**Minutes of the Milton Bryan Parish Meeting**

**held on Wednesday 28th February 2018**

**in The Village Hall, Milton Bryan**

Present*:*  16 residents, David Peel – Chairman, Karen Barker – Clerk,

Central Beds Cllr Budge Wells

(Robin Friend, John Hinton, David Nicholls, Shirley Nicholls, Steve Harris, John Harris, Charles Harris, Lorraine Harris, Nicos Ladommatos, Debra Barker, Kelvin White, Craig Gibson, Jed Gibson, Bill Creamer, Y Bell, Nigel David)

547 **Apologies**:

Apologies were received from Clare Francis, Jean Harris, Jill East

548 **Minutes of previous meeting**:

It was proposed by John Hinton that the Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 25th October 2017 be signed as a true record of events. This was seconded by John Harris with all in agreement.

549 **Matters Arising**:

There were no matters arising.

550 **Reports and Representations:**

550.1 CB Cllr Budge Wells gave an update:

**Local Matters:**

* Large Potholes – Church End – North End

A meeting was held with the Highways Technician and it has been established which areas Highways are responsible for. These areas will be resurfaced.

* Possible Salt-Bin Installation - Church End

Central Beds Council will not provide any additional salt bins so the Parish Meeting will have to pay for any that are required. This would be in the region of £280 to £300. The free 1 ton salt bag scheme which will run again next winter.

* CBC Surveying Activity (12 February) - Church End

Cllr Wells said that he is not aware who were undertaking the activity and this should be queried if it happens again.

* Broadband Service (BT) Milton Bryan

Gigaclear moved in to provide the service and Central Beds Council then withdrew as they cannot use public money against a private organisation. Cllr Wells was asked about the money that Central Beds Council put into the rollout of the high speed service and what happened to it. The money is not 'specifically' allocated to Milton Bryan or Woburn, it is allocated to the project to upgrade as many structures as possible. The project has been modelled on a value for money and coverage basis. The Milton Bryan and Woburn structures will have represented better value for money than other areas in the first instance. Now that they have a service (regardless of provider) the money is removed and moves on to pay for the next best value for money structures within the Central Beds Council area. The money removed from these particular structures is simply being remodelled to serve other communities that remain with no service. Which in turn means Central Beds Council are able to extend coverage across other areas.

* Park Road Flooding

Work will be done to alleviate the problem in the short term but it will not solve the issue. Further work will be undertaken in 2019 which will cost a lot of money. Mr Creamer said that he has complained to Highways and those recently surveying the area and no one has responded to him.

**General Matters:**

* Local Council Tax Information

In the next financial year Central Beds Council is planning to spend around £190 million on public services across the area. Savings have been made and IT has helped reduce costs. To provide its services the council has agreed to:

* continue to find ways to reduce spending by £13.8 million through a range of efficiency savings
* apply the Adult Social Care precept of an increase in council tax of 3% to contribute towards funding for care services
* increase council tax by 1.5% to contribute towards funding of other services

The application of the Adult Social Care precept (of an increase of 3%) results in a weekly increase of 82 pence in council tax for an average (Band D) household.  This, combined with the 1.5% increase in council tax, means a total weekly **increase of £1.22** for a Band D household

* Central Beds Local Plan

The Government has issued further planning guidance. The plan will be finalised and sent to the Secretary of State for an examination. The Local Plan and all supporting documents and representations received will be sent to the Planning Inspectorate. A planning inspector will then undertake an examination of the Local Plan to check that it is legally compliant and is a suitable guide to the development in the area. The inspector will only consider representations made on the pre-submission Local Plan. Anyone who has made representations during the development of the plan will be invited to add further information and/or appear at the hearings which are public sessions where evidence can be considered by the inspector. The inspector will then write a report with recommendations, and the Local Plan can then be adopted.

* Waste Consultation

The consultation ends on 20th April. The options being considered include:

* new approaches to fortnightly recycling collections
* weekly food waste collection for everyone
* collection of domestic waste (black bins) once every three weeks
* optional year-round fortnightly collection of garden waste, which customers will be charged for
* Traffic Survey

Central Beds Council are undertaking a number of traffic surveys throughout the Central Beds area. The results should be available shortly.

* Fly Tipping

Central Beds Council has a dedicated phone line for fly tipping reports.

551 **Open Forum**:

Kelvin White said that the Annual Parochial Church meeting will be held on 16th April at 7.30pm and encouraged residents to attend.

552 **Village Matters:**

552.1 Highways issues

See report from Central Beds Cllr B Wells

552.2 Speedwatch Group

Debra Barker reported that the group is continuing to carry out checks and that 2 speed watches have been held. The November check noted that out of 42 vehicles, 8 were speeding at 34mph or above. David Peel thanked the group on behalf of the village.

552.3 Village Hall car park

Mr John Harris said that the car park refurbishment will take place before Easter. It will be tarmacked. The hedge has been cut back.

552.4 Re-election of Charity Trustee

The Chairman proposed the re-election of Steve Harris as Charity Trustee. This was seconded by Mr Creamer and agreed by all.

552.5 Council Governance Review

David Peel said that a community governance review offers an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries. Reviews also offer the chance for councils to consider their future. He said that after forwarding the documents to residents inviting them to participate in the review, he received feedback from 5 residents. The review has now closed and the consensus seems to be for the parish to remain as a Parish Meeting. The Clerk said that the role of Parish Councils and Parish Meetings is becoming more complex particularly with new legislation, regulations, policies, and procedures etc. This in turn places a lot of responsibility and workload on the Chairman and Clerk. The Clerk said that the future of the Parish Meeting will need to be considered in order for it to continue to run efficiently.

552.6 Tri For Life

David Peel spoke about a letter which was sent from the Woburn Estates in relation to the Tri For Life and its benefits. This was noted by the Parish Meeting.

553 **Finance:**

553.1 Accounts to end January 2018

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | £ |
| Barclays Current Account | 589.03 |
| Barclays Savings Account | 5,317.31 |
| Less unpresented chqs (numbers 547, 548) | 45.00  52.50 |
| **TOTAL** | 5,808.84 |
|  |  |
| B/F 2016/17 | 5,456.99 |
| Receipts to 31 Jan 2018 | 2,119.93 |
| Payments to 31 Jan 2018 | 1,768.08 |
| **TOTAL** | 5,808.84 |

553.2 Payments

Noted by the Parish Meeting

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Chq No | Payee | £ |
| 100549 | K Barker – Clerks salary | 84.14 |
| 100549 | K Barker – Clerks expenses | 17.93 |
| 100550 | Anglian Water – Allotments | 21.56 |
|  | TOTAL | 123.63 |

553.4 Budget/Precept 2018/19

David Peel said he believes that it is in the parishes interest to have a viable Village Hall and therefore an annual contribution of £400 will need to be added to the budget and precept to pay towards its upkeep. This means that the precept for 2018/19 has been increased by £400 to £2,494 to take account of this payment. The Parish Meeting agreed and John Harris thanked the Parish Meeting for the contribution.

553.5 Parish Budget 2018 (additional items)

David Peel raised two items for possible inclusion in the budget:

Village Pond maintenance - £100 to be added to the budget for 2019/20.

Allotment hedging - £40 was agreed as a possible contribution but there was a discussion as to whether the Parish Meeting or the Allotment Holders should pay for its upkeep. Mr Creamer offered his thanks to John Harris for cutting the hedge for many years. He said that it belongs to the Woburn Estate and they should cut it back. John Harris said that he would be happy to continue for this year but no longer has the right equipment to carry out the job and will have to borrow some equipment.

554 **Planning:**

There were no planning issues for discussion.

555 **Administration:**

Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Risk Assessment, GDPR Data Protection Policy, Freedom of Information Scheme

The documents were proposed for adoption by Lorraine Harris, seconded by Nigel David and agreed by all.

556 **Correspondence**:

Waste Consultation information

557 **Date of next meeting**:

Meetings will be held in October, February and May each year.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 30th May 2018 starting at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed: ……………………………………. (Chairman) Date: ………………………….