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Minutes of **MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Wednesday 1st March 2017** at 7.30pm in the Committee Room of Renhold Village Hall.

PRESENT:- Parish Councillors, Mr. Harrison, Mr. Gurney, Mrs. Brunsdon, Mr. Gregory, Mr. Slater (Chair), Mr. Harrison, Mrs. Gribble, Mrs. Dean, Borough Councillors Anthony Forth,, Sheryl Corp and Stephen Moon, the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat and forty five members of the public.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED: - Cllr. Slater welcomed everyone to the meeting, Parish Councillor Quince, had sent apologies which were accepted.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:-

There were no declarations of interest received, though there was a discussion on whether Councillors who had boundaries adjacent to proposed preferred development sites within the Local Plan 2035 public consultation would need to declare an interest, it was agreed that this would not be applicable.

The Chairman highlighted that due to the volume of residents in attendance at the meeting the room had exceeded the capacity regarding health and safety, so the doors would remain open for the meeting to allow those in the hallway access to the meeting. Given the specific interest in this matter it was agreed that this item would be brought forward and comments from members of the public would be welcome.

8. LOCAL PLAN 2035 PROPOSED PUBLIC CONSULTATION PERIOD

It was noted that additional copies of a summary document produced by the Parish Council relating to the Local Plan 2035 had been provided to those in attendance, as well as being placed on the Council website and circulated via the village circulation list. In summary the Council gave an update on the latest communications regarding this item. The Parish Council were notified on 14th February that the Bedford Borough Council Executive Committee would be considering whether to proceed or not with the next stage of the public consultation process relating to the Local Plan 2035 document, which is the local authority strategic planning development framework for Bedford Borough. The Planning Policy Borough Officers advised *the next stage of the preparation of the Local Plan 2035 is a public consultation to invite comments on the Council's preferred development strategy, potential development sites and a number of updated background documents. Your responses to this consultation are important as they will help to shape the plan itself. No decisions have yet been made about the issues that are covered in this consultation paper. The Preliminary dates for the consultation are Tuesday 18 April to Friday 2 June 2017* and there is a part of the document which does potentially propose a significant development of 500 houses in the Salph End part of the village.

The Parish Council have been in ongoing and continuous communications with Borough Council Officers over the last two years, and at no point has a significant development in this part of the village, or any other part, been reported to be taken forward. The Parish Council have always, and will continue, to strongly oppose any new housing development within the parish.

It was outlined that the Parish Council have already begun working on what can be done to remove the housing development to the parish. This will be a natural focus at all forthcoming Parish Council meetings (1st March, 11th April, 22nd May), and there will be consideration on best to achieve this, such as, consider whether to engage with professional consultants to represent the Parish Council, agree a cohesive way to alert the parishioners of the implications regarding this proposal, use different communications methods to alert residents such as newsletter articles,

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websites, noticeboards, and a separate leaflet drop. As well as arrange an informative public meeting, drop in sessions for residents. At all stages the Council welcomed residents to keep up to date with helpful information over the coming months by contacting the Clerk.

Residents raised their concerns which included traffic implications through the whole village, and what infrastructure plan has been produced regarding healthcare and broadband for example, by the local authority.

It was explained that Cllr. Moon had addressed the Executive Committee expressing great concern regarding the inclusion of Renhold as part of the proposed urban extension with such a significant housing allocation. Both the Borough and Parish Councillors had been surprised by the sites indicated at this stage as being preferred and reassurance was given that recent dialogue with Planning Policy Officers had commenced to arrange a meeting to discuss this matter. Residents were encouraged to right individual letters of objections as these are more significant than a petition which is only counted as one objection regardless of the numbers of people supporting it.

The Parish Council intend to arrange an information session shortly to be inform residents which would involve a leaflet drop off the whole village so ample notice could be given and it would provide an opportunity for residents to find out more about the process and how to become involved. The Council will review the full supporting information accompanying the public consultation which will not be live until the consultation is active, so information on the settlement hierarchy and how the preferred sites have been arrived at by the local authority cannot be scrutinised until this time.

Members of the public were welcome to leave their contact details so they could be added to the village circulation list where the Clerk would be sending out regular updates in the coming weeks.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the next item.

3. OPEN FORUM: -

There was concern expressed by a resident who had listened to the audio recording of the Executive Committee at Borough Hall, where an individual had claimed to be speaking on behalf of Renhold residents. The person felt that they were not representing the views of the residents as it was not an agreed statement supported by the residents of the parish.

