

# Minutes of the Caddington Parish Council Meeting held at Heathfield Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023



Present: Parish Councillors M Russell (Chair), M Tomlin, V Malone, A Palmer, H Palmer, A Goodyear, S Smith, R Catford, M Mackey, B Fitzsimmons, Clerks M Whiting & L Heartfield, CBC Ward Cllrs K Collins & E Perry, 29 members of public

## **Public participation:**

- Point made that when the re classification of Chaul End Road is held, that it is hoped that the traffic will not be made worse through Caddington.
- Lamppost on Dunstable Road near Scout hut is still out. Fix my street ref 376256 advises CBC engineers inspected and found fault with power supply. Clerk advised that this was escalated to electricity provider on 24<sup>th</sup> November with 28 day timescale. CBC still chasing UK Power Networks.
- Elm Avenue potholes are very bad and being made worse by the hourly bus journeys. Cllr Tomlin reported that he has made 17 new reports on Fix My Street where he also provided photos. He will raise with CBC officers at his site meeting on Thursday 16/03/2023.
- When will the road width restriction outside the Sports and Social Club be repaired? Cllr Tomlin agreed to raise again with CBC at his site meeting on Thursday 16/03/2023.
- Co-op pavement lorry access is uneven possibly through wear and tear. Clerk to inspect and report on Fix My Street.
- Question about the signage alerting vehicle drivers of the 7.5 ton restrictions in the village and surrounding area. Cllr Collins advised that there had been some signage changes due to the detrunking of A5 and that the restrictions do not stop 7.5 ton vehicles completely. Not allowed repeater signs as should only be at the entrance. If the public are concerned they can call the fleet manager on the number on the vehicle livery and report the registration number.
- Report of a mattress which had been dumped earlier in the day adjacent to the pedestrian crossing on the green. Cllr Russell advised that he was aware and that it had been reported.

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received and accepted from PCSO L Tuck (Dunstable Community Team)

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Russell declared an interest in payments for authorisation (agenda items 19 and Heathfield verges 15)

## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 were a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **4. WELCOME NEW CLERK**

Chairman Mark Russell welcomed new Clerk Linda Heartfield and thanked outgoing Clerk Maxine Whiting. Flowers and a gift were given to Clerk Whiting in recognition of her hard work and dedication over the years to Caddington and the Council. Chairman Russell wished Maxine all the best in the future.

## **5. PROGRESS UPDATE FROM LAST MEETING**

Lamp post on Dunstable Road near scout hut still out, Fix my street ref 376256. CBC still chasing UK Power Networks.

## **6. CADDINGTON WATCH & POLICE**

Clerk circulated Police crime data spreadsheets link to Cllrs. 10 offences reported in February, 4 since last meeting. Cllr Fitzsimmons read out full crime statistic report from CaddWatch which had been forwarded to all Councillors.

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## 7. CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Ward Cllr Collins reported the following:

- That there were some changes and vacancies in the Highways Dept at CBC. Staff are being attracted away to higher salaries at Highways England however good news that there are now 4 jet patchers rather than 1 so we should see an improvement to the time it takes to carry out spot repairs.
- Beechwoods Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and CBC contribution amounts towards the Strategic Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), reported at previous meetings, is now within a week of being agreed. Once agreed, this will allow the release of planning applications including land behind the scout hut.
- Very aware that the use of Chaul End Road is very different than historically and is pushing for a review.
- New Vista Planning application for the Heathfield building is expected.
- Luton Airport Expansion Application Development Consent Order (DCO) has gone to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. Timetables expected end of March.
- Acknowledged that planning appeals are taking over a year to be heard and that he has raised this with Michael Gove MP at a recent meeting.
- Cllr Malone asked if Ward Cllr Collins could raise the issue of liquid pollution seen on the Brick Kiln site. Photos and reports passed to the New Environmental Officer are not receiving acknowledgement.

Ward Cllr Perry reported the following:

- No one came to his March surgery and he encouraged attendance to his final surgery in April. Ward Cllr Perry will not be standing again in the May elections.

## 8. CASEBUG

The monitoring of the 230 service continues and has been found to be working very well. It is also attracting higher usage than the previous 231 service.

CaSeBuG primary activity has been focussed upon revising the 232 service, whose contract is up for renewal in May this year. As the current service is interlinked with the 74 Dial-a- Ride service, both services have had to be considered simultaneously.

We have submitted to the Central Bedfordshire Senior Transport Officer a comprehensive data package for re-routing both services to give a 2 hourly frequency for six days a week.

We have had to take into consideration the existing Central Bedfordshire constraints on budgets, and also limitations on service provision detailed in their previous transport plan.

We feel that our proposal should receive a positive response from both the Central Bedfordshire Council Transport Officer, and from the parishioners of Caddington. We have also adopted the comments posted in the previous Parish Council Minutes, and our plan affords a Saturday service together with a suggested revised 232 route to replicate that of the old 231 route after serving Caddington (i.e. via Manshead).

The response from Central Bedfordshire County Council may take some time as a bridging contract may be put in place to span the Council Elections.

CBC would like to invite Parish and Town Councils across the area to participate in the Bus Users' Forum to represent the interests of their residents and communities. Councils may choose to participate in the pan-Bedfordshire Bus Users' Forum on an individual basis or may choose to link together with neighbouring Parish or Town Councils, where common bus routes serve adjacent areas, or where a larger Parish or Town may already have a councillor with a transport portfolio who is happy to attend on behalf of a wider local area.

**AGREED** Casebug to participate and make representation on behalf of Caddington.

## 9. HEATHFIELD

Parish Councillors with John Waller met on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March and all were in favour of securing a realistic and fair deal for the Parish. Now awaiting development figures from New Vista Homes and their Quantity Surveyors, who it is hoped will make a presentation in April.

## 10. VILLAGE MAGAZINE

John Waller reported that the first issue of the village magazine had been well received. He reported a slight loss on the first issue but expects to break even with the second and make the loss back on the third issue.

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### 11. KING'S CORONATION EVENT

Cllr Malone advised a working group has been set up for the event on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May. The group consists of Parish Cllrs Malone, Russell, Tomlin, Mackey & Fitzsimmons, Clerk and a number of Caddington residents. The group met last week and organisation is progressing well. Traffic Regulation Order request for Hyde Road closure has been approved by CBC. Cllr Malone will apply to CBC for a Temporary Event licence at a cost of £21 (to be reimbursed) There will be additional stalls on the Green this year and food and drink stalls will be asked for £50 donation. **AGREED** Donations to be given to the Heathfield refurbishment fund.

### 12. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 8:15pm at Heathfield Centre. The April full council meeting will be held prior to this starting at 7:30pm. This is a week later than normal due to the Easter Bank Holiday Monday. Grant recipients will be invited. Heathfield Friends are willing to provide a buffet and wine for approx. 80 people and will include gluten free options. Refreshments costs to be reimbursed on production of receipts.

### 13. GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

CBC have advised the Great British Spring Clean will take place from 17<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April. Scouts are unable to participate as it is so close to easter holidays. Suggested delaying until summer. CBC environmental services have advised they are happy to assist with rubbish bag collection if delayed. Caddington Village School Year 5 classes are going on a village walk as part of their geography work on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March and will combine the Great British Spring Clean at the same time.

### 14. GRANT AID APPLICATIONS

£12,000 is allocated in the 2023/24 budget under Section 137. £5000 of this is allocated to the Heathfield Centre for publication of 10 issues of The Villager magazine. All application forms had been received by Councillors prior to the meeting. **It was RESOLVED** to award the following:

Group	Purpose	2023/24
Caddington Scout Group	2 x Hike Tents	£ 297.98
Caddington Heathfield Centre	Racking for storage	£ 660.00
Caddington Recreation Assc	Play area safety surface matting	£ 732.26
Caddington Pre-School	5 staff paediatric first aid training	£ 524.94
Caddington Pre-School	Building bricks	£ 237.55
Case Community Trust	Noticeboard	£ 676.50
	Total given	<b>£ 2,171.25</b>

**AGREED:** to award grants on a 6 monthly rather than annual basis in order to provide more timely support to local groups. Retrospective awards of grants will not be considered in future funding rounds.

### 15. HEATHFIELD CLOSE VERGES

Cllr Tomlin advised that one quote had been received and the scope of the project will still need agreement and will be a trial. Clerk to obtain two more quotes.

