

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 28th February 2011.

C/34/10 Present: Cllr. D. Livingstone – Chairman

Cllr. D. Edmonds
Cllr. M. Geaney
Cllr C DeMyers-Robinson
Cllr J Nicholas
Cllr C Osler
Cllr K Thomas
Cllr N Vidamour
Cllr. T Wylie

W Dawson – Clerk to Council

C/35/10

Also present:

MKC Cllr S Burke
MKC Cllr G Small
Ms M Chapman
Mr D Sanders
Mr D Mullens- MKC Neighbourhood Manager

C/36/10.

Apologies

Cllr. I. Stewart – work commitment
Cllr. N. Warden - illness
Cllr C Williams - illness

C/37/10.

Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

C/38/10.

Public involvement

No issues were raised by the Public

C/39/10.

Minutes of the meeting on Monday 10th January 2011 and of the Extraordinary Meeting on 24th January

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th January, having already been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 24th January, having already been circulated, also were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C/40/10.

Reports

The Clerk - Council received a report from the Clerk and noted the developing working relationship with the Police. Members also noted the progress with the new library whose opening was imminent.

From the Clerk's report the Chair gave a further update on the current position with the Westcroft Nursery. It was a matter of great concern that a much-needed local community facility was at risk in spite of the fact that such financial information as had been able to be obtained appeared to indicate that the nursery should have a viable future.

It was noted that the MKC Cabinet decision had been called in which meant that formal consultation could not begin until the call-in decision had been made.

However it was hoped that informal discussions with MKC would be possible so that the Parish had the complete financial picture and would be able to explore all possible options.

Council was content for the Chair and Clerk to continue informal dialogue with MKC before, and until, the formal consultation began.

Police – Council received the tabled report from the Police which contained commentary on the new format. Members welcomed the new style with live and relevant information, although the spread sheet needed to be re-presented so that words were not partially obscured.

However **it was concluded that** the report contained too much information to be assimilated at the meeting at which it had been tabled. Therefore **it was agreed that** Members would study the report before the next meeting at which it would then be discussed.

Ward Councillors Cllr Burke echoed Council's concerns about the Westcroft Nursery and encouraged the Parish Council in its endeavours. He recommended that Cllr Drewitt be kept fully in the picture.

Cllr Burke spoke of the campaign to have a post office established in Westcroft, perhaps in the new library?

He advised Council that new bus shelters were to be installed outside Hungerford House and in Kingsmead

Finally Cllr Burke confirmed that the Parks Trust had bought the old cottage on Tattenhoe and were being encouraged to proceed with demolition as soon as possible even if re-development might be some time away.

Cllr Osler advised the MKC Ward Members of his concern about the state of the play area on Challacombe but was advised that the Ward Members' allowance could not be used for ongoing maintenance, only for capital projects.

Cllr Small advised the Parish Council that he was working hard to try to secure the future of the Westcroft Nursery and would liaise closely via the Clerk.

There are plans for a celebration of the forthcoming Royal Wedding on Westcroft and the Parish Council may be asked for a small grant. Members were concerned that any request must take account of the possibility of other events elsewhere in the Parish.

Planning & Environment Committee Cllr Thomas presented the draft minutes of the committee meeting on 7 February. He asked for an update on the proposed controlled parking zone in Furzton. **It was agreed that** the Clerk would report to the meeting on 7th March

He reported that it was difficult to proceed with any changes to the layout and measurement of allotments as had been suggested until the revised rental terms had been completed. **Council resolved that** Cllrs Wylie and DeMyers Robinson would work with the Clerk and Deputy Clerk to complete the draft revised terms as quickly as possible and then seek the advice of Karen Kenny.

Community Committee Cllr DeMyers Robinson presented the draft minutes of the committee meeting on 14 February. She reported that a grant had been awarded to a new Brownie Pack; that agreement had been reached with the NAGs on funding the servicing of additional litter bins; and that, regrettably, the Puddles Pre-school had been closed.

Policy and Finance Committee Cllr Livingstone presented the draft minutes of the committee meeting on 21 February. He sought Council ratification of a recommendation to remove an anomaly with regard to annual leave for staff.

C/40/10.(a)

Council resolved that with effect from 1 April 2011 all staff be awarded the two days extra-statutory leave, but to ask staff to keep leave in hand to cover the period between Christmas and New Year.

Cllr Livingstone reported that the Committee had considered the requirement to have independent internal auditors and had concluded that the size of the budget was such that a professional auditor should be engaged.

C/40/10.(b) **It was resolved that** Auditing Solutions be engaged on the terms set out in the report to Policy and Finance Committee.
Cllr Livingstone advised that the terms of reference for each committee needed to be reviewed. Policy and Finance Committee had begun the process. The other committees were now asked to review their terms. The timetable is to have revised terms adopted for the Annual meeting of Council in May.
Council was aware of the inadequacy of the current telephone system and the Clerk had sought competitive tenders from a number of potential suppliers. The recommendation from the committee had been to pursue a broadband hosted system. However information received since that meeting and intelligence supplied by Cllrs Edmonds and Vidamour prompted a re-think of that decision.
Cllr Edmonds advised that broadband hosting was relatively new technology and he urged Council to be cautious about committing to something so new.
Information he had supplied indicated that an alternative using traditional technology could be available at a competitive price.

C/40/10.(c) Accordingly **it was resolved that** the Clerk be charged to pursue the alternative solution and to report back.
Finally Cllr Livingstone reported that the frequency of cleaning in the office had been increased and the office printing capacity had been enhanced to serve the need.

C/41/10. Elections on 5th May 2011 – Report No C/13/10
Council noted the report about the elections on 5th May.

C/42/10 Committee Membership - Report No C/14/10
It was resolved to appoint Councillor Vidamour to the Community Committee

C/43/10 The National Census - Report No C/15/10
The report was noted.

It was resolved that the Parish Council will run “drop-in” sessions to assist people to complete the census. Cllrs Wylie, Vidamour, Thomas, Nicholas and Livingstone volunteered to assist with this. The Clerk will liaise with the Office for National Statistics to make the appropriate arrangements.

C/44/10 Correspondence

It was resolved that Members noted that the correspondence list had been tabled.

C/45/10 Finance
Council received the report of the RFO with details of the current financial position and payments to be authorised which were approved. An outstanding cheque for £45 was noted and **it was agreed that** the Clerk would resolve this.

C/46/10. Future events and meeting dates:

It was noted that the next sequence of meetings would be:

Planning & Environment Committee – 7 March 2011
Community Committee – 14 March 2011
Parish Council - 28 March 2011

SIGNED.....Chair