

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held at the Parish Office, 6 Wimborne Crescent,
Westcroft, on Monday 1st March 2010 at 7.15pm**

Present: Councillor D. Livingstone - in the Chair

Councillor Ms C. DeMyers-Robinson
Councillor D. Edmonds
Cllr. Mrs N. Leonards
Cllr. Mrs J. Nicholas
Cllr. C. Osler

Cllr. G. Small
Cllr. K. Thomas
Cllr. Mrs M. Walton
Cllr. C. Williams
Cllr. L. Wylie

Also present: Anne Wilson – Locum Clerk

Carole McMillan – Deputy Parish Clerk
Cllr. Stuart Burke
Neil Warden
Lincoln Bedeau
6 residents

1. Apologies

RESOLVED to note that there were no apologies received.

2. Declarations of interest

RESOLVED to note that there were no declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest.

3. Public time.

Alan Palmer opened by saying that he felt that the termination of the allotment holders for keeping cockerels far outweighed the breaking of the rules that they have committed. He said that the tenants know that they should have spoken to the Council to explain why they still had cockerels on their plots. He continued by saying that there had been little management of the facility at Windmill House and little enforcement from MK Council when they owned them.

Cllr. David Livingstone said all tenants had plenty of warning of the stance the Council was taking and that the tenancy agreement signed by the tenants clearly stated no cockerels. This was re-iterated at a meeting of the Council on 26th October when the three tenants affected were present and this was followed up by a letter on the 3rd November 2009 sent to all Windmill Hill Allotment holders. Phyllis Starkey MP had written to the Council twice following complaints from local residents about the noise nuisance. He said that he felt that some tenants felt that the terms and conditions of tenancy did not apply to them. There was no formal appeals process as part of the tenancy but the Parish Council would listen to what the tenants had to say and respond accordingly.

Lee Wallbank said he was present at the meeting in October when tenants were reminded about the no cockerel conditions on their tenancy. He stated that he purchased five chicks for his family believing them all to be hens but four of them had died. He was aware of the rules and regulations with regard to his tenancy and said he would not have knowingly kept it if he thought it was a cockerel. He was aware that the MK officer thought it was a cockerel. He had asked his colleagues on the site who knew far more about cockerels than himself and they were also of the opinion the one remaining chick was a chicken.

Mr Wallbank continued by saying that Mr Partner, another of the tenants having their tenancy terminated, carried out a lot of maintenance on the site.

Mr Farnell said that there were only chickens left on the site now as everyone had got rid of their cockerels so surely the Council would change their mind.

The Locum Clerk asked Mr Partner if he wished to speak. He asked the Locum Clerk to read out his letter to the Council as he had nothing else to add.

Councillor Livingstone thanked the tenants for attending the meeting and for putting their points of view across. The Council would be discussing the issue in confidential session later in the meeting.

4. askmk.TV

RESOLVED that Members considered proposals for a community video to be made for this Parish and the resolution made at the meeting of the Community Committee held on the 8th February 2010.

Lincoln Bedeau from AskMK.tv addressed Members who were encouraged by his presentation and having previously agreed to have one video made for the parish agreed that a way forward to encompass the sense of "community" that any such video should portray would be to place the item on the agenda of the meeting of the Community Committee on the 8th March 2010 for further discussion. Members agreed it was difficult to embrace engaging with residents in all the grid squares in the parish because each had their own identity.

At that meeting Members would consider:

- How they wish the video to progress – grid squares, themes etc
- What is the aim and final expectations of the video?
- Who they may wish to nominate to sit on a small working party to look at the exact requirements and remit of the video?
- Who will meet with AskMK.tv to develop the programme and the way forward?
- Who they wish to work with AskMK.tv on the day of filming?
- Any other aspect of this project

Cllr. Livingstone that the Parish Council engage askmk.tv to make one video with the parish as a trial, on a grid square to be determined and then if successful negotiate with Lincoln over further videos.

Cllr. Williams proposed an amendment to add to this proposal that the Parish Council give a guarantee to have one video made but not define exactly what is to be in that video.

RESOLVED that this be unanimously agreed.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED to confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th January 2010.

The Locum Clerk said that Mrs Susan Burke and Neil Warden should be added to the list of those present at the meeting held on 25th January 2010.

The Locum Clerk updated Members with the situation with regard to the work carried out and proposed by Nuswift. The six month alarm check had been carried out but they were not there very long and the Locum Clerk had concerns about the visit. She was in contact with Richard Wills, the Council's solicitor to confirm what the terms of lease on the offices with regard to the responsibility towards fire precautions in the building.

RESOLVED that the Clerk pursue the issue with Nuswift and begin to look at other options for fire safety. The Locum Clerk suggested that an independent inspection may be the way forward.

6. Band D equivalent

RESOLVED to note that although the budget for 2010/2011 remains the same at £478486 the Band D equivalent is £50.61 representing an increase of 15.6p per week due to a change in the number of Band D properties in the parish. Members had agreed that the Band D equivalent equated to £50.67 at the Extraordinary meeting on the 18th January 2010.

7. Reports

RESOLVED that Members received and considered reports:

- *The Clerk*

RESOLVED that Carole Macmillan join the Institute of Local Council Managers (ILCM) now that she is carrying out the Working with Your Council (WWYC) and CILCVA training at a cost of £50 per year at student level.

RESOLVED that the Locum Clerk and the Deputy Parish Clerk attending the Bedfordshire Branch Training Day, in partnership with Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire to be held on 3rd March 2010 in Eaton Bray at a cost of £20 each.

- *Police*

Members were concerned that there was no Police presence at the meeting again nor was there a written report from them. Cllr. Livingstone would follow this up.

- *Ward Councillors*

Councillor Williams

Cllr. Williams updated Members on the proposed controlled parking facilities scheme.

Cllr. Williams was concerned that the draft scheme suggested that residents paid to park outside their own houses during concerts at The Bowl which both he, Cllr. Ferrans and

Cllr. Livingstone felt was unacceptable. So would be meeting with the relevant MKC officer to discuss.

Cllr. Williams reported that MKC Council tax will rise by only 1.5% with a further 0.5% ring fenced for potholes and roads. All three parties contributed to and agreed the budgets.

Cllr. Williams reported that both he and Cllr. Ferrans had voted against the proposal on expenses and would be giving their expenses to charity.

Councillor Burke

Cllr. Stuart Burke reported both the planning application for Westcroft pavilion and Hawkshead Drive had been approved.

He had carried out a survey of Garthwaite Crescent and the surrounding area on speeding and other traffic issues. He had had a good response and it indicated that there is an element of speeding and Tattenhoe Drive. Cllr. Burke said that he would report the outcome to the Highways Office and ask that the element of speeding is measured using double strips. It was suggested that the matter be brought up at the NAG meeting and perhaps an article in the Parish newsletter highlighting the issues.

Councillor Small

Councillor Small had nothing to add to the two reports.

- *Planning & Environment Committee*

Cllr. Thomas reported that both he and the Locum Clerk had attended the MKC Development Control meeting where the Hawkshead Drive planning application had been discussed. As a Parish Council Planning Committee there had been no objections to the application on planning grounds.

Cllr. Thomas, Cllr. Mrs Nicholas and the Locum Clerk had attended the MKC New Residential Development Design Guide SPD Consultation meeting in Mk which they had all found very informative.

With regard to the AVDC development proposals at Salden Chase the Council had re-iterated their previous comments. The Locum Clerk had asked about traffic and access issues and whether any surveys had been carried out as part of the proposals. AVDC said that was outside their remit and would contact the developers to see if this had been done.

- *Community Committee*

Cllr. Williams reported that both he and Cllr. Mrs Leonards were joining the new Furzton Children's Centre Advisory Board and the first meeting was in March.

Cllr. Williams reported that the items that had been discussed at his committee meeting.

- *Newsletter*

Cllr. Thomas reported that he had a meeting with the distributors that week and that the Community News would be out early the following week. All Councillors were asked to let Cllr. Thomas know if they did not receive a copy through their door.

8. Finance

RESOLVED to agree the expenditure for the year to date against budget and the monthly report and schedule of payments.

9. Allotments

RESOLVED that members noted that there was not too much to report about the allotments this month as this is quite a quiet season. Apart from the three terminations due to the cockerel issue Carole is terminating four other tenants for failure to pay their rent despite three reminders. The rent was due in October 2009 so plenty of opportunity has been given to those tenants.

RESOLVED to note that following a land registry search the Locum Clerk could confirm that the land strip between Joules Court and Mayer Gardens Allotments is owned by two different titles - the strip directly adjacent to the houses is owned by HCA and the strip by the allotments belongs to the Parish Council. The Locum Clerk will advise the resident to contact HCA who own the strip where the tree is situated. Cllr. Williams said that HCA was now in the ownership of Milton Keynes Partnership.

RESOLVED that the Council pay the fee of £99 to the Land Registry to find out the boundary owner for the access from a private property adjoining Windmill Hill Allotments onto the allotments. A precedent could be set and given the report on access and the issues within the report this was the agreed way forward.

10. Parish Charter and Parishes Assembly

Councillor David Livingstone informed Members about the current situation with regard to the Charter and the Parishes Assembly. He reported that it had been the intention of MKC officers to make amendments to the Charter which would be agreed by the cabinet at MKC before any consultation with the parishes took place which was in the view of the parishes an unacceptable way forward as it would almost be a fait accompli.

At a meeting of a small group of concerned Councillors it was agreed to set up a Working Party to put together a simple draft Charter which following consultation with all the parishes in the MKC area would be presented to MKC. All parishes would be kept fully informed of the situation.

Cllr. Livingstone and other representatives from the small group had spoken to Cllr. Sam Crooks and Vanessa McPake. at MKC and informing them of the proposals and the displeasure of the parishes. With the help of BALC a draft Parish Protocol had been sent out for consultation to all MK Parish and Town Councils. The Locum Clerk was co-ordinating the responses and would be forwarding them to Cllr. Phil Ayles. A meeting had been arranged to discuss this further on the 19th April and all MK Parish and Town Councils had been invited to attend.

