Foster and Hanks.

12 Speed Watch / Neighbourhood Watch / Street Watch

- 12.1 To receive an update from Ward Councillor Dixon and Councillor Foster.

13 Maintenance Contract

- 13.1 The clerk is requesting quotations.

14 Fairfield Clean-up Day

- 14.1 To receive an update from Councillors Daffarn and Milliken

15 Fairfield Youth Club

15.1 To receive an update from Councillor Daffarn

16 Fairfield School 5km Run and 1km Family Fun Run

16.1 To receive a report from Councillor Foster

17 Orchards

17.1 To receive an update from Councillor Daffarn on the summer prune.

18 S106 Public Arts money

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

19 Booklet highlighting the History of Middlemarch and surrounding area

19.1 To receive an update from Councillor Dack.

20 Annual Report

20.1 To be available on FPC website before 30th June 2017.

21 Neighbourhood Plan

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

21.2 Councillor Dixon to advise Referendum process and costs.

Planning

22 Former Pig Testing Site, Hitchin Road

22.1 CBC has advised:-

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

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.

23 Planning Applications

23.1 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

23.2 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

23.3 CB/17/02007/FULL 24 Heathcliff Avenue Single storey rear extension Comments required by 6th June 2017

23.4 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.

Comments required by 7th June 2017

23.5 CB/17/02172/FULL 7 Bronte Avenue Single storey rear extension Comments required by 14th June 2017

23.6 CB/17/02224/FULL 50 Heathcliff Avenue Single storey rear extension Comments required by 15th June 2017

23.7 Any urgent planning applications received between 25th May and 1st June.

24 Planning Decisions

24.1 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 3rd May 2017

24.2 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 23rd May 2017

Finance and Correspondence

25 Finance

25.1 To receive receipts and agree payments. **(Appendix C)**

26 Correspondence

26.1 Any urgent correspondence received between 25th May and 1st June.

27 Any other business

NB This is for exchange of information only. No decisions or actions can be agreed at this time.

28 Date of next meetings

28.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 6th July 2017 at 7.30 pm

Appendix A

Report by Councillor Dack on Policing Meeting May 15 County Police Headquarters

As agreed, I attended the meeting on 15th May which proved extremely worthwhile and interesting. It was also very well attended.

We have misunderstood the purpose of the meeting, which was not to complain about domestic affairs relating to our illustrious village. 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 Cllr Dixon attended on our behalf and also the feedback from the surveymonkey responses put out on Beds Alert.

These responses showed that the overall concern in Bedfordshire was speeding with anti-social behaviour ranking high in our area but, strangely, not over all in Bedfordshire.

So, this quarter the emphasis will be on speeding and we had a presentation on **Speedwatch**. The next training session for volunteers is in July, so we need to get our act together (Steve) and get half a dozen people registered and signed up 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 son or daughter or spouse 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 PS Gary Kidd (now retired) introduced herself and admitted that it would take time to get to know the area because of its sprawling nature of 140 square miles! She is Ps Ruth Connelly. She came across very keen and very energetic and we had a good and interesting talk after the meeting as I report later!

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 we were invited to talk to “our team” on a 1 to 1 basis. As there was quite a queue for our team and I took the opportunity of discussing Fairfield with the lady in charge of Beds Alert, Facebook and Twitter. She agreed there was a problem with identifying Fairfield addresses and said she had referred to their national team but nothing easy could be done. I told 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 me with the response.

I suggested she flagged it 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. She seemed a bit taken aback at this simple step and said she would give it some thought!

I then talked with PCSO Ann Jeeves as PC Sally Bonham was in deep discussion with another parish. I talked to her about pavement parking, anti-social behaviour and Tesco. At the mention of Tesco, PS Ruth Connelly's ears pricked up and she marched over and introduced herself.

Both were more than relieved to hear about the idea of putting railings up but we had a plea from Ruth 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. Very strange that!

Like us they are aware the troublesome group came from Letchworth and when I suggested either they or Letchworth police had scared the group off, Ann Jeeves grinned and said she "hoped so."

They were delighted to hear of our proposals for CCTV.

Ruth and I then discussed the alleged dumping of abandoned (disused?) vehicles and she implied that they had got that, and the allied alleged drug dealing, in hand. She certainly was aware of it! She pleaded that we continue to supply as much intelligence as possible.

When it came to Barrie's current hobbyhorse they were less helpful! They said that pavement parking was the responsibility of CBC not them (confirming the Biggleswade Chronicle article). They said they could only act under s42 of the Road Traffic Act if an individual complained. I point out that I had complained! Evidently, I don't count because I am a third-person and not the possessor of either a single or double buggy! So instead of complaining on behalf of, I now have to persuade the ladies who complained to me to complain direct!

Anyway, it all ensured that the May 24 visit under Operation Beneke will be a lively affair and Ann said she would try and remember and bring a speed gun with her! She also said she would try and train a couple of us up quickly.

Appendix B

Report by Councillor Dack on Operation Beneke

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 (kindly) referred those people to me so I could explain what we planned and also what we were being hampered from doing because of land ownership.

But 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.

Before you ask, 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!

Appendix C

Receipts and Payments

Receipts

To whom	Description	Total
HMRC	VAT Refund 010217 to 310317	£1,005.48
	Total	£1,005.48

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
	Total	£1,616.51

Pre-Paid credit Card

No transfers made