

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held remotely due to the
Covid-19 pandemic, on Tuesday 9 March 2021 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllrs B Ezra, J Hunt, C Thorn, P Wood, J Magill
 Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs
 Assistant: Mrs Ann-Marie Davies
 Absent: Cllr R Butler
 Residents: One

C21/12	APOLOGIES No apologies were received.	
	OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS The resident present asked if the local Vicar was involved in the new Burial Ground project and when the project was expected to be delivered. Cllr Thorn confirmed the local Vicar was involved in discussions and in terms of timing the Clerk reported it would be at least 18 months – two years before any burials were expected to take place.	
C21/13	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION Cllr Ezra declared an interest in the items relating to the community centre as her husband was the Chairman of the Community Association. Cllr Hunt declared an interest in the items relating to the community centre as her husband was a trustee. Cllr Hunt also declared that her husband was an allotment holder and potentially directly affected by the proposal at item C21/17.	
C21/14	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee of the 12 January 2021 were unanimously AGREED as a true record. They were not signed at the meeting. b) The action plan was reviewed, with several completed tasks being removed. Others would remain until safe to take forward after Covid19. The remainder appeared on the agenda for discussion.	
C21/15	COMMUNITY CENTRE All present received an informative and exciting presentation from Kirsty Shanahan at Bucks Community Energy for the proposal to install solar panels and other ancillaries to the Community Centre. Kirsty expressed her thanks to Steve Ezra at the Community Centre for his patience and help whilst visiting the Centre. She gave her estimations of costs to install solar panels, an air source heat pump and electric vehicle charging points together with options to fund and receive income from the scheme. Cllr Ezra thanked Kirsty for her interesting presentation and expressed her concern around the longevity of the Community Centre building. Kirsty responded to say solar panels could easily be removed and transferred to a new building if the need arose. All Cllrs agreed this was the route the Parish Council should be travelling towards. Cllr Hunt suggested the SMVCA should be involved as soon as possible as they managed the Centre. It was AGREED Cllr Ezra would contact the Chairman of the Village Association to suggest they receive a presentation from Kirsty to try and move this project forward.	BE
C21/16	QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLAYING FIELD a) Footpath around the Playing Field – The Clerk NOTED that he had been in contact with Agripower to investigate measures to reduce the flooding in the corner of the playing field. They were in receipt of plans for the playing field and once sourced it would help identify whether any section of drains had been broken during the installation to the new footpath. It had been noted that ‘bubbling’ water was still evident, even with no rainfall. The Clerk would keep the group updated on progress.	Clerk