Cllr. Livingstone said that the draft Parish Protocol would be circulated to all Members before the next Parish Council meeting when it would be an item on the agenda for discussion.

11. Costs of adverts in the Community News

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

The Locum Clerk was asked to look around at the costs of advertising in similar publications in time for the next meeting.

12. Emerson Valley Play Sessions

Andy Ridgway, Youth Leader had asked that the Council continues to support the Easter Emerson Valley Play sessions which this year would take place on the 6th, 8th, 13th and 15th April.

RESOLVED that Members noted that the sessions would remain at the same cost – approx. £300 per 2.5 hour session and that they would agree to the cost of £1200 from the budget.

13. Alcohol Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit The Clock tower, 2 White Horse Drive, Emerson Valley, Milton Keynes GAMBLING ACT 2005

RESOLVED that Members had no objections to an Alcohol Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit to allow the use of 3 gaming machine categories C and/or D in a premises which has an alcohol licence under the Licensing Act 2003. Members noted that premises currently

holds a notification of automatic entitlement for the use of 2 gaming machines of Categories C and/or D

Councillor Stuart Burke declared an interest in this item.

14. Oxley Park Sure Start Children's Centre and Community Facility

Members had noticed that building work for the Sure Start Children's Centre and Community Facility was now well underway at Oxley Park with an expected completion time of middle of May and that a relaunch Open Evening will take place on Weds 24th March from 7pm - 9pm at Oxley Park School Hall.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Thomas, Cllr. Livingstone and Cllr. Mrs Leonards will attend the Open Evening and that the Parish Council wishes to have a table at the event.

15. The Council of the Borough of Milton Keynes (V4 Watling Street (part), adjacent to the National Bowl)(Temporary Closure) Order 2010

RESOLVED that Members noted that the V4 Watling Street will be closed from its junction with Chaffron Way to the junction with Favell Drive on March 28th 2010 for a Cycle Festival at the Bowl.

16. Prohibition of Waiting on Footways and Verges Order 2010

Following the Planning and Environment Committee meeting held on 1st February 2010 where Members had noted that the above Order had coming into being the Parish Council had received an e mail from a concerned resident asking why Amberley Walk and Picton Street, both in Kingsmead, have been excluded, given that the road narrowed in front of the terraced properties and any vehicles parked vehicle obstructing the road made it impossible to drive down without going onto the verges.

RESOLVED that the Locum Clerk would bring this to the attention of Milton Keynes Council asking them to add Amberley walk and Picton Street to the Order.

17. Wellbeing through libraries and lifelong learning strategy

RESOLVED that Members noted that a draft Strategy for Wellbeing through Libraries and Lifelong Learning is being consulted upon and that responses to this consultation are not due until 17th May 2010. Comments would be collated at the Parish Council meeting due to be held on the 22nd March 2010.

18. Policy and Finance Committee

RESOLVED that Councillor Gerald Small be co-opted the Policy and Finance Committee following the resignation of Kevin Perkins from the Parish Council.

RESOLVED that Councillor Chris Williams be the new cheque signatory in place of Kevin Perkins following his resignation from the Parish Council.

19. Correspondence - list previously circulated

20. To agree and note events/meeting dates

RESOLVED that members noted the dates for the scheduled meetings during March.

Planning & Environment Committee	1 st March 2010
Community Committee	8 th March 2010
Parish Council	22 th March 2010

21. To agree meeting dates until January 2011

RESOLVED that Members agreed the dates for future meetings of this Parish Council and its Committees until January 2011 except for the month of December. The Locum Clerk would amend the dates for the December meetings as it was not usual to have a meeting of the Community Committee in December.

22. Co-option of a Councillor

RESOLVED that Neil Warden be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Signed Date

Chairman

COUNCIL IN PRIVATE SESSION

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2010

24. Allotments

RESOLVED that:

- Members noted that three tenants had been served with termination notices as per their tenancy agreements for keeping cockerels on the site despite attendance at a meeting of the Parish Council held in October when tenants were reminded that cockerels could not be kept on the site and acknowledging receipt of a letter sent to all Windmill Hill tenants with regard to the keeping of cockerels and bonfires. All cockerels had to be removed from site by the 31st December 2009.
- Members noted that the Council had received regular complaints from the neighbouring residents about the noise that the cockerels made and that a complaint had now been forwarded through Dr Phyllis Starkey MP who was also following up on the subject from correspondence she received last October on the same subject.

FURTHER RESOLVED that:

- That each case would be taken on its individual merits
- That Mr Palmer be terminated - 7 in favour, 2 against and 1 abstention
- That Mr Wallbank be allowed to keep his allotment - 4 in favour, 4 against and 2 abstentions and therefore the Chairman's casting vote was used to confirm no termination
- That Mr Partner be terminated – 8 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention

23. Confidential Minutes

RESOLVED to confirm the Confidential Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2010.

Signed Date

Chairman