



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 3rd APRIL MONDAY 2023 AT 7.00PM IN SPEEN VILLAGE HALL**

**PRESENT**

Cathryn Davies (Chair), Keith Bowler, Philip Suter, Jean Roberts, Tim MacGillivray. Clerk – Frank Post. Carl Etholen, Shade Adoh (Unitary).

No members of the public were in attendance.

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from Cllrs Craft, Hughes and Carington (Unitary)

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the last Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were **approved** and signed by the Chair.

**FP**

**4. MATTERS ARISING NOT OTHERWISE ON THE AGENDA FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

It was noted that the repairs to the bollard at Speen Stores is still outstanding.

It was **agreed** that the Council would initiate the installation of a new Loosley Row sign.

**FP**

**5. ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COUNCIL**

The Chair reported as follows:

**Overview**

Focus continues on a range of traffic calming initiatives, continued upgrade and maintenance of Council assets and Parish infrastructure, as well as the review of planning applications.

The Chair extended her thanks to all Cllrs for their continued endeavours, as well as Unitary Cllrs and staff at Transport for Bucks and the Unitary Council for their ongoing support.

**Financial**

Expenditure was in excess to budget due to extra Jubilee costs of £22k.

Budget for 22/23 was £36k with expenditure YTD Dec 22: £49k.

Other variances Year on Year attributable to timings and completion of various traffic calming projects.

Ample reserves available to accommodate contingencies. Cash balance last year was £75k whilst cash balance year to date Feb 23 is £58k.

Cllr Davies noted that no increase in Precept has been requested from Parishioners since 18/19.

## **Traffic Calming**

MVAS operational effectiveness has been impacted by vandalism, which has taken at least a year to resolve.

One of the 3 x MVAS has now been commissioned back into action with improvements in the security of the unit, to determine its effectiveness against further vandalism.

Across the Parish the implementation of a Community Speedwatch Project has commenced to help as a further deterrent to speeding. The Chair extended her thanks to those volunteers supporting this initiative.

A number of trevello strips were also commissioned to determine speed data along New Road. This data is currently being reviewed.

## **Maintenance**

Agreement was reached with local volunteers for an extended revamp of Studridge Lane Pond, Speen over a 4-year cycle.

Bus shelters were also regularly upgraded, with the shelter opposite the RAF station fully repaired following damage due to severe weather.

A replacement notice board for Speen has also been installed.

## **Playground**

Continued regular inspections, monthly, quarterly and annually take place to ensure the highest standards of safety are implemented.

No major equipment was purchased this year, but a picnic table replacement was provided.

## **Garden of Rest**

A major overhaul of the Garden of Rest took place this year to coincide with her late Majesty's Jubilee including the installation of new decorative metal gates and the resurfacing of the driveway.

## **Grants**

In addition to the regular annual schedule of some 8 discretionary grants to local churches, village halls, amenities and local charities, the Council had been pleased to approve an additional 7 grants this year toward a further number of initiatives across the Parish.

## **Planning**

The Chair emphasised the Council remains committed to protecting the integrity of the three villages in line with the Village Plan and within the context of Parishioners residing with an ANOB.

Some 49 applications have scrutinised and reviewed year to date and commented upon where appropriate.

## **Outlook:**

The Chair concluded her report by stating that the Council remains committed to tackling key issues of concern – eg traffic calming/infrastructure and takes every effort to upgrade the fabric of the Parish for the benefit of all Parishioners and continue to support local initiatives and community groups where it can, across the three villages.

Parishioners are particularly encouraged to apply for more grants toward projects to benefit the local community in 23/24.

## 6. REPORT FROM UNITARY COULCILLORS

Cllr Etholen noted that issues with waste collection have not as yet been resolved.

The discussion with Oxfordshire Cllrs is ongoing with regard to Bledlow Recycle site visits.

Cllr Etholen highlighted the additional Buckinghamshire Council funding that would be available for pot hole repairs.

The traffic issues regarding the junction between Loosley Hill and Lower Road would be tabled at the Community Board Traffic Sub Group to determine the options to resolve the issue.

**CE**

## 7. MVAS REPAIRS

One unit is being piloted with new security measures. Decision will be made to commission the other two units before the next meeting.

**ALL**

## PLAYGROUND RISK ASSESSMENTS AND REPAIRS

Notice updates still required.

**FP**

It was agreed that the tennis club sign should be removed or cleaned.

**FP**

It was also agreed that the contractor for the gates should be contacted to remedy the drop identified and repair the damage to the fencing.

**FP/CD**

The dog sign will also require remounting.

**FP**

## 9. NOTICE BOARD - SPEEN

Arrangements in hand to install the road sign adjacent to the noticeboard.

**PS**

## 10. WALTERS ASH ENTRANCE GATES

Specification requirements to be shared with new service provider (Buckinghamshire Highways).

**FP**

## 11. NEW BENCH LOOSLEY ROW

Service provider to be briefed for site visit and installation.

**FP/TM**

## 12. TRAFFIC CALMING

The reductions in possible speed limits to support traffic calming in the vicinity of the St John's school were discussed in detail. It was **agreed** that engagement of school and community watch representatives to transport and educational Unitary Council cabinet members would be an effective strategy to progress the issue.

## 13. DEFIBRILLATOR

Site location now **agreed** – service provider to visit and quote.

**FP**

## 14. SPEEN STORES REPAYMENTS

Cllr Craft to visit following recorded delivery of revised repayment schedule.

**RC**

## 15. DOG FOULING

Environmental Health Officers have reviewed high risk areas and provided signage.

## 16. PROCUREMENT AND RISK POLICIES

Cllrs confirmed that these had been reviewed and no changes required.

**FP**

## 17. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications were reviewed:

**FP**

Ref	Property	Application	Comment/Status
<b>23/05461/FUL</b>	Virginia Cottage	Construction of two storey side extension,	Objection.
	Main Road	single storey rear extension,	Concerns about
	Lacey Green	open porch and log store	overdevelopment
<b>22/08280/FUL</b>	Ridgemont	Construction of single storey rear extension,	21-Apr
	Church Lane	single storey garden building,	Still being
	Lacey Green	removal of small conifer trees	reviewed
<b>23/05525/FUL</b>	April Cottage	Construction of single storey detached annexe,	No objection
	Church Lane	demolition of existing detached building	
	Lacey Green		
<b>23/05581/FUL</b>	Lower House	Installation of front boundary gate	Solid gate not in
	Lower Road		keeping with
	Loosley Row		surroundings

It was agreed that Cllr MacGillivray would contact Planning regarding the impact of site traffic on the works of 19/07822/FUL.

**TM**

No approvals or rejections were identified since the last meeting.

## 18. PAYMENTS

The following payments had been circulated and reviewed and were **approved**:

**FP**

Activity	Payee	Gross	Comment
Salary	F Post	399.35	Mar Salary
Admin	F Post	25.00	Allowances Mar 5 wks
Admin	F Post	14.79	Stationary, Stamps, Postage
Admin	F Post	2.63	Fasthosts Mar
Risk Assessment	K Dobson	39.00	Mar
Maintenance	PF & DF Gray	60.00	Burial Ground
Total		<b>540.77</b>	

## 19. RESPONSES TO CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None

## 20. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

None

## 21. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

FP

- Playground Assessments and Repairs
- Playground Revamp update
- Entry Gate by Walters Ash
- Loosley Row Bench
- MVAS update
- Traffic Calming Data Review
- Community Speedwatch Update
- ACV for Whip Inn
- Defibrillator update
- Speen Stores
- Loosley Row Triangle Sign
- GoR Headstone Repairs

## 22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

7.30pm 8<sup>th</sup> May 2023: – Lacey Green Village Hall

Annual Parish Council Meeting

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Chairman.....

Date.....