### 16. TREES

TGB Treecare ground out lime tree stump and Majestic Trees have planted replacement lime tree. CBC tree officer Andy Jones has been advised and photo sent. Cllr Russell advised village green Christmas tree is showing new growth and will keep an eye over the summer months. Caddington Tree Warden Terry Buxton will visually check all parish council owned trees shortly. Next full inspection is due in February 2024. Clerk to ask VGS to assess the tree support straps in Edgecote Park as these appear too tight. A family hope to plant the memorial Rowan tree on Friday 31/03/23. This is privately funded and has been given prior permission

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### 17. PLANNING

CB/23/00600/FULL 100 Manor Road, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4HH

Single storey front extension

No objection

CB/23/00584/FULL Chaul End Reservoir, Chaul End Road, Caddington, LU1 4AX

Construction of water storage asset and all associated works.

No objection

CB/23/00465/FULL Brick Kiln Barns, Chaul End Road, Caddington. LU1 4AT

Demolition of an existing redundant barn and proposed new 3 bedroom bungalow

**OBJECT** due to over development.

CB/23/00545/FULL 7 Mardle Close, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4EZ

Single and two storey, front, side and rear extensions

No objection

CB/23/00719/FULL 53 Hyde Road, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4HD

Proposed single storey front extension complete with open porch and two storey rear extension

No objection

CB/23/00723/FULL Top Valley Lodge, Chaul End Village, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4AX

Erection of single storey rear and side extension

No objection

CB/19/00469/OUT Divert a section of Public Footpath No.16 that passes through the site of the new housing development on Mancroft Road.

**OBJECT** as sets a precedent and may be against bylaws.

### 18. CORRESPONDENCE

Caddington Gardening Club Plant Sale on The Green Saturday 27th May 9-12 – permitted.

NALC EVENTS – email fwd Cllrs 8/3

Chiltern Society Magazine Spring 2023 – email fwd Cllrs 8/3

CBC Health event details – email fwd Cllrs 3/3

Charisma hair salon tombola raised £305 for Keech hospice - email fwd Cllrs 3/3

CBC Woodside Road Temporary Road Closure 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May - email fwd Cllrs 3/3

CBC online event 1/3 Design Guide and Housing Policy Technical Guidance – email fwd Cllrs 1/3, 23/2, 16/2

CBC Electoral Commission update to website - email fwd Cllrs 24/2 & Clerk updated parish website

CBC agreed budget for 2023/24 - email fwd Cllrs 24/2

Luton Borough Council Town Centre Design Guide consultation ending 31/3 - email fwd Cllrs 17/2

CBC Garden waste collections to resume from 27 February - email fwd Cllrs 17/2

CBC Topic Session Feedback on Waste Reduction Volunteers - 7 February 2023 - email fwd Cllrs 15/2

CBC Voting at the next local elections changes in voter ID - email fwd Cllrs 14/2

CBC Pipers Lane, Aley Green Temporary Road Closure 12<sup>th</sup> May - email fwd Cllrs 14/2

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## 19. AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

It was **RESOLVED** by full council to authorise the following accounts for online payment.

Date	Payment	Payable to:	Payment Details	Total
01/03/2023	SO	Village Garden Services	Ground maintenance	£ 801.74
01/03/2023	SO	John Dudley	Allotment management	£ 45.00
13/03/2023	Transfer	Staff Costs	Salaries, PAYE, Pension	TBC
13/03/2023	Transfer	Andrew Shaw Computer Services	Microsoft 365 & Virus checker	£ 25.92
13/03/2023	Transfer	Andrew Shaw Computer Services	Assistance with handover	£ 90.00
13/03/2023	Transfer	TGB Treecare Ltd	Lime tree stump grinding	£ 540.00
13/03/2023	Transfer	Majestic Trees	Replacement Lime tree on green	£ 411.96
13/03/2023	Transfer	Village Garden Services	Parish Warden Cover February	£ 1,674.00
13/03/2023	Transfer	Heathfield Centre	Printing costs Villager Mag Feb edition	£ 500.00
27/03/2023	SO	James Macpherson	CCTV service contract	£ 200.00
27/03/2023	DD	O2	Clerk & Warden phones	£ 61.72
27/03/2023	DD	Castle Water	Allotment Water	£ 46.21
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 4,396.55</b>

### Public participation:

- Chaul End Lane layby is now a frequent dumping area could there be a camera? Cllr Tomlin advised that this had been looked into but that CCTV laws are very restrictive. Ward Cllr Collins advised that he had taken photos of recent issues and found a name and address contained within the rubbish. This information had been passed for action to the CBC Enforcement Team.
- Field behind the allotments has had recent improvements. Possibly farm land works.
- Thank you to Clerk Maxine Whiting for all her hard work. A round of applause was given.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm