

TURVEY PARISH COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Meeting of Turvey Parish Council held on Thursday 25th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllrs D Niblett, E Poll, J Ludlow, R Kirk, G Morris, A Bartoli, D Clarke and J Skippins, Borough Cllr Dylan Simmons, Borough Cllr Robert Rigby, 1 member of the public and Mrs S Bottoms (Clerk).

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None.
2. **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** Cllrs Clarke and Poll re: 8v, Cllr Niblett 7ic, Cllr Ludlow 7id,e,f and Cllr Bartoli re: 7ib.
3. **Public Questions (15 mins):** None.
4. **To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2023:** It was agreed that the minutes be signed as a true record of the meeting.
5. **Finance:**
 - i) **Bank Balances at 21st January 2024:** £106,531.28
 - ii) **Monies received since the November meeting:**

Interest	£	258.39
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 - i) **Accounts to be settled:**

BACS 59	K Cockings – Grass	£	795.00
BACS 60	Beds Pension Scheme (Dec)	£	188.45
BACS 61	Clerk’s Salary (Dec)	£	441.16
BACS 62	HMRC – PAYE (Dec)	£	110.20
BACS 63	K Cockings – Grass	£	665.00
BACS 64	Clerk’s Salary (Jan)	£	441.16
BACS 65	HMRC – PAYE (Jan)	£	110.20
BACS 66	Beds Pension Scheme (Jan)	£	188.45
BACS 67	Clerk’s Expenses	£	58.20
BACS 68	Wave – Pavilion	£	21.08
BACS 69	Turvey Bloomers – Grant	£	125.00
 - ii) **To consider the budget for 2024-25 and agree action:** The Clerk circulated data to show the likely financial position at the end of March 2024. She also circulated a draft budget for 2024-25 which was **agreed**.
 - iii) **To agree the precept request for 2024-25:** Following discussion, **it was agreed** to hold the Band D charge at the same level as it was in 2023-24 (£58.93). A precept of £34,801 to be requested from Bedford Borough Council. **Action: the Clerk.**
 - iv) **To consider and agree action re: grant application from Turvey Bloomers for £125:** This was **agreed** (see Bacs 69 above).
 - v) **To consider and agree action re: grass cutting contract 2024:** Following discussion, it was **agreed** to accept the quote from K Cockings.
 - vi) **To consider opening a second bank account:** This was ongoing. **Action: the Clerk.**
6. **Report by Bedford Borough Councillors:** The report from Borough Cllr Simmons had been circulated to members of the Parish Council. The Clerk had also put a copy on the website. Borough Cllr Simmons spoke to the report. Following a question about how much Bedford Borough Council spends on diversity and inclusion posts, Borough Cllr Rigby agreed to find out. **Action: Borough Cllr Rigby.**
7. **Planning:**
 - i) **Report by Cllr Poll:** Cllr Poll presented his report on the planning applications considered by the Planning Committee.

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- a) 23/02768/TPO Electricity Sub Station 17M From 25 Barton & Royle Homes 6M From Station Road Station Road: T1 - Mature Oak tree: - Reduce canopy by approx. 2m back to previous pruning points -Mid canopy on north eastern aspect overhanging gardens. Reduce back to suitable pruning points near to line of perimeter fence For routine maintenance next to neighbouring properties and electrical substation. The Parish Council made no comment.
- b) 24/00079/FUL Longlands 22 Norfolk Road, MK43 8DU. First floor front extension over garage and two storey link to main house, single storey rear/side extension, single storey side extension, new permeable driveway paving and planted area. The Parish Council made no comment.
- c) 23/02777/OUT Land At The Burrows Station Road, MK43 8BH. Outline application with all matters reserved except access, for the erection of 2 new dwellings, improvements to existing access and associated works. The Parish Council will be sending in comments.
- d) 23/02685/FUL Bamfords Yard Bamfords Lane, MK43 8DL. Demolition of existing former commercial buildings and erection of 5 new dwellings with associated parking, refuse stores, gardens and landscaping, along with improvements to the access road known as Bamfords yard including new surfacing, parking layout and entry-only from the A428 High Street and associated soft and hard landscaping. The Parish Council sent in a joint statement covering this and the application below raising issues on rights of access across the yard.
- e) 23/02614/FUL Bamfords Yard Bamfords Lane, MK43 8DL. Erection of automatic timber gate and stone boundary wall to South of private yard. Withdrawn.
- f) 23/02613/FUL Bamfords Yard Bamfords Lane, MK43 8DL. Erection of automatic gate and fencing etc. to North of private yard. Withdrawn.
- ii) Process for reviewing the Turvey NDP: Meetings had taken place with the Planning Department a number of months previously and the Parish Council had been promised to be provided with this information. To date nothing had been received. Borough Cllr Simmons agreed to take this up with the Planning Department. **Action: Borough Cllr Simmons.**

8. Open Spaces including Turvey Rec, Play Areas and Cemetery:

- i) Update on works to play area etc: Cllr Kirk reported that with regards planned works under this item and the resurfacing of the tennis court below, Gingko had been unable to undertake the works before Winter set in but would do the work as soon as possible in the Spring. Cllr Kirk will monitor progress. **Action: Cllr Kirk.**
- ii) State of the Tennis Court: see i) above.
- iii) Rospa Annual Inspections – any action required: Borough Cllr Simmons agreed to provide Cllr Kirk with a contact at the Borough Council with the aim of consulting that officer about undertaking the work needed following the Rospa inspection. **Action: Borough Cllr Simmons and Cllr Kirk.**
- iv) Update on installation of two new benches: These have been installed.
- v) To consider and agree any actions re: improvements at the Pavilion:
 - a) To agree to accept quotation from K Cockings for £5,200 ex VAT (Ward Funding £3,000) to install fence and barrier: Two quotes had been received and it was agreed to proceed with the quote from Mr Cockings. Borough Cllr Simmons had kindly agreed to contribute £3,000 of his ward funds towards this project. Mr Cockings can proceed when he is able.

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- b) PSPO regards control of dogs on the rec: Discussion took place regarding the amount of dog mess on the rec. A number of dog walkers just let their dogs loose and pay no attention to what the dogs are doing. Following discussion, it **was agreed** that Cllr Clarke should contact the Borough Council to request that an order requiring all dogs to be kept on a lead be applied for. **Action: Cllr Clarke.**

9. Highways, Parking and Maintenance:

- i) Update re: request to change the average speed camera signage: Borough Cllr Simmons would consult with Andrew Prigmore at Bedford Borough Council to establish if the existing signs could be changed over to average speed camera signage if the Parish Council were willing to fund this. **Action: Borough Cllr Rigby.**
- ii) Walls along Carlton Road: It appears that the contractor halted resurfacing because of concern about the safety of the wall. As a result only patching was completed. The Parish Council expressed concern about the safety of pedestrians using the footpath adjacent to these walls. The Borough Council officers have said that although these walls are showing signs of decline none can be classified as dangerous. The Borough Council cannot take any direct action to improve the condition of the walls unless they are classified as dangerous. The Borough Council has written to the owners asking they take action to prevent them becoming dangerous in the future. Borough Cllr Simmons will attempt to get access to the original risk assessment used ahead of the works being started. It was further requested that he attempt to get any update on any response received from the owner of the wall as to what action, if any, is proposed. Cllr Niblett will write to the Borough Council asking that regular inspections take place to monitor the condition of the wall. **Action: Borough Cllr Simmons and Cllr Niblett.**

10. Footpaths and Bridleways: Nothing to report. Cllr Bartoli has taken on the task of walking all the footpaths and bridleways. He noted two potential obstructions on the footpath East from the Abbey towards Station End.

11. Village Hall: Cllr Skippins sent a written report and spoke to it in the meeting. The Village Hall redecoration is now complete except for a few small areas in the foyer and toilet radiators which need to be followed up.

Maintenance: the toilet windows need replacing – UPV windows would be best value, listed buildings approval to be sought. It was agreed to proceed with a quote of £250 from Switched on Electrical to replace 5 emergency lights. Replacement toilet hand dryers are still being researched.

Quilt: some mould is visible on the quilt and there is potentially some damp behind it. Quilt to be removed from the wall to assess how it could be restored and to check the condition of the wall behind.

Usage: there have been a few new bookings recently. A potential online system (hallmaster) to check hall availability and for bookings will be investigated.

Finance: Village Hall finances remain healthy with a balance of £34k. A savings account to earn interest on this balance is being explored, so far no options have been found without significant legal setup costs.

Next Meeting & AGM: The date for the next meeting and AGM will be Tuesday 21st May. Cllr Skippins was thanked for her report.

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12. Correspondence Received:

- i) To respond to Trading standards by 9th Feb re: Chef Beeleys trading in the A428 layby: The Parish Council had no objection to this application. The Clerk to respond. **Action: the Clerk.**
- ii) E-mail re: broken fence on perimeter of rec: Keith Cockings has repaired the two areas of broken fence in the corner behind the storage building. The piece of damaged play equipment is part of what is being covered under 8iii above.
- iii) H bars in Carlton Road: Borough Cllr Simmons has raised this already with the Borough Council and has communicated the action he has taken with the resident.
- iv) Street Trading Consent Application - Outside the Three Cranes pub in Turvey. Chung Hoang trading as Wong's: The Parish Council had no objection to this application. The Clerk to respond. **Action: the Clerk.**

13. Date of the Next Meeting: Thursday 28th March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.