

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held remotely due to the Covid-19 pandemic, on Tuesday 12 January 2021 at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs B Ezra, J Hunt, C Thorn, P Wood, G Stewart (Ex-officio) and S Kirve.  
 Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs  
 Assistant: Mrs Ann-Marie Davies  
 Absent: Cllr R Butler  
 Residents: None

<b>C21/01</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr J Magill.	
	<b>OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS</b> No residents had joined the meeting. Cllr Hunt enquired as to why two items she wished to be on the agenda were not included. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk explained there was an item relating to private roads on the agenda. As for the overgrown foliage on the Wendover Road, the resident had been written to before and it would be dealt with under the devolved services agreement.	
<b>C21/02</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION</b> 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 agenda item 7.  Cllr Stewart declared an interest in item 10.b as he lived in a private road within the Parish.	
<b>C21/03</b>	<b>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</b> a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee of the 8 September 2020 were unanimously <b>AGREED</b> 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. Cllr Ezra would express our thanks from the Parish Council in the next published Parish Magazine.  Regarding the action to clean the tennis courts, the Assistant Clerk would obtain further quotes using water from the Community Centre and bring to the March meeting.	BE  Asst. Clerk
<b>C21/04</b>	<b>LOWER ROAD IMPROVEMENTS</b> Cllr Kirve delivered a short presentation which was targeted at improving Lower Road between the ambulance station and the school. It contained three elements to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Siting a bench/bus shelter on the wide footway next to Harborne Manor.</li> <li>• Siting a bench/bus shelter at the bus layby outside Magpie Cottage.</li> <li>• Side out overgrowth on the footway from the 30mph sign coming from the village up to the farm entrance</li> </ul> It was <b>AGREED</b> that the Assistant Clerk be asked to – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contact Abbey Homes to ask if they would be willing to contribute towards a bus shelter to the outside of their development.</li> <li>2. Contact the bus companies to ascertain bus routes and patronage figures.</li> <li>3. Contact Aylesbury Town Council as siding out comes under the devolved services agreement.</li> </ol>	Asst. Clerk  Clerk
<b>C21/05</b>	<b>COMMUNITY CENTRE</b> It was <b>NOTED</b> that the broken panel in the noticeboard at the Community Centre had been replaced. The cost was in the region of £100.	

<b>C21/06</b>	<p><b>QUEEN ELIZABETH II PLAYING FIELD</b></p> <p>a) Footpath around the Playing Field – The Chairman <b>NOTED</b> that whilst the footpath appeared to be finished, a few slabs were still needed alongside the bench by the hall. The Assistant Clerk would speak to the Contractor to rectify. It was felt the footpath had been a resounding success and many positive comments had been received. The Chairman asked where the passing bays were to be sited. The Clerk explained that the slabbed areas to every bench on the path would also act as passing bays.</p> <p>b) Picnic benches – Following the increased usage by families at the beginning of the last lockdown, the Clerk had put forward a proposal to purchase picnic benches for the playing field. It was <b>NOTED</b> that this would increase litter on the field and that this was a playing field and not a park. Cllrs unanimously <b>AGREED</b> to defer this proposal until a later date.</p> <p>c) Clearing ditch next to Abbey Homes development – The clerk updated the group that SLN had had to install new drainage to the playing field because of the amount of surface water in place. It was felt that if the ditch was cleared it would help alleviate any further issues. It was <b>AGREED</b> that the clerk and assistant clerk would work together to approach Abbey Homes to see if they would help fund this project as it would also be of benefit to them.</p> <p>d) Security fence to the rear of the play area – Cllr Hunt brought this item to the Committee for their consideration. The group felt that this issue should fall to the carers of the children using the play area and the installation of a security fence was not felt necessary at this time</p>	<p>Asst Clerk</p> <p>Clerk/ Asst Clerk</p>
<b>C21/07</b>	<p><b>ALLOTMENTS</b> – Improvement to access path. The Parish Council had been approached by an allotment holder who wanted to ask us to consider improving the access path to the allotments. It had recently become unusable due to inclement weather and the allotment holder had placed a temporary plastic path onto the area to allow safe passage. Cllrs felt this did merit further investigation. It was <b>AGREED</b> the Assistant Clerk would source quotes and bring back to a future meeting.</p>	Asst Clerk
<b>C21/08</b>	<p><b>MARSH LANE BURIAL GROUND</b></p> <p>The Clerk had prepared a paper for the group to consider. As this field was the only remaining land in the Parish Councils ownership the meeting was asked if the burial ground was still the best project to pursue. Cllrs unanimously <b>AGREED</b> that as the original quotes for construction were over two years old that new quotes should be obtained and then a decision could be taken as to whether to proceed or not. It was <b>AGREED</b> to seek contact Chalfont St Peter Parish Council and Cemetery Development Services for advice in obtaining quotes.</p>	Clerk
<b>C21/09</b>	<p><b>POLLYANNA PRE-SCHOOL</b></p> <p>Pollyanna pre-school had written to the Parish Council to request permission to install an artificial grass surface to the outside space. Whilst the Parish Council had no objections to this proposal, before any permissions were issued, the Assistant Clerk was asked to contact the Fields in Trust organisation to seek their approval.</p>	Asst Clerk
<b>C21/10</b>	<p><b>HIGHWAYS, RIGHTS of WAY and FOOTPATHS</b></p> <p>a) To consider the purchase of litter bins, noticeboards and dog bins for the new estates in the Parish – The Assistant Clerk had received notification from Bucks Council that once the land on the new estates was publicly adopted by Bucks Council there would be no charge to empty litter bins. Dog bins would be charged for emptying regardless of land ownership. It was <b>AGREED</b> the Assistant Clerk would speak to Bucks Council to ascertain a timetable for when the new estates would be adopted. Once this information was received it would be brought back to a future meeting.</p> <p>b) Private road maintenance in the Parish – This matter had been brought to the Parish Council by Cllr Hunt. As she had received an enquiry relating to the ownership of the road by the hairdressers in the village and its poor state, the discussion was widened to all private roads in the Parish and whether the Parish Council should consider funding the maintenance of them. (Prior to the meeting it was confirmed the road by the hairdressers was publicly owned). Councillors unanimously <b>AGREED</b> that the Parish Council should not consider funding the maintenance of private roads in the Parish.</p>	Asst Clerk

