

SHENLEY BROOK END & TATTENHOE PARISH COUNCIL

6 Wimborne Crescent
Westcroft District Centre
Milton Keynes
MK4 4DE



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Parish Office, 6 Wimborne Crescent, Westcroft, on Monday 30th January 2012.

C/154/11 Present : Cllr. D. Livingstone – Chairman
Cllr. M Cato
Cllr. D. Edmonds
Cllr K Geaney
Cllr. M. Geaney
Cllr. J Nicholas
Cllr. C Osler
Cllr. D Sanders
Cllr. K Thomas
Cllr. R Verman
Cllr. N Vidamour
Cllr. D Wolfe

W Dawson – Clerk to Council
Mrs C McMillan – Deputy Clerk to Council

C/155/11 Also present:
Cllr G Small
Ms D Webber from Milton Keynes Council
One member of the public
NSO C Bird, TVP

C/156/11. Apologies
Cllr. M Chapman
Cllr C Williams

C/157/11. Declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest.

C/158/11. Public involvement
The member of the public raised three issues, parking on grass verges in Emerson Valley, the state of the Pickering Drive play area, and the theft of drain covers. Members and the NSO responded that all three issues were known about. There are proposals to improve the play area. The parking issue is being tackled by a mixture of education and enforcement. Metal theft, of drain covers and other street hardware, is a crime nationally as well as locally and is being tackled but, currently, the problem remains.

C/158/11. Presentation
Council received a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning following the enactment of the Localism Act. Members were told that a neighbourhood plan normally would be prepared by a local council; would have to be

evidence based; would involve the community in its formulation; would not be able to conflict with current strategic plans; and, subject to a referendum paid for by MKC, would have to be adopted by MKC.

Members heard also that there is no statutory obligation to prepare a neighbourhood plan. In an area such as SBE&T parish, where there is little land not already designated, a Parish Plan might be a better option to pursue. However it was noted that in the HCA land portfolio, to become MKC land, there are pockets where use is not designated.

C/159/11. Minutes of the meeting on Monday 19th December 2011

The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 19th December, having already been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

C/160/11. Minutes of the extraordinary meeting on Wednesday 18th January 2012

The minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 18th January, having already been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

As a matter arising, not covered elsewhere on the agenda, the Chair briefed Council on the latest position with regard to the Westcroft Nursery. As reported by e-mail, Shenley Brook End School, with regret, had concluded that they were unable to join the Parish Council in a bid to take over the management of the nursery. It is not a part of the school's core business and there were too many unanswered questions about the financial and management commitment that would have to be made.

Council asked for a vote of thanks to the Vice Chair to be recorded for all the work she had done in connection with this matter.

C/161/11(a) Reports.

Police – the latest crime figures having been tabled NSO C Bird gave a commentary on them. Crime remains low; many of the recorded incidents concerned the theft of insecure property; others were domestic related.

Ward Councillors – Cllr Small reported that issues he was dealing with include school placements, metal theft, parked cars, and dog fouling. He was also aware of the work MKC is doing with regard to community asset transfer. (The Clerk advised that he was aware of the pilots that MKC is running and would report to Council how MKC planned to deal with community asset transfer with the lessons learned from the pilots.)

Cllr Edmonds advised Cllr Small that the NAG is also looking at the dog fouling issue.

Cllr Thomas asked for lights on the part of the H7 not open to be turned off.

Cllr Nicholas asked about the future management of the Tattenhoe Pavilion because the current contract is due to expire. Council was advised that MKC Cllr Bald would be at a meeting considering this matter.

Planning & Environment Committee - Cllr Thomas had no particular points to make not covered by the minutes that had been circulated.

Community Committee – Cllr Edmonds referred to the minutes and to item 8 on the Council agenda. He proposed that the Policy and Finance Committee be asked to look at Standing Orders to determine whether

amendment was needed to clarify the use of Council publicity in non-Council publications. Members discussed briefly how this matter had arisen and **it was resolved that** the matter be referred to the Policy and Finance Committee.

Cllr Edmonds referred also to the extraordinary meeting of Council on the 18th January and the concern expressed by Members over the exclusion of the MKC Councillor. He proposed that this also be referred to the Policy and Finance Committee to be asked whether Standing Orders might be amended to allow people to remain in meetings, at Council or the committee's discretion, when the public and press are excluded.

Finally Cllr Edmonds drew Council's attention to community clean-up events being planned for the year in Westcroft, Tattenhoe and Shenley Lodge in accordance with, if not yet a part of, the Council's "Pride in Where I Live" initiative. Members were reminded of the invitation to identify areas within their Wards where such events might be arranged.

Policy and Finance Committee – Cllr Livingstone obtained Council agreement to deferring minutes PF/42/11 and PF/43/11 until the end of the meeting when members of the public would be excluded.

He then presented the following recommendations for ratification:-

(a) That Council take no action to produce an amended Code of Conduct until further information is available from Milton Keynes Council.

(b) That, with effect from the next tax year, the payroll function be brought in-house with the purchase of a suitable software package

(c) That a Joint Consultative Working Group be established with

- the Council's representatives chosen by Council
- the Group being consultative only and feeding back to the Committee
- meetings, during working hours, either at pre-determined intervals or "as and when".
- meetings not open to anyone other than the four representatives except as substitutes.
- And the value of the Group will be reviewed after 12 months

Individually **it was resolved to ratify** all the above and to appoint Cllrs K Geaney and C Osler as the Council's representatives on the Joint Consultative Working Group

Parks Trust – Cllr Nicholas advised that there had not been a meeting since her last report but she reminded Members of the Trust's proposal to plant bulbs across the Borough and asked Councillors to let her know of suitable locations within their Wards. She spoke also of moves for the Trust to take over public green space in Tattenhoe.

C/162/11. Council publicity (agenda item 8)

This item was dealt with by Cllr Edmonds in his report from Community Committee.

C/163/11. Election of Chair of Council

Council received the report of the Clerk inviting consideration of an alternative process for election of the Chair of Council.

It was resolved that that nominations for Chair, with seconders, be submitted to the Clerk for them to be reported to the Council meeting in April.

C/164/11. Correspondence
It was resolved that Members noted the correspondence list.

C/165/11 Finance
Council received the report of the RFO with details of the current financial position and payments to be authorised which were approved.

Confidential Item - Council resolved that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded temporarily and they were instructed to withdraw.

C/161/11(b) Reports. The Chair of the Policy and Finance Committee presented the deferred recommendations from that committee.
Regarding the Warden Service, **it was resolved that:-**

1. a Warden complement of two Parish Wardens of equal status be created
2. The job description be attached to the report
3. The salary should be spinal column points 18 to 22 (£17,161 - £19,621.
4. The recruitment process will be as set out in the report
5. The Appointment Panel be empowered to make the appointment
6. The Clerk be authorised to appoint the current Assistant Warden to one of the new posts, with effect from 13th February, on spinal column point 18 but that to be reviewed after an appointment to the second post has been made.

Regarding the precept for 2012/13, **it was resolved that it** be retained as £51.61 for a band D property.

C/166/11. Future events and meeting dates:

The following dates were noted

Planning & Environment Committee – Monday 6th February 2012

Community Committee – Monday 13th February 2012

Parish Council - Monday 27th February 2012

SIGNED.....Chair