

# Minutes of the Caddington Parish Council Meeting held at Heathfield Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024



Present: Parish Councillors M Russell (Chairman), V Malone (also CBC Ward Cllr), A Palmer, B Fitzsimmons, H Palmer, R Catford, J Lovell, CBC Ward Cllr K Collins, Clerk L Heartfield, 20 members of the public.

## Public participation:

- A statement was made regarding the consultation by Central Bedfordshire Council on the locations of local polling stations. It was suggested that there is a need for one more polling station rather than reducing their number.
- A question was asked regarding the reclassification of Chaul End Road. Cllr Collins said a CBC Highways Survey is currently underway.

## **23/24/188 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and noted from Cllr Tomlin.

## **23/24/189 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Russell declared an interest in payments for authorisation (agenda item 23/24/206).

Cllr Fitzsimmons declared an interest in funding for The Heathfield Centre defibrillator (agenda item 23/24/199) and Grant aid awards (Round 1) 2024/25 (agenda item 23/24/203).

## **23/24/190 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024 were a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

## **23/24/191 PROGRESS UPDATE FROM LAST MEETING – for information only**

- Cllr Russell has received and accepted the resignation of Cllr Mackey with immediate effect. The electoral notice has been posted on the parish notice board, and after a period of 14 working days (21/03/24), it will be determined whether there will be an election or if the co-option process can commence. The Clerk expressed gratitude to Cllr Mackey for his contributions during his tenure on the Council.
- The work in the Churchyard, which included removing the brambles along the perimeter wall and pollarding the lime trees leading to the front door, has been successfully completed. Additionally, ivy will be removed from the Yew tree. Please make note of an additional £475 payment, which was not included in the list sent prior to the meeting.
- Slip End Parish held a Parish networking event on Monday 26th February. Cllrs Malone, Tomlin and Russell and the Clerk all attended. It was a useful event and there is a proposal for us to host in 6 months. This will be discussed nearer the time.
- The Assistant Director, Highways (CBC) has replied regarding the brick bus shelter and confirmed that it is ok to use laminated glass but they reserve the right to raise the matter again should visibility become a problem. They will not fund any of the work which will commence on 18th March 2024 and should take 5 days.
- Has anyone seen the Caddington Flood sign? It disappeared in the last flood, it is labelled so if found please let the Clerk know.

## **23/24/192 POLICE AND CADDINGTON WATCH**

Since the last Parish meeting in February, there have been 13 reported offences. Cllr Fitzsimmons provided a detailed overview of the crime statistics report from CaddWatch, which had been distributed to all councillors before the meeting and shared with those in attendance. A representative from the Scouts expressed gratitude to the Police Community Officer (PCO) who attended the February meeting and subsequently visited a Beavers gathering, providing valuable crime prevention packs.

Cllr Collins announced the installation of a Police Public Access terminal at the Lyons Community Centre in Caddington Woods. This initiative is part of the police's efforts to install such terminals in public buildings, offering a more accessible venue for members of the public to report crimes, particularly for those who may feel uncomfortable doing so from their own homes.

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## **23/24/193 REPORT FROM CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE WARD COUNCILLORS**

Ward Cllr Malone reported that:

She has chased the repainting of the mini roundabout at the top of Hyde Rd. and the speed humps in Mancroft, These will be carried out in April in the new financial year.

The M1 bridge and the golf club seemed to have held up well in the recent flooding. The gulleys and culverts in Mancroft were once again cleared and the trash screens were secured in a better way which seem to be doing their job in collecting all the detritus.

Cllr Malone has now prioritised flooding in Dunstable Road. Today an order has been raised for the gullies to be cleaned and jetted.

The collapsed drain cover outside Bury Farm has finally been repaired and the barriers are gone, you may notice a speed data strip there now to monitor the speed of cars using the road due to an increase in accidents around that stretch. They placed the strip there a week ago but of course it would have been a false reading as cars would have had to slow down due to the barriers so they will be leaving it up for another week.

The footpath from Mancroft Rd. to Millfield Green has now been finished, it is paved and tarmacked all the way to a gate that will be unlocked from 7am-7pm, and later in the summer months.

Elm Ave, Enslow Close, Culworth Close, should have been closed from the 8th March but a problem with joint sealing has occurred and there was a safety concern relating to the machinery used to perform this job, so completion of this type of work is on hold across all Milestones contracts, therefore it has been cancelled until the new financial year. The Clerk and myself received no notification of cancellation of works until I queried it today which is why I have not been able to update everyone, CBC has asked the Contractor to letter drop residents to give them sufficient notice.

Folly Lane, the footpaths Officer has asked the farmer to remove the fallen and falling trees due to lack of budget of which he has kindly done so, the next section (Bridleway 6) the grass section. the tree officers have been out to have a look and they are on a list to do a proper tree survey, but no idea when as the budget has been severely reduced for April.

The steps that take you up to Bury Farm field need repairing, the Footpaths Officer is going to ask one of the volunteer groups if they can fit them into their schedule this year.

Traffic enforcement has been asked to step up patrols at Caddington Village school, there are restrictions in this area such as "school keep clear" signs and single yellow lines. They will enforce any vehicle in breach of the parking restrictions. I have also spoken to the Road Safety Officer about the ongoing problems with parking at CVS, she has a few options; these include several already under discussion with the school:

- 1) Make the road a one way system permanently
- 2) Apply for School Streets
- 3) Apply for parking restrictions around the area which are enforceable
- 4) Ask all parents to sign a parking charter if they use their car to take and collect their child to and from school

As ever any issues in the village that concern Central Bedfordshire Council can be relayed via email to CBC Cllr Malone

## **23/24/194 CADDINGTON AND SLIP END BUS USER'S GROUP (CaSeBuG)**

A representative from CaSeBuG reported that they have recently been in touch with the CBC Transport Officers and although the good news is that, 'in principle', the transport budgets have been retained following the period of consultation; detailed Departmental Budgets had not been concluded. Hence, the Transport Officers were unable to confirm if our requests for enhanced services on the 232 and 230 routes had been accepted, or services retained in the current format, or lost due to pressures on the budgets. However, current indications suggest that we should remain optimistic that enhanced services will be provided. We will request monies from the Parish Councils to publish new timetables as and when required, however, discussions with CBC have indicated that they are prepared to fund the printing of new timetables themselves, if not in full, certainly in part. It is hoped that by the next Parish Council Meeting we will have a clearer picture on both issues.

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## 23/24/195 CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL PLAY STREETS INITIATIVE

Ellie Woodward-Webster, Active Streets Engagement Officer at Central Bedfordshire Council attended the meeting and gave a short report on the Play Street Initiative (not to be confused with School Streets). Ellie explained that the play street initiative aim was to help to get children more active and make local streets feel friendlier. A Play Street is when residents come together to give children a chance to play freely and safely close to their homes. Play Streets take place for an hour or two at a time, once a month or once every other week. The street is closed to through traffic but residents can still drive in and out at walking speed (supervised by volunteers). Interested residents should contact Ellie directly. It was **AGREED** to support Play Streets led by residents.

## 23/24/196 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

It was **AGREED** that Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April at 8:15pm at Heathfield Centre. The April full council meeting will be held prior to this starting at 7:30pm. As previously agreed and advertised, 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 refreshments for approx. 40 people which will include gluten free options. Refreshments costs to be reimbursed on production of receipts.

## 23/24/197 CADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL TREE INSPECTION

Clerk contacted three contractors for inspection quotes. Three were received; Bucks Plant Care Ltd £750 (No VAT), RCS £700 + VAT, Arbtech £889 + VAT ( £1339 + VAT for full inspection)  
It was **AGREED** to order a full inspection for Arbtech.

## 23/24/198 GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

It was **AGREED** to arrange the 'Great British Spring Clean' event on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, meeting at Heathfield at 2pm. Litter pickers and bags provided. The Scouts will attend on Saturday and the Beavers have offered to complete a street sign clean at another date to be confirmed. The WI offered to provide refreshments. The Clerk thanked the groups for their assistance, she will advertise and arrange for the bags to be collected by CBC after the event.

## 23/24/199 THE HEATHFIELD CENTRE DEFIBRILLATOR

It was **AGREED** to fund the new defibrillator sited outside Heathfield Centre at a cost of £750. This is a 50% discount and represents good value for money.

## 23/24/200 80TH D-DAY COMMEMORATION ARRANGEMENTS (6TH JUNE 2024)

Participation in the event had previously been agreed at the September 2023 meeting. Details of the day had been circulated to all councillors before this meeting and again to those present. Choices of beacon as suggested by the National D-Day organisers were discussed. It was **AGREED** to purchase the gas fuelled beacon from the 21CC Group Ltd for a cost of £549 +VAT. The Scouts offered to liaise with the Clerk regarding provision of gas bottles.

## 23/24/201 VILLAGE SHOW 2024 ARRANGEMENTS

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk will liaise with Caddington Sports and Social club who are leading the event on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

## 23/24/202 PARISH VILLAGER MAGAZINE FUNDING

A funding proposal report from the magazine Editor had been circulated to all councillors before the meeting and again to those present. It was **AGREED** to fund the ten issues of The Villager published in 2024/25 to a total of £5500. Cllr Palmer thanked the Editor John Waller for all his hard work this year and for producing such a useful village resource. A round of applause was given.

## 23/24/203 GRANT AID AWARDS (ROUND 1) 2024/25

£7000 is allocated in the 2024/25 budget under Section 137 for community grants.

All application forms had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and again to those present.

It was **RESOLVED** to award the following from the budget:

Group	Purpose	Awarded
CADS	Black stage curtains at the back and sides of the stage for Heathfield	£ 1,300.00
Collings Wells Hall	Contribution towards cost of grass cutting	£ 500.00
Caddington Scout Group	Two LED Construction Floodlights	£ 190.00

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Caddington Recreation Assc	A contribution towards cost of community fireworks (total cost of £2209.43)	£1100.00
Heathfield Friends	WiFi Extender, cable, two ring security cameras, cost of 1 year ring online storage for multiple devices.	£ 380.00

Round 2 applications to be received by 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024 for decision in September and grant award in October 2024.

It was **AGREED** to ask the Clerk to obtain additional information and clarify the application from Caddington Pre school.

Caddington Pre-School	Four storage units @ £166 each	£ 664.00
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It was **RESOLVED** to award the following

Caddington Scout Group	Hedgehog house and bird box and feeder etc	£ 107.00
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To be funded from the £841 ring fenced for applications related to wildlife projects (see January 2024 meeting minutes)

## 23/24/204 PLANNING COMMITTEE COMMENTS & RECOMMENDATIONS ON PLANNING MATTERS

It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would forward the following planning comments to CBC Planning Officers.

### CB/24/00099/FULL 149 Manor Road, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4HJ

Creation of a dropped kerb. (Decision by 14/03/2024) **No objection.**

### CB/24/00416/FULL 40 Chaul End Road, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4AS

Proposed loft conversion and roof amended to existing conservatory with new rear bi-folding door, and new door in place of window. (Decision by 14/03/2024) **No objection.**

### CB/23/03951/FULL 105 Manor Road, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4EF

Demolition of existing garage. Front, side and rear extension. Loft extension with rear and side dormers and velux windows (Decision by 18/03/2024) **No objection.**

### CB/24/00423/FULL The Cricketers, Manor Road, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4EE

Demolition of existing public house and associated structures and replaced with two apartment blocks incorporating nine residential apartments with associated access, parking, landscaping, amenity and bin store. (Decision by 19/03/2024) **STRONG OBJECTION**

We object to this application in the strongest manner.

The application in its present form has the potential to destroy the heart of the village. The residents surrounding the Cricketers could have their lives severely changed because of the potential of on road parking from the development. The business community will suffer the same because surveys have shown that 80% of their customer base is car orientated. If you fill up parking spaces you lose customers.

Where the applicant has improved the building design by going for two blocks and reducing the height there are still nine apartments so the buildings are having to take up a large part of the footprint of the given space. This is over development.

There are 9 dwellings proposed which would mean a minimum of 18 parking spaces and a reasonable number of visitor spaces. The application has not achieved this. Although there are one bedroomed apartments it is not a foregone conclusion that they would be inhabited by one person therefore there would be more vehicles. The parking layout shows tandem parking with apartment residents having to park behind one another meaning shuffling vehicles to get in and out, this will never be achieved because of the inconvenience factor, so residents will use visitors areas or park on the road having an adverse effect on the surrounding area. Are we right in thinking CBC have upgraded the number of parking spaces for new builds?

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We would like the façade of the Cricketers Public House, as it stands today, to be retained or replicated in some form in the development of the new building. The public voted unanimously (20 votes) to **OBJECT** to the application.

In conclusion , this is over development, there is a lack of parking spaces and the parking design is inadequate so as previously stated most strongly object.

## CB/TRE/24/00087 Jemma Lodge, Little Green Lane, Caddington, Luton, LU1 4EW

Works to a trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order: SB/TPO/86/00005/G1/G3 (G1.1 & G1.2) Ash trees crown reduction by 30%. (G1.3) Sycamore tree remove Ivy. (G1.4) Sycamore tree crown reduction by 20%. (G1.5) Sycamore tree raise canopy by 4m & prune. (G1.6) Ash tree removal or reduction.(G3.3) Ash tree crown reduction by 30%.(G4.2 & G4.3) Ash trees reduction to balance canopy. (Decision by 14/03/2024) **Officers decision.**

## 23/24/205 CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence this month had been circulated to Councillors for information before the meeting. These included the following requests:

**Caddington Gardening Club** would like permission to hold their annual, 'Plant Sale on the Village Green', on the morning of Saturday May the 25<sup>th</sup>. **Approved**

**Caddington Allotments** to hold a bonfire (weather permitting) at the allotments (small and controlled) on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 10am. To burn the non-compostable, burnable rubbish that has accumulated over the year. **Approved**

## 23/24/206 AUTHORISATION OF PAYMENTS

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

	Payment	Payable to:	Payment Details	Total
04/03/2024	SO	Village Garden Services	Ground maintenance Feb 24 (Inv 7838)	£ 801.74
18/03/2024	SO	NJ and S Arthur	Allotment management	£ 45.00
05/03/2024	Transfer	P Clarke	Materials for works to Bus Shelter	£ 2,350.00
12/03/2024	Transfer	Staff	Salary, Pension, Tax and Expenses	£ 3,618.54
12/03/2024	Transfer	Heathfield Centre	Heathfield rental charge for Parish February meeting CHC -2445	£ 40.00
12/03/2024	Transfer	Heathfield Centre	Heathfield rental charge for additional Parish meeting December CHC -2418	£ 7.50
12/03/2024	Transfer	Heathfield Centre	Printing costs Villager Mag March Edition (VM-036)	£ 500.00
12/03/2024	Transfer	Andrew Shaw Computer Services	Microsoft 365 & Virus checker (Inv 220490)	£ 21.38
12/03/2024	Transfer	Andrew Shaw Computer Services	PC Health check and windows profile name change (Inv 220495)	£ 60.00
12/03/2024	Transfer	Andrew Shaw Computer Services	Block access to email (Inv 220505)	£ 7.50
12/03/2024	Transfer	Linda Heartfield	Reimbursement for purchase of standing desk	£ 47.68
12/03/2024	Transfer	Reynolds Landscapes	Bramble removal - All saints Church Year ( Inv SI-1232)	£ 450.00
12/03/2024	Transfer	TGB Tree care	Pollarding of 17 Lime Trees (entrance path to Caddington Church).	£ 900.00
12/03/2024	Transfer	TGB Tree care	Work to raise tree canopy at the pond	£ 1,020.00
12/03/2024	Transfer	TGB Tree care	Removal of Epicormic growth and Lime Tree stump	£ 300.00
12/03/2024	Transfer	TGB Tree care	Work to remove Ivy from Churchyard Yew tree	£ 475.00
29/03/2024	DD	Zusi Ltd	Clerk & Warden phones	£ 27.19
29/03/2024	SO	James Macpherson	CCTV service contract	£ 200.00
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£10,871.53</b>

## Public participation:

- Concerned that the email from The Assistant Director of Highways (CBC) regarding the brick bus shelter still reserves the right to open the issue again.
- Concerned about Tipple Hill Farm. Cllr Palmer has asked the Clerk to officially contact CBC Enforcement. The email had been sent earlier in the day.
- Caddhist have published a booklet "My Caddington in the 1920s", its an easy read and cost £5 per issue.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm