

Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, on Tuesday 14 July 2020 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs B Ezra, R Butler, J Hunt, J Magill, C Thorn, and P Wood plus G Stewart (ex-officio).
Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs Residents: None
Assistant: Mrs Ann-Marie Davies

C20/41	APOLOGIES Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S Pluckwell.	
	OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS No residents had joined the meeting.	
C20/42	WELCOME NEW COUNCILLORS TO THE COMMITTEE On behalf of Councillors, Cllr Ezra welcomed the two new Councillors J Magill and C Thorn to the Communities Committee. She also welcomed Ann-Marie Davies who would be acting Clerk to the Committee going forward.	
C20/43	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST 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.	
C20/44	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee of the 26 May 2020 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.	
C20/45	COMMUNITY ORCHARD Cllrs considered the offer from the Chiltern Conservation Board (CCB) to plant a Community Orchard in the Parish. Discussion considered sites and the commitment of the Parish and its community. The Asst Clerk was asked to go back to the CCB to request this offer was placed 'on hold' until next year when other potential sites could come on stream. This was AGREED unanimously. Cllr Thorn pointed out the total disregard for the countryside he had experienced on his walks. He proposed that a skip was hired, so that the footpath and ditch that ran along the edge of Hawkslade could be cleared. He had several volunteers that were prepared to help him. The Clerk was asked to place this proposal onto the Parish Council agenda on 21 July 2020.	AMD Clerk
C20/46	MARSH LANE BURIAL GROUND HS2 required a 'loss of income' figure from the parish council for the 40 plots lost for the reburial of the remains from the old St Marys site in the new Burial Ground. In order to reach a figure, the Clerk had prepared a paper showing current burial fees for SMPC along with other Parish Councils in the County. Cllrs were asked to consider whether fees should be raised for the new Burial Ground. It was proposed by Cllr Wood to increase the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusive Right of Burial to £500, • Interment to £300 and • Monument to £200 This was seconded by Cllr Butler and unanimously AGREED .	

C20/47	<p>COMMUNITY CENTRE</p> <p>a) Windows – It was NOTED that one of the windows in the Park Room had been repaired by RCF Windows at a cost of £213.</p> <p>b) Roof – It was NOTED that the roofing works are due to commence on 22 July 2020.</p> <p>c) Car Park – Reports of recent problems in the car park had been received. Whilst CCTV was in place, unless specific dates and times were available the Clerk reported it was impossible to search through hours of recordings. Cllr Magill indicated the Police were far more likely to pursue tangible evidence, so both Cllr Ezra and Hunt AGREED to find out more detail to enable the Clerk to find the footage.</p>	
C20/48	<p>QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLAYING FIELD</p> <p>a) Play Area – Discussion on whether the play area should remain closed took place. It was unanimously AGREED to reopen the play area and display a notice stating the rules around using the equipment and clearly placing the responsibility back to users. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk would work up a poster based around the guidance given by Bucks Council. Cllr Woods would contact Abbey Homes and ask them to do the same for the Hawkslade play area.</p> <p>b) Footpath around the Playing Field – It was NOTED that Cllr Ezra along with the Clerk and Assistant Clerk were to meet SLN out at Eskdale on 15 July to obtain a quote for a new footpath.</p> <p>c) Football Club – The Clerk updated the group on the information received from Stoke Mandeville Football Club.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the junior football leagues 2019/20 had been voided. • Season 2020/21 the U15's will move from Eskdale Road as they switch to full size pitches and will use council facilities. • The junior teams at U7, U8, U9 and U10 will stay at Eskdale. • And lastly, the brass plaque was currently in The Bull public house and once restrictions were further relaxed a presentation ceremony would be requested for the Parish Council to erect onto the Community Centre. • The Football Club also indicated they wished to pursue the issue of portable toilets at some point. <p>The £100 hire fee for the season and the £100 deposit would remain in place.</p>	Clerk/ AMD
C20/49	<p>HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS of WAY and FOOTPATHS</p> <p>Footpaths – It was NOTED that the overgrown foliage on the footpath linking Station Road to Brudenell Drive had been cleared by the Clerk.</p> <p>It was AGREED the Clerk would ask the Parish Grounds Maintenance contractor to do a further cutback by the Station Road bridge.</p> <p>Cllr Woods reported the passageway near to her on Hawkslade was once again overgrown. It was AGREED Bucks Council would be contacted to deal.</p> <p>Cllr Hunt asked that the passageway between Station Road and Brudenell Drive was once again flagged up for resurfacing to Bucks Council.</p> <p>Cllr Thorn flagged up a further footway near to him that needed repair. He agreed to send through photographic evidence to the Assistant Clerk for her to take forward.</p> <p>When restrictions were lifted the Assistant Clerk suggested Cllrs have a Parish walkround with their Local Area Technician which would pick up issues such as these and receive immediate advice on whether action could be taken. Cllrs AGREED this suggestion. This would be pursued at a later date.</p>	Clerk Clerk Assis. CT Assis.

C20/50	ROSPA Reports for the Play area and Outdoor Gym were NOTED . Lengthy discussion ensued on the value of repairing the current play area year on year and the frustration that s.106 could not be used to install a new play area at this site with funds the Parish Council had already received. Given the new unitary status in the County, it was AGREED by Committee Members for the Assistant Clerk to write to the new Manager of Joe Houston to seek whether rules will change and funding can now be used in this way. In the interim the Assistant Clerk would contact Paul at Chesham Town Council to remedy higher risk actions highlighted in the report.	Assis. Assis.
C20/51	STREET FURNITURE Streetlights – It was NOTED UKPN had been out to fix the Chapel Lane light, but further work was required. Completion was expected within the next 14 days (<i>the light is now working</i>).	
C20/52	POINTS FOR INFORMATION Cllr Ezra informed the meeting that the Play around the Park sessions had been cancelled due to Covid-19.	
C20/53	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting will be on 8 September 2020 at 7.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed _____ Dated: July 2020

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
02/10/18	L18/27h	Contact Stoke Mandeville FC regarding a plaque for the wall	Clerk	In Progress
11/06/19	L19/18c	Prepare specification and obtain quotes for a red tarmac footpath around the playing field. Awaiting Project Officer.	Clerk	In Progress
24/09/19	L19/29e	Consult Cllr Clark regarding ramps for the Park Room	Clerk	Outstanding
10/03/20	C20/22c	Contact tennis court cleaners with water bowsers.	Clerk	Outstanding
10/03/20	C20/24b	Arrange installation of posts around village green.	Clerk	In Progress
26/05/20	C20/39	Contact contractors regarding car park extension.	Assistant	In Progress
14/07/20	C20/45	Ask for Community Orchard proposal to be placed on hold	Assistant	Completed
14/07/20	C20/45	Put Community Orchard on July PC agenda.	Clerk	Completed
14/07/20	C20/48	Create a poster to reopen Play Area with Covid19 rules	Clerk/Asst	In Progress
14/07/20	C20/49	Ask contractor to cut back Station Rd bridge	Clerk	In Progress
14/07/20	C20/49	Ask Bucks Council to cutback footpath at Hawkslade	Clerk	Completed
14/07/20	C20/49	Contact Bucks Council re passageway Station Rd/Brudenell	Assistant	In Progress
14/07/20	C20/49	Cllr Thorn to send through photos of damaged footway to Assistant Clerk to take forward	CT/Assistant	In Progress
14/07/20	C20/50	Write to Bucks Council to seek a review of the criteria for the use of s.106 funding	Assistant	In Progress
14/07/20	C20/50	Contact Chesham TC to carry out remedial work to play area	Assistant	In Progress