**CALVERT GREEN PARISH COUNCIL Minutes of Meeting held on 4th March 2021**

**– Virtual Zoom meeting 1930**

**Signed: Chairman Phil Gaskin**……………………………………………………………………………

The meeting is being recorded and will be uploaded to the website.

The meeting proper then began.

Attendance and apologies

**Attendees:**

Chairman Phil Gaskin (PG)

Cllr Kirsten Gittins (KG)

Cllr Thelma Watson (TW)

Cllr Adele Decent (AD)

Cllr Carl Blakeley (CB)

Cllr Sheila Thiyagarajah (ST)

Cllr Liza Bangham (LB)

Clerk Tracy Horsfield (TH)

Cllr Frank Mahon (FM)

3 members of the public

Meeting started recording @ 1930

1. **Declarations of interest**

None

1. **Minutes of meeting held on 4th February 2021**

Agreed and signed

1. **Cllr Macpherson update**  (joined later)

Any questions? One thing is the expressway which is still paused. A new paper is out about the ARC. **PG>TH** please add this to the agenda. **AMP** Greg Smith will have comments about that too so I can discuss that next time.

1. **Public comments**

**DR** Bollards, this is on the agenda already, so we can discuss when we get to point 9. **MB** HS2 destruction, wondering if we should take this to parliament the destruction is unacceptable. **PG** Yes, Frank who has joined us this evening is also fighting for Steeple Claydon, we can cover that in the HS2 section. **FM** Just to put in prospective what has happened today, we didn’t want to agree a 21day closure of Sandhill Rd in conjunction with the Addison Rd closure. EWR have made a commitment tonight that they would do remedial works immediately.

1. **HS2. East/West rail**

**PG** All of the local parishes are represented at CALM meetings, it started as the four parishes, although they are useful meetings more and more people are joining so its difficult to discuss matters. I wanted to share that all of the presentations are on our website along with all of the previous meetings. They bring in EWR, maintenance depot etc so bringing in all of the other projects going on in the area at the time. Two big things, generator noise and lighting at the compounds. They have actually reduced the lighting; I have seen a reduction in the lighting do that is an improvement. The generator noise is horrendous, there generators conform but environmental health has put in writing there isn’t anything they can do, due to it being an act. I have raised this with Gregg Smith MP. If their code of conduct says they have to use best practice then why are there lorries still beeping, they should be using white noise. The batching plant, work is about to start on that the area has been flattened, probably about a year before it has been built. Equally if not more impactful is the UTX utilities diversion, so about 7 or 8 utilities go across the railway bridge at Steeple Claydon. These are being diverted, to mitigate the disruption they are using mole devices to tunnel underneath. The closure of Brackley Lane, they were hoping to do this under traffic light control, there has been some friction from the residents. HHS2 is looking for a way for residents to park off site. If the residents don’t agree the road will have to be closed. This will severely impact the area. **CB** Any idea when that is likely to be? **PG** in the next couple of months, at the next liaison meeting they will advise us. **AD** were they not proposing more parking at the houses that are being demolished, **PG** no that said it would not be safe. **PG** they are looking at other options. **AD** we had to all around the houses to MK today, we stopped at the traffic lights, they waved through a lorry and we got forced into a pot hole. **CD** we keep being told to report these incidents, they happen so often it is difficult to report. **PG** the same thing happened to my wife today. **PG**, please report these incidents even if you don’t have the number plate, I go to meetings and they say they have only had a handful of complaints, so I would urge people to complain. **DR** what’s happening with the school buses? **PG FM** has been in discussions with the bus company and HS2/EWR, the bus companies are reasonably happy that they can carry out their routes. **FM** our MP Gregg Smith is always fighting our corner, he very successfully got the minister to join us in a meeting recently. **PG** EWR although they Are Not necessarily a great neighbour, they have made a commitment to repair damage to the roads, HS2 has said it isn’t their responsibility it is down to the Councils and highway teams. Transport for Bucks already has a reduced budget, I have asked the MP for Bucks for some more funding. **FM,** I did bring up he would have to seriously consider this to protect our residents. **PG** HS2 invited us to meet with what A Thurston said were new people recruited to manage this. It turned out these people were already employed by HS2 and were very far removed from what was going on, on the ground. We feel an independent ‘sheriff’ would be the answer. **CB** Problems with traffic, we should put this on our website and noticeboard. **PG** yes, we can do that **TH** to action. **CD** asked for number, I just phoned through to that number I held on for 2.5 minutes and then it cut me off. **PG** I would encourage you to email and tell them that. **PG** I hope I have answered your questions, I cannot tell you how involved we are in this and the amount of time that we put in. **AMP** It is quite limited as to what the Council can do, we with the parishes will be doing the utmost. The total plan for the line, the act of parliament trumps anything so there isn’t a lot we can do to negate that. **PG** the final thing is the section 61 agreement, outside of working hours. Just recently for the last 6 or 7 weeks they have had a section 61 in place. We have asked for a list of the section 61’s so we can see when these are coming up. **AMP** I totally have your back on this one, a section 61 is an environmental health safeguard, there is so much contact going on between the Council and the parishes to fight this. **MTB** Can I ask a question about road closures? When I was in the police many years ago if you wanted to close a road, you had to get permission from the Police, they are driving like maniacs. **PG** whilst it isn’t related to HS2 or EWR the fatality at the crossroads doesn’t meet the criteria, roads are being closed by HS2 and EWR and thanks to **AMP** they are now talking to get their acts together and discuss the road closures together. **MTB** it comes back to the lack of police in the area. If there was more presence these things wouldn’t happen, I am sure there is drug dealing. **PG** I am saddened by this and have you reported this to the Police. **MTB** No it takes them too long to respond. **PG** It is evident we are not getting the policing we should, we pay for this and HS2 are using our Police. **PG** as sad as it is, we regularly raise the fact that the HGVs are speeding, safety around Calvert is bad and we are fighting constantly. **AMP,** please email me the details of fly tipping. **CD** this comes up all the time, residents feel it is the Parish Council’s fault that these things are not happening, you all work hard and residents just blame you. **PG** there is no penalty, so they will keep on doing it. **DR** it is better to do it in writing and copy in **AMP. CD** is there a way that we can raise this for the residents to understand it is not the PC fault. **PG** the reality is we can’t do that. **AMP** The council get this too, we are getting some small wins. Sad fact is this is going to have an impact, lots of people didn’t realise 2 years ago how bad it was going to be. We need to mitigate and make it marginally tolerable for people. This is something we can influence, and your right the parishioners do blame the PC’s, so maybe some dialogue will make them understand. We are working so hard on behalf of the parishioners. **AD** the road from Winslow to the Claydon’s is virtually undriveable. **PG** one of the commitments given on Monday was when Covid restrictions are lifted, HS2 will allow a representative to travel the site and watch where they are working. It will be decided on the day where we go. **FM** just to go back to **MTB**’s point, I raised with the minister about security and police officer to evict 15 activists out of Poor’s piece, but when I reported a break in it took months for a response. His response was we have to protect our employees. I have received a call this evening from Mark James and he has assured me that on Monday that internally they will adopt a policy of 20 is plenty. He has guaranteed me that I will get 4 speed signs, Mr Chairman if you feel you could use these, I ask you to apply. **DR** it is a pity the residents who feel the PC aren’t doing a good job should attend the meetings, they would then see how you all work so hard for us.

1. **Dunsty Hill/ Planning applications**

**KG** No nothing yet, I’m not sure if it is because of Covid. **CB** there is one on number 1 Cotswold, **KG** that will be the same one. I will email the planning officer to ask why the dates are different. We have not received any more planning applications.

1. **Prison Consultation**

**PG** have we had a reply to our objections**. PG, AMP** have you received anything. **AMP** No.

**Solar Park**

**PG > KG** I did send them an email, but had no response. I will chase again. **TW** I did bring it up at the landfill meeting, but they said didn’t know anything about it.

1. **Play around the parishes**

**TH** this has been booked, the CGCA will be dealing with all of this.

1. **Bollards**

**PG** we discussed last year that we would raise the precept to cover the cost of raising the clerk’s hours and to raise some money for extra bollards around Calvert. **DR** Cotswold way and Sandstone. **PG** sometimes this is an area that needs them, the other area is around the bus stops, also the main entrance to Calvert. We have accrued some money and do have some money coming in from the interest on the mitigation fund from HS2. The thought was we wouldn’t put the precept up again but can use the interest to get some contractors to come and quote to put in 10 bollards. **DR** my neighbour offered to buy the bollards and to it themselves. **PG** the challenge is the cost, **AD** if we are looking at putting bollards around the bus stops, could we look at putting the mesh down where the kids stand on the grass. **PG** we did investigate that previously, there was a reason why we couldn’t put hard standing down. **KG** it is not that expensive. **CB** everything has to be done through Bucks council. **PG** they wouldn’t allow us to put hard standing down as we don’t own the land. **AMP** it is transport for bucks. **PG > TH** please capture that. **MTB** I have this issue with the bus stop outside my house, also the standpipe issue will start again. The bollards will be helpful. **PG** there is no question that we need bollards, we should prioritise the areas discussed. **MTB** can I make a suggestion to get a sponsor. **PG** I was thinking possibly HS2. **TH** to contact Bucks Council for quotes from highways. **AD** is there not a way of stopping the tankers from filling up in Calvert Green, **PG** the problem is they have the permits to do this. We raised it and they started using Werner Terrace instead which hasn’t resolved it just moved it. **PG>AMP** do you think we may be able to put a case forward on the environmental front. **AMP** I’m not sure, but there is the road safety fund. **PG** we should email for funding. **PG** Gigaclear should have supplied the council with a map of where the utilities are.

1. **Neighbourhood plan**

**PG ST** took us through the data last time, **LB** we haven’t had any more residents to join the steering group. **PG** is there a spread of residents across the village? **LB** Yes dotted about, a good spread of age. Is everyone happy for me to approach these residents? To see if they are still happy to part of the steering group. **PG** I would just check they are still interested. **LB** yes, I will. The next thing is the grant application, we can’t submit it till May. They give you the money almost straight away. I have been in touch with Neil Homer. He has said the quote he has provided still stands; he has given me all the information I need to put in the plan. He has said we can start the process and he wouldn’t bill us until we receive our grant, but he has said he is in no doubt the funding would not be approved. But would need the PC to underwrite the cost in case it’s not approved. **LB** I will find out the cost and let you know. Between now and the next meeting I will gather all of the information. **LB** I need a landowners list **PG** I don’t know we have a list, I believe it is FCC, David Wilson, Dunsty Hill and Anglian water. **LB** I will also reach out to our neighbouring parishes to let them know we now have our plan.

1. **Community Boards**

**PG>TH** We had one come through, **PG** we as a parish we can put in requests for funding, **TH** it was the wild Aylesbury vale project. **PG** closing date? **PG** can you send them to all councillors, **PG** we are changing Community groups, **AMP** ultimately the Council have the vote, from April you have decided to move to the Buckingham Community Board where you are more aligned with what is going on there. **PG** on the basis we are moving in Aylesbury we can park this particular one. **KG** I have attended the meetings but haven’t volunteered for anything because we are moving.

1. **CGCA Handover**

**TH** the handover is complete and monies have been paid. **PG** take off the agenda, **TH** to supply invoices for the next year owed.

1. **£1m Mitigation fund**

**PG** We have received the forms to apply, we need to give some thought to what we can use it for. **PG** possibly a trim trail, due to residents exercising this would take cars off the road. We need input from the community. The interest which isn’t under the same criteria will be received shortly. **CB** last meeting we discussed footpaths? **PG** yes, I have spoken to Bob at Charndon at their next meeting. He did say it would be worth speaking to David Wilson first. **AD** Could we liaise with Charndon about their outdoor gym equipment, **PG** yes, I can speak with Bob.

1. **Road safety**

**PG** This has been discussed previously, there is a road safety fund available. TH has forms. **PG** we should investigate that, Charndon has put in a bid for the crossroads, I would support that. **AMP** the crossroads is different, I have managed to get some funding for this area to be monitored. No one is happy that the Police or the Council will look at it. Charndon have independently but bids into the HS2 road safety fund. **PG** we also have access to the SEPH fund, **AMP** yes, a few parishes have benefited from these funds. **PG** is a councillor available to take this on? **DR** Does it have to be a councillor? **PG** yes but we would also need a councillor. **CB** I can liaise with David on that. **PG** will forward some emails along with **TH** on any funding application we have received.

1. **Noticeboards**

**TH** Yes, the board has been built, Angus is just waiting on the glazing.

1. **Village updates**

Yes, email from **MTB** discussed earlier.

1. **Logo**

We have been asked to remove it by the resident that has made it, **TH** has emailed to found out cost.

1. **Parks**

**TH** I met with Joe Houston, I have put together a questionnaire, shared on screen, I have had an email from CGCA who are happy to share to all their members. I am meeting with John next week. The fencing seems to be an issue, the parks team wanted a gravel path rather than a fence, all councillors felt the toddlers park should be fenced. All happy with sending out the questionnaire.

1. **Website**

**PG** this is on the agenda due to the website being difficult to use, **TH** I have received an email offering some dates for training at £50 ph. Councillors agreed dates to attend, **TH** to email confirmation of training dates. **FM** We in Steeple Claydon are struggling with our website can we take the details of your host. **TH** I will send the link over.

1. **Financials**

All agreed.

**FM** we will be going into Purdah on the 22nd March, can **TH** contact BALK to see what we can do re meetings. **TH** to email

**PG** asked the group if they had looked at the parish and town charter. Councillors to email PG if any comments. **TH** to add to the next agenda.

**Meeting ended 21.36**

**Next meeting 1/4/2021 @19.30**