The Council received an offer of help from a resident in the coming weeks with the associated work with the Local Plan 2035 information event.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting for the next item.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:-

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January had been circulated. The minutes were discussed, the document was approved, unanimously agreed, resolution passed and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

5. MATTERS ARISING:-

There was an update that the noticeboard refurbishment work was ongoing.

The Clerk had sent off a number of reports to the Highways Helpdesk following items raised at the last meeting.

The Clerk had updated the budget document as requested at the last meeting, circulating the revised version to all Councillors.

The Clerk had submitted the Council precept including receiving an acknowledgment of receipt from the Borough Officer.

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The Council had been notified that the cycle event planned in June through the parish had been cancelled.

The Clerk had circulated a copy of a planning enforcement notice regarding the replacement of part of the hedgerow along Ravensden Road.

Cllr. Quince was attending the social media training session being run by BATPC.

The Church End bus shelter had been reviewed by Cllrs. Quince and Gribble, their suggestions were that the same work to be carried out to this shelter regarding the maintenance, so the Clerk to obtain a quote for this. It was agreed to have a replacement bin at the site as well and the Clerk to see if the hedges could be trimmed nearby as well as a replacement bus stop sign as the existing one is leaning.

The Clerk had followed up the latest information for the former Three Horseshoes site, the Officer had detailed that the agreement with the developer had to date not been signed so the decision had not been issued.

The Council had also been notified that the Borough Council would receive Parish Council comments after the deadlines specified if the meeting schedule did not align.

Any other items would be covered during the meeting.

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLORS REPORT: -

There was an update that other than the planning issues already raised regarding the Local Plan 2035 there were continuing issues with parking on the new developments with vergeway parking.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE: - The Clerk detailed that the Council had been informed that there had been in the month of December there had been 17, and in January 3 notices of intended prosecution being issued by the Police from the average speed cameras. The Clerk had also pursued whether it is possible to upgrade the equipment to receive more meaningful data from the cameras, to see the volumes of vehicles traveling through the village. The Council had considered how to publicise the data regarding the offenders, the Borough Council were happy for this to be done, but it could not be a sign in the highways verge, so it was considered if a local landowner may be happy to have a sign on their land somewhere prominent.

There was a helpful update from PC Crozier regarding action and enforcement relating to the Traffic Regulation Order, there had been enforcement in the village recently. Police patrolled the village for 40 minutes in marked police vehicle and returned to complete speed enforcement as detailed below. They also stopped vehicles travelling through the village TRO and completed checks of the vehicles. The speed checks revealed all drivers to be travelling under 30mph, which was just over 70 vehicles and the majority of vehicles stopped were local residents. The police are building a database of vehicles that are breaching the order and will speak to repeat offenders, it is hoped there will be future enforcements of this kind when possible.

There was concern raised regarding local car meets which are noisy and anti-social, it was suggested that if this is seen then please report to the police and the Borough Councillors.

9. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: -

a) 16/03287/FUL erection of mobile home for temporary period of 3 years at Oaklands, 60 Ravensden Road – the Clerk had reported this to Planning Enforcement as previously discussed, who had responded which has been circulated to all Councillors. It was noted no action would be taken as there is expected to be an application shortly for work to the bungalow which would require the siting of the temporary mobile home. To date there has been no application seen for this.

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- b) To receive an update on the Renhold Lower School application 16/02858/DC3 – this application had been approved and a copy of the Officer's letter detailing why the decision was made to approve the application had been circulated to all.
- c) Other planning matters – it was noted that the application regarding 6A Green End had been refused, and 11 Brookside had been approved.
- d) 17/00406/FUL single storey rear/side extension at 15 Becher Close – the Council reviewed the documents and raise no objection to this application.
- e) 17/00542/FUL single storey rear extension and garage conversion at 46 Asgard Drive - the Council reviewed the documents and raise no objection to this application.

10. POLICE MATTERS:-

There is expected to be a meeting looking at local policing priorities at the end of the month, some Councillors expressed an interest in attending. There had continued to be the crime statistics circulated which had shown six crimes in January and two in February within the parish. As well as details on the new Superintendent appointed to the local team.

11. VILLAGE MATTERS:-

It was noted that there had been no feedback on potential village signs in the village at the three new developments, following inclusion in the newsletter and circulation list. The Clerk to start looking into the potential cost for such signs and associated options.

It was noted that due to the focus on planning matter relating to the Local Plan 2035 that for the interim no further action would be taken into looking at a play provision for children in the older part of the village.

The Council had received a copy of the electoral register from the Borough Council.

The village sign work is progressing well and an update report had been received which outlined the installation is expected in July. The Clerk to investigate a plaque for marking the installation.

