

Minutes of the Husborne Crawley Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in the Reading Room, Husborne Crawley which started at 8.00pm.

Present: Councillors W Cuell - Chairman, T Hopper, T Hunter, R Lyman, B O'Rourke, S Pearston & Lyn Lyman - The Clerk and 4 residents.

In attendance: Mrs Deborah Willans – Headmistress of Husborne Crawley Lower School.

1285. **To accept Apologies:**

Apologies were received from: Cllr N Buist & CB Cllr Wells.

1286. **Husborne Crawley Lower School:**

Mrs Deborah Willans introduced herself as the new Headmistress having recently taken over from Mrs Sue Isaacs after Easter.

There is a vacancy for a co-opted community governor. Anyone interested should contact the school.

Mrs Willans was advised that the Parish Council had had a lot of contact with the school regarding safety outside the school, and that there is Speedwatch activity too.

The school are having 150 year celebrations throughout October. They would also like to do something within the community, maybe plant 150 bulbs.

Mrs Willans was advised that, in principle, the Parish Council does not have any problems with the school using the Recreation Ground, but that the Parish Council need to be advised when the school wishes to use the Recreation Ground.

1287. **Open Forum:**

*Residents will have the chance to raise anything relevant to Parish Council business but they will not be able to discuss the subject more than once. A maximum of 2 minutes per subject will be allowed:*

1. A village resident, supported by members of his family attended the Open Forum to inform Councillors that the resident have been the victim of a malicious letter, sent to his employer, alleging that he had a criminal record for a serious offence. This action placed his job and his livelihood at risk and has caused great distress to him and his family. He was required to obtain a clearance from the Criminal Records Bureau, a copy of which was made available to the Councillors, making it clear that he has no criminal record.

He has reason to believe that the person who wrote the letter is also a member of the village community.

Fortunately the employer took a sensible approach in view of this clearance but the whole episode was distressing and very embarrassing for him.

Cllr Cuell thanked the family for sharing this information and commented that it is very sad than in a small and close community we have strong grounds to suspect that a resident is capable of such a wicked and cruel act. Although this incident has not caused the harm the writer clearly hoped for, it has caused a great deal of unnecessary upset for the family.

Councillors agreed that we should always challenge any malicious gossip at the earliest opportunity as this sort of gossip is harmful to the whole community.

2. State of the road in Crow Lane: As this is a private road, it is not looked after by CBC. As it is

an un-adopted road it is the responsibility of home owners for the repairs. Residents need to get together and fund repairs. They need to contact all the residents and have a meeting, having obtained quotes.

3. The Gypsy/Travellers recently camped at the junction of Station Road and Mill Road have now left. Upon leaving, Ridgmont Parish Council in conjunction with CBC Highways had a ditch/mound put in place.
4. The Speed Indicator device on Turnpike Road has been turned round. This has been reported but the Clerk agreed to follow it up again. **Action: LL**
5. The school sign in School Lane is still facing the wrong way and one is laying in the grass. These have been reported previously too. **Action: LL**

1288. **To agree Minutes of previous Meeting:**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017 be signed as a true record of events.

1289. **To consider Matters arising:**

1177 Some of the street lights are still out at the School Lane/Turnpike Road Junction. CB Cllr Wells said these were reported on 22/11/16 ref: 286925 and 286924. (5 lights - 3 round the roundabout and 2 more). Cllr Cuell stated the lights are still out. The Clerk agreed to follow this up with Highways. **Action: WC/LL**

1290. **To accept Reports:**

**CB Cllr Wells:** Following a request from the Clerk, CB Cllr Wells had provided the following report:

- Weight Restrictions - those signs in the local area are largely in position, eg, Mill Road roundabout by the M1. However I am chasing the signs preventing lorries coming in from Woburn Sands. Apparently CBC have agreed with MKBC to put signs at the Kingston roundabout to stop lorries from heading into Woburn Sands and then onto to Woburn. I will be meeting CBC media next Monday to get a publicity launch on “ how the public can help to enforce the ban “ as clearly the police will not be able to do so
- I have replied to Mr Peter George, who lives on School Lane, about his request for speed reducing measures on School Lane. The current speed restrictions on that road are about all we can do. I have asked CBC Highways for their opinion, and speed cameras, speed bumps, raised tables and chicanes have been ruled out on cost grounds as the accident record of the road does not support them. . I can ask for a speed check on the road using pneumatic tapes and I will do so. The other thing is for the PC to ask the police to do speed checks. Camera van cannot be invited to attend - Lyn
- The Local Plan is moving on. There were 11,000 responses to the consultation which ended in August, all of which have to be read and assessed to see if they will alter the relevant content of the Plan. This will go on until February 2018. A Pre submission of the Draft Local Plan will take place in March 2018. Followed by a second consultation from March to April 2018. The Plan will subsequently be submitted to an Inspector in October 2018.

**Speedwatch:** Cllr Pearston said that, due to changes, we can no longer request the camera van anymore. Other changes have also taken place affecting Speedwatch operations etc. Cllr Pearston re-iterated the Speedwatch Group are really desperate for more volunteers. It was agreed to invite PC Gillian Richardson to the next Parish Council meeting.

**Fete:** Cllr Buist said that the debriefing meeting will take place next week. The Fun Dog Show was very successful.

1291. **To consider various Hedges:**

The hedges by the phone box and outside 4/5 Horsepool Lane (Bedford Estate houses knocked into

one) are extremely overgrown. Cllr Cuell had left a message for Paul Williams at Bedford Estate but he hadn't been in contact. As they have still not been cut back, The Clerk agreed to contact Paul Williams.

*Action: LL*

Turnpike Road: All the hedges have now been cut back. (outside 17, 18 & 20. (17 Bedford Estates and 18 & 20 are privately owned).

*Action: LL*

1292. **To consider Correspondence/Planning:**

A resident living in Crow Lane has asked if the no through road sign can be renovated. She has also asked CBC if the verges/hedges in School Lane can be cut back and the grass in the recreation ground cut.

The Clerk has reported the sign. (report reference number 299963).

Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Partnership Conference is being held on 18<sup>th</sup> October at The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine 2pm – 4.30pm. Cllrs Lyman & Pearston agreed to attend.

CBC is carrying out a survey to ensure they have all the parish details correct. This needs discussing and confirming.

BT Payphone Box Removal letter – BT still don't seem to have sorted out which BT boxes they are likely to keep/remove. The Clerk has followed this up again.

Bedford & MK Waterway Summer 2017 issue of the Waterways trust newsletter.

***Planning:***

CB/ENC/17/0270 Rear of Crow Lane. Unauthorised development – erection of fence has been confirmed as a breach.

CB/TCA/17/00359 Crawley House, Crawley Park. Notification of works to trees in a conservation area: substantial pruning to Double Copper Beech Tree (C1). No objection.

1293. **Section 106 Funding:**

The Clerk confirmed the figure which the Parish Council have to spend: For Leisure/Recreation we have £9,111.91.

For Green Infrastructure, although it looked as we had a figure for green infrastructure, we don't – it is all predetermined for strategic scale projects so the money doesn't get ring-fenced to individual parishes.

Mrs Willans was asked if there was any equipment the School might like to see. She agreed to enquire and come back to us.

We have already agreed to improve/renovate seating/table.

Get our recommendation in before end of the year.

The Recreation Ground Working Group has looked at the existing play equipment. (The working group of Cllrs Hopper, Hunter, O'Rourke and The Clerk – Cllr Buist was unable to attend).

The Clerk has been asked to estimate next years Section 106 requirement so she has estimated £5,000.

A further meeting of the Working Group needs to be held.

1294. **Confidential Item:**

Anything discussed under this item, will be carried out in camera and any resident/public will be asked to leave. Subjects discussed will not appear in these minutes.

1295. **To accept Accounts:**

BDO have successfully completed the external audit.

Balance at bank as at 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 was £12,946.38.

It was **RESOLVED** that the following invoices be paid.

| BDO  | F O C         |        |
|--|---------------|--------|
| External Audit   |               |        |
| Cancelled  |               | 000541 |
| Newport Locks<br>Lock & Chain for Recreation Ground gate | 51.48         | 000542 |
| Recreation Group<br>Meeting                              | 11.70         | 000543 |
| HMRC<br>PAYE – June, July & August                       | 75.40         | 000540 |
| Mrs Lyman<br>Clerks Salary August                        | 100.52        | s/o    |
| Mrs Lyman<br>Clerks Salary September                     | 100.52        | s/o    |
|  | <u>339.62</u> |        |

1296. **Date of next meetings:**

20<sup>th</sup> November starting at 8pm, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 19<sup>th</sup> March & Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May (Annuals).

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Cllr Cuell – Chairman,