	<p>b) Car Park Extension – The proposal to extend parking spaces at the Community Centre car park was discussed. It was AGREED the Assistant Clerk would now seek further quotes following the easement of lockdown. The issue of the conifers in place at this area was considered. All Cllrs AGREED to remove the conifers prior to this scheme to assist with safety and security issues. Cllr Ezra also reminded the group that a septic tank was in existence at this site.</p> <p>c) To receive quotes to clean the tennis courts – The Assistant Clerk referred the group to the quotes received. The group AGREED to accept the quote for £690 from Penn Court Cleaning. The Assistant Clerk was asked to advise the Contractor. Cllr Ezra reminded the Assistant Clerk to arrange timings for the works with the agreement of the Chairman of the Village Association and to also take readings of the water meter prior to commencement of the works.</p> <p>d) To consider a proposal from a resident for a coffee van in the car park – The Clerk had been contacted by a member of the public to ask whether the Parish Council would consider this proposal. The group AGREED in principle that the Assistant Clerk and Clerk should look further into this proposal. Cllr Magill knew of a local coffee van and AGREED to send details across to the Clerk.</p>	<p>Asst Clerk</p> <p>Asst Clerk</p> <p>Asst Clerk/ Clerk Cllr JM</p>
C21/17	<p>ALLOTMENTS</p> <p>a) To consider quote for a new footway that leads to the allotments from the car park – Following the agreement at the last meeting a quote had been received to improve the access path leading to the allotments. As only one quote had been obtained, it was AGREED the Assistant Clerk would source two further quotes and bring back to a future meeting. Cllr Hunt urged the Parish Council to liaise with allotment holders as to the best time to complete these works as there should be minimal disruption to them. The Assistant Clerk AGREED to speak with them before any works were timetabled.</p> <p>b) To consider a staged increase in allotment rents – Following discussion it was AGREED to increase allotment rents from September 2021. Half a plot would increase from £15 to £20, and a full plot would increase from £30 to £40. The Assistant Clerk would notify allotment holders.</p>	<p>Asst Clerk</p> <p>Asst Clerk</p>
C21/18	<p>MARSH LANE BURIAL GROUND</p> <p>To update on next steps following planning approval</p> <p>The Clerk advised the group he would progress the action to seek costs to build the burial ground. He reported that an approach had been made to buy the site by the owner occupier adjacent to the burial ground. Cllrs AGREED unanimously to reject this bid and to continue with the project to deliver a new burial ground for the Parish. The Clerk was asked to advise the enquirer accordingly.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
C21/19	<p>HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS of WAY and FOOTPATHS</p> <p>a) To consider projects suitable for a microgrant</p> <p>Following an approach by Ceri Perkins the Community Project Lead for the Aylesbury Garden Town, Cllrs were asked to consider projects suitable for Microgrant Funding of up to £3000. Projects needed to fit the criteria of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving green spaces • Increasing biodiversity • Encouraging healthy living <p>The Assistant Clerk had sought quotes to install planters to the footpath around the playing field. Following discussion, it was felt the playing field was not the preferred place for planters as it was a playing field. On another matter, Cllr Thorn asked if the Parish Council could contact the persons responsible for the play area at Hawkslade as some of the smaller play equipment items had no matting to their bases and were unusable in inclement weather. It was AGREED the Assistant Clerk would investigate this matter and report.</p> <p>b) To note the temporary closure of Footpath no. 17</p>	<p>Asst Clerk</p>

	Cllrs NOTED the temporary closure of Footpath no.17. This footpath was in the Hawkslade ward, just behind Booker Park School.	
C21/20	POINTS FOR INFORMATION It was NOTED that the request for a fitness trail alongside the dog walking path on Hawkslade was unable to be progressed as this was not SMPC land. It was AGREED that should this situation change going forward, this proposal would be given further consideration.	
C21/21	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be on 18 May 2021 at 7.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed _____ Dated: 9 March 2021

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
02/10/18	L18/27h	Contact Stoke Mandeville FC regarding a plaque for the wall.	Clerk	On hold
10/03/20	C20/24b	Arrange installation of posts around village green.	Clerk	On hold
12/01/21	C21/04	Contact bus companies to confirm routes and patronage in the Parish.	Assistant	Completed
12/01/21	C21/06	Contact Abbey Homes about ditch clearance.	Clerk/Asst	On hold
12/01/21	C21/08	Seek quotes for updated high level cost quotation for a new burial ground.	Clerk	In Progress
09/03/21	C21/15	Contact SMVCA to arrange a presentation to them by BCE.	Cllr Ezra	Completed
09/03/21	C21/16	Liaise with Agripower to investigate flooding on playing field.	Clerk	Completed
09/03/21	C21/16	Obtain two further quotes for the car park extension at the Community Centre.	Asst Clerk	In Progress
09/03/21	C21/16	Arrange works to clean tennis courts in liaison with SMVCA Chairman.	Asst Clerk	Completed
09/03/21	C21/16	Follow up proposal to allow Coffee Van into the Community Centre car park.	Asst Clerk/Cllr Magill	In Progress
09/03/21	C21/17	Obtain two further quotes for an access path to the allotments.	Asst Clerk	In Progress
09/03/21	C21/17	Advise allotment holders of rent increase.	Asst Clerk	In Progress
09/03/21	C21/18	Advise enquirer that Burial Ground lane is not for sale.	Clerk	Completed
09/03/21	C21/19	Contact owner of Hawkslade play area re matting.	Asst Clerk	In Progress