

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 25th March 2013.

1. Present:

Cllr. D. Livingstone – Chairman
Cllr. J Nicholas – Vice Chair
Cllr. M Chapman
Cllr. M Cato
Cllr. D. Edmonds
Cllr. M Geaney
Cllr K Geaney
Cllr M Mitchell-Doyle
Cllr. C Osler
Cllr. D Sanders
Cllr. K Thomas
Cllr. R Verman
Cllr. N Vidamour
Cllr. C. Williams

Mrs C McMillan – Clerk to Council
PCSO David Webb – Thames Valley Police
Stuart Moore – Prospective Councillor
Ward Cllr Stuart Burke
Eric Cooper – Chairman - Howe Park Neighbourhood Action Group

2. Apologies:

Apologies were received from Cllr Gerald Small

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Time

There were no issues raised.

5. Minutes of the meeting on Monday 25th February 2013

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th February having already been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

6. Reports

Police: PCSO David Webb tabled the police report giving an update on crimes reported in the parish confirming that there was a 1% overall increase. TVP have been working to reduce car crime, mainly due to insecure cars. PCSO Webb gave the report in the new format as previously requested by Council. The Clerk also showed members a report showing the clear up data also requested at the last meeting and confirmed this will be presented at each full Council meeting.

Clerk:

The Clerks' report was noted and the items will be dealt with in the order of agenda items.

Ward Councillors

Members received a report from Ward Cllr Chris Williams which included an update on:

- Roadworks have been completed on the H8, Trafalgar Avenue, Bletchley side, time will show whether this is an improvement.
- Badminton England – There will be a Development Control Committee meeting held at the end of April and Cllr Williams has been asked to speak in support of the application as a Ward Councillor.
- Confirmed that an application form for Capital Programme Scheme Funding has been submitted to MKC with regard to road safety on the H6 at Shenley Lodge.

Members received a report from Ward Cllr Stuart Burke which included an update on:

- Residents have been complaining about uneven block paving at Langerstone Lane, Tattenhoe. Cllr Burke confirmed he is chasing this with MKC. Cllr J Nicholas confirmed that contractors had put sand round the uneven paving but there had been no improvements as rain has washed it away.
- There have been issues with lorries parking in the car park at Wenning Lane. Cllr C Osler informed Cllr Burke that the vehicles could be traced by the blue plate on the vehicle. Cllr Burke confirmed he would look into this and to check who owns the land.
- Still waiting for an update with regard to the bus services which are due to change on 1st April as residents in Emerson Valley, Furzton and Tattenhoe would be affected by the changes.

Planning & Environment Committee

Cllr K Thomas:

- Informed members that this is the first meeting where there had been no further requests for dog or litter bins.
- Cllr Thomas informed members that a Development Control Committee meeting had been held with regard to the Electricity Sub-Station. Cllr Williams updated members that the decision has been deferred as residents had not had time to comment. This is to be reviewed at the next DCC meeting to be held in April.
- Cllr M Chapman updated members that she attended the meeting held at West Bletchley Council to discuss traffic congestion issues relating to the

proposed development at 'Salden Chase'. Cllr Chapman confirmed she would bring a full report to the next Planning and Environment meeting and that Cllr E Thomas from West Bletchley Council would like to attend that meeting.

- Cllr D Edmonds updated members that he, Cllr M Cato and Cllr M Chapman attended the East-West Rail Information Event recently held. Cllr Edmonds confirmed that there will be direct routes from Milton Keynes to Oxford and Bletchley to Bedford by 2017 and a direct link to Heathrow is proposed by 2020.

All details are available on their website www.eastwestrail.org.uk

Community Committee

Cllr M Geaney:

- Informed members that one grant application for the Sea Cadets was awarded for £500 towards a minibus. They have contacted all parish councils and have confirmed that if there are surplus funds, this will be refunded to ourselves.
- Updated members that the Committee reviewed the Grant Awarding Policies which were adopted by Council in October 2010 and confirmed that a copy