Feedback from meetings Councillors have attended included Cllrs. Slater and Gurney attended a disappointing Town and Parish network meeting, it was felt that it would be helpful to respond with this feedback to aid the Borough Council in making the meetings more meaningful. Cllrs. Slater and Brunsdon had attended the recent meeting with Alastair Burt MP. Cllr. Gribble had attended a meeting regarding river warden work and is volunteering along with a resident to monitor this in the parish.

A number of Councillors had attended a recent Volunteer Task Day in the parish led by Bedford Borough Council who were working on improvements to the local rights of way network. A Councillor had completed the recent ROWIP survey which the Council are consulting on and Cllr. Harrison continues to pursue the better access from Spires estate to the school, which a local resident is also campaigning for.

In terms of other matters, the next stage of the Quality Status application is being completed and the Council is pursuing locating the missing Council minutes which does continue to be followed up.

The Council also wished to note their disappointment at a resident's comments directed at the Clerk in a recent email communication.

12. FINANCE MATTERS: -

The following outstanding invoice was presented (it was noted that all contained within budget):

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service January and February £557.36x2

BATPC Quality Status fee £50.00

Mr Chambers maintenance work through the village £1558.16

It was unanimously agreed by all those present to pay the invoices presented, resolution passed.

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It was noted that between meetings as Mr Chambers was carrying out the maintenance work he had advised that additional work was required, at The Old School building, it was found that the two posts were rotten at the bottom up to 150mm. Therefore in order to complete the fixing of the new board the supply of two new posts and bolts, at an extra cost of the materials plus collection was £52.84 plus VAT which had been authorised between meetings.

The Councillors then discussed the supporting information relating to the revised grass cutting specification and quote that had been received. It was noted the requirement is for increased cutting over the season and it was agreed that the Clerk to notify the appointment of A R Worboys Ltds as the contractor for this year, with Councillors Dean and Gurney as the points of contact.

Councillors had received the latest transaction report as well as the latest financial analysis of actual against budgeted expenditure which shows all areas are within the planned budget.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Bill Peet and he continue as the contractor for the War Memorial maintenance this year.

13. CORRESPONDANCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED: -

NALC Events Bulletin emails

Age Partnership email promoting services

BBC Planning weekly list email

Village newsletter copy

Online playgrounds promotional information

BBC letter acknowledging receipt of planning comments

Average camera monthly reporting data

Village circulation list interested residents wishing to join

ERTA Voluntary Transport email

Police crime statistics

Invite to local policing quarterly priority meeting with PC Crozier

BBC Electoral Register copy received

Expression of interest in looking at developing a play area for the older part of the village

Concern by a resident regarding the broadband they receive

Communications regarding the planning enforcement at 60 Ravensden Road,

Churchyard grant thank you letter

Approval of the school application letter which sets out why approval was given

BATPC Bugle

PCC newsletter

Discussions with Andy Prigmore, BBC Highways Officer, regarding the various Renhold highways items

Confirmation of precept being received by the Borough Council

Confirmation of items reported to highways helpdesk being logged

BRCC play area management training

Cancellation email regarding the Rural Affairs Committee

Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch letter

UK Power Networks helping vulnerable people in the community information

Town and Parish Network meeting, BBC 9th February

BATPC letter from Marcus Jones MP

East of England Cambridge to Oxford expressway update

BBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee consultation on work programme

Application from Autism Bedfordshire for grant funding

Beds Police North Rural Community police team email

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Resident communication regarding the Salph End proposed development copied into letter sent to the Mayor
BATPC information on a free information and networking event on 28th March
BATPC session on social media
Communication from Mr Chambers regarding additional work required to the noticeboard work
BBC Planning Policy email with details of the Local Plan 2035 document going to Executive
Communication from resident regarding access to the Post Office noticeboard
Councillors have been reporting fly tipping in the parish
ROWIP survey
BBC email regarding the Great British Spring Clean
BRCC e-bulletin
B ATPC Training programme
BBC Town and Parish Network meeting 9th February
Alastair Burt MP meeting venue change
Rights of Way Volunteer Task Day on 24th January
Clearance by the bench at Top End
Clearance by the Church End bus shelter
BBC emails regarding new bin at Church End
BRCC email regarding local rivers and wildlife
BBC email regarding hedgerow replacement at Ravensden Road
Update received on the Three Horseshoes
Over filled bin on Markham Rise reported by resident to BBC copying PC in
BBC letter regarding lower school application and responses to the PC's objections

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: -

Matters that arose during meeting to be included.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - on Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 10.20pm

Signed

Dated