	<p>c) Purchase of 'accessible' bench in Station Road – The Assistant Clerk had supplied quotes for both a wooden and recycled material type bench. Councillors <b>AGREED</b> to purchase the accessible bench in recycled materials.</p> <p>d) Cllr Steve Pluckwell memorial bench – Cllrs <b>AGREED</b> the quote for a bench which would be sited near to the village school at the request of Cllr Pluckwell's wife.</p> <p>e) Eskdale Road damaged verges – The Clerk had received a complaint about damaged verges from a resident in Eskdale Road. Whilst the Parish Council were understanding of the issue they felt this could be resolved between neighbours and was not something the Parish Council should be looking to resolve. The Clerk was asked to respond to the complainant accordingly.</p>	<p>Asst Clerk</p> <p>Asst Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<b>C21/11</b>	<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b> The next meeting will be on 9 March 2021 at 7.30pm.	

The meeting closed at 9pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ January 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
26/05/20	C20/39	Contact contractors regarding car park extension.	Assistant	On hold
12/01/21	C21/03	Obtain quotes to clean tennis courts	Assistant	In Progress
12/01/21	C21/04	Contact Abbey Homes re-funding of bus shelter by Magpie Cottage	Assistant	In Progress
12/01/21	C21/04	Contact bus companies to confirm routes and patronage in the Parish	Assistant	Completed
12/01/21	C21/04	Contact ATC for siding out pathway in Lower Road	Clerk/Asst	Completed
12/01/21	C21/06	Contact Contractor to complete slabs by bench closest to the Community Centre	Assistant	Completed
12/01/21	C21/06	Contact Abbey Homes about ditch clearance	Clerk/Asst	In Progress
12/01/21	C21/07	Seek quotes for a new footway on the access path to allotments	Asst	Completed
12/01/21	C21/08	Seek quotes for updated high level cost quotation for a new burial ground	Clerk	In Progress
12/01/21	C21/09	Contact Fields in Trust to obtain permission for Pollyanna to improve their outside space	Asst	Completed
12/01/21	C21/10	Contact Bucks Council for estate adoption timetable	Asst	Completed
12/01/21	C21/10	Purchase accessible bench for Station Road	Asst	In Progress
12/01/21	C21/10	Purchase memorial bench for Cllr Steve Pluckwell	Asst	In Progress
12/01/21	C21/10	Respond to resident in Eskdale Road in relation to damaged verges	Clerk	Completed