

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2023

Meeting opened: 17:03

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair informed all present that the meeting was being recorded for minuting purposes only and the recording will be destroyed once the minutes are approved.

1.1. Attended in person by Cllrs Gudgeon (Chair), Dille, Fisher [arrived 17:17], Middleton, Proctor, W/Cllr Jandu, 7 members of public [MoP] and the Acting Clerk

1.2. Apologies received from W/Cllr Birdi

The Chair acknowledged delays being caused by traffic problems.

2. Democratic Half-Hour/Public Question Time/Invited Guest Speakers

Public Question Time – This time is reserved for pre submitted questions from the Public in advance of the meeting.

The Chair explained the purpose of the Democratic Half-Hour to those present.

- Email from Natural England saying that the Bellway site is a breach of regulations. Site visit has been carried out. MoP to provide copies of correspondence to the Chair.

ACTION 1: Chair to follow up

- Local CPRE Representative has sent a Freedom of Information request to Coventry City Council asking why the badger sett relocation was not considered under planning. Response: It had been dealt with by an ecologist who has since left the company and the cannot access their private emails. This is not satisfactory.
- Trees reserved matters – ongoing action with W/Cllr Keough. MoP to provide analysis of planned tree removals on Bellway estate: felling 25.7% of stand-alone trees, felling 35.7% trees in groups and hedges 36.7% over and above the proposal in outline planning. Cllr Dille received response from Senior Planner at Morrens Planning with link to Arboricultural Impact Assessment and this was the same as the report available on the planning application (dated Sep 2021). MoP experiencing problem accessing on the website, but Cllr Dille has given MoP a copy on a memory stick.
- Buffers to woodland. Queen's College has never been consulted about buffers. Observation made that buffers should be 'untrampled' space, they are not public open space and roads should not be located next to buffers. This should be a safe area for wildlife. The width of buffers is argued – Wildlife say it should be 50m, but Council says 20m. Developers should also survey ancient woods as part of SPD. Council will continue to consider this when responding to planning applications.
- Noted question about Applegate development, 'Council band not being valued up' (observation from Facebook), not clear what this is about.

To conclude Democratic Half Hour the Chair invited the Councillors and those present to introduce themselves, because there were a number of new faces and potential new Councillors present. Firstly introduced Abiola Sho-Silva, who has been appointed as the new Clerk. She will start on 1 March.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1. There were no declarations of any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature
- 3.2. There were no declarations of any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature (Councillors with prejudicial interests must leave the room for the relevant items)

4. **Minutes**

Actions

1. Done
2. Waiting for W/Cllr Keough [not present] to report on Cedar tree – MoP noted that this will be heard in the Planning Meeting.
3. Done
4. Carry forward
5. Carry forward
6. Ongoing
7. Done – ongoing [see item 10.4]

IT WAS RESOLVED to approve the minutes dated 10 January 2023 [1: Cllr Proctor / 2: Cllr Gudgeon]

4. **Ward Councillors – Update**

W/Cllr Jandu

- Tamworth Road resurfacing to start in mid-March.
Question: will this include the new roundabout 'Dumbell Island'? W/Cllr Jandu does not believe so. Officer to contact is Phil Hemingway.
- A discussion followed about the Warwickshire County Council highways website which features live mapping of road closures and planned roadworks.

ACTION 2: Cllr Proctor to add link to the PC website

The Chair raised highway maintenance issues on Bennetts Road: large pothole near the speed hump opposite Doscoe Close and in vicinity of Watery Lane there is a big dip across the road. Request W/Cllr Jandu to take forward.

6. **Local Issues**

6.1. Litter-Picking

Litter-picking – first event of the year on 05/02/2023 – Brook opposite Texaco garage. 20+ people came out. CCC emailed to acknowledge and thank litter-pickers for quantity of litter picked.

Suggestions via Facebook site for next location:

- Bennetts Road: Penny Park Lane to Watery Lane
- Bennetts Road: Watery Lane to Prologis Park entrance
- Bennetts Road North: Shops to Garden Centre

Next event, sticking with the time of day and first Sunday of the month, will be Sunday 05/03/2023 – 14:00-15:00.

A discussion followed about the options. It was decided to do the Shops to Garden Centre. Two attendees from the Leofric Lions at Feb have offered to fund a set of equipment.

ACTION 3: Chair to organise a bid for equipment

6.2. Jubilee Wood / Queen's Green Canopy

Session on 21/01/2023 10:00-15:00. A good session, litter-picking, removing bramble and tree crowing and pruning. 11 people came along.

Message received from a resident by Chair asking on pass on thanks for the improvements.

Queens Green Canopy. Ongoing sourcing of trees. Invitation to Buckingham Palace for planting mid-November 2023. Need to agree a date.

ACTION 4: Agree date circa 20/22/2023 for tree-planting

6.3. Local School / College engagement

Nothing to report.

7. Planning Matters

- Cllr Dille received email from CCC Principal Planning Officer, North Area Team. *“Due to the archaeology surveys and discoveries, an area of the site for outline 2022/0713 [Richborough Estates development off Bennetts Road] has been excluded from the development parcels and is now to be retained as Public Open Space. Amended drawings have been submitted, however, the quantum of development and access points stay the same. On this basis there will be no formal re-consultation on the amended plans, however I thought it best to inform you, informally, just in case you get any questions. The website has been updated.”*

Nor further information on what they found.

- The Chair has contacted the Transport and Development Design Manager for CCC Highways with regards to the link road for an update. *“with regards to Keresley Link Road, I have members of my team working on the design from the Holbrook up to Watery Lane. We have had a number of issues with the high pressure gas main and the current location has caused us a delay in moving forward. The design is being developed based on the feedback from the meeting, which was very well-attended and very production, for example we are looking to produce a detail that would allow Watery Lane to remain open to vehicular access by means of a bridge or a structure. As you may appreciate, this is not a simple task in itself and takes a lot more work than simple closure with a road and embankment.*

“There are a number of decisions taking place with the developers and the West Midlands Combine Authority as to how we can bring this forward as soon as possible so that the infrastructure is in place as and when the developments come on-board, rather than have piecemeal sections completed, causing traffic disruption.

“That being said, I am still aware there needs to be further consultation and planning.”

This is positive and comments of residents have been listened to. It also appears the team wishes to build the road in its entirety. This is likely to mean this will take a long time to be completed.

Once there is a more complete plan, they will be happy to arrange a new meeting.

A MoP attended the Holbrook meeting and has a copy of a map showing the locations where amendments will be necessary before starting the road. This has 17 points. MoP observed that the key issue is improvements to Winding House Lane/M6 access. This is affected by jurisdiction. The PC did not know about this meeting until afterwards.

Council has been waiting for news of the Dumbbell Island. The same MoP said they are waiting £4m input from the West Midlands, which was due to be declared end of November/beginning of December, but still not heard anything. This is the section of money to cover the section to the M6.

A brief discussion followed about the developers' contributions and other related matters.

8. Events

8.1. 21/01/2023: Jubilee Wood event – see 6.2

8.2. 05/02/2023: Litter-picking event – see 6.1

9. Finance

9.1. **To approve the Financial Report**

IT WAS RESOLVED TO approve the Financial Report [1: Cllr Fisher / 2: Cllr Proctor]

9.2. **Approval of payments**

IT WAS RESOLVED TO approve payments on the Financial Report [1: Cllr Fisher / 2: Cllr Proctor]

10. Council Administration

10.1. Recruitment and Preparation for Election

Elections on 04/05/2023 – Acting Clerk has had some training. CCC will distribute packs
Cllr Proctor announced that she will be moving away from the area this year and will therefore not put herself forward for re-election.

- 2 MoPs left the meeting -

10.2. Communications
Nothing to report

10.3. Training
Training for the new Clerk will be organised within the Induction Plan.
CCC Code of Conduct training – possibly organise a session after the election

10.4. Archiving Parish Council Records
Clerk sought advice from WALC, whose response was, *“This isn't something I would advise the council do. The minute books/records are a precious legal document so can't be gifted to anyone. Maybe you can let them know this and I would also be happy to speak to them about this if that would help.”*

ACTION 5: Cllr Dille to follow up

11. **Correspondence & Communication**

- Email of thanks to litter-pickers received by Cllr Proctor from CCC [see 6.1]
- The Acting Clerk received an answerphone message on the mobile questioning the attendance of Parish Councillors at meetings. The caller ID was withheld, the Council is therefore obliged to respond formally as follows, via the minutes:

A Parish Councillor is an elected representative of their community and they have a Duty to attend meetings. *“...if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.”* (The Local Government Act, 1972, Part V, Section 85 (1)).

The Clerk has reviewed attendance over this electoral period (since May 2019). No Councillor has failed to attend for more than 6 months without the reason for absence being approved by the Council.

If a member is absent for 6 months without giving apologies and these being accepted by the Council, this is 'Vacation of office by failure to attend meetings' and they automatically cease to be a member. This is not applicable to any member of Keresley Parish Council.

12. **Councillor's items for future agenda**

- Bid for litter-picking equipment
- Voter ID
- Annual Parish Assembly

13. **Date of Next Meeting**

Next Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday, 14 March 2023 at 19:00, Keresley Community Library, Bennetts Road, Coventry, CV7 8HX

14. **To consider the exclusion of the public and press in the public interest for consideration of the following items:**

14.1. Personnel issues – None

14.2. Legal issues – None

Meeting Closed: 20:15

The meeting was followed by a brief question and answer session with prospective Parish Councillors

Minutes Approved:

Signature: _____

Date: _____

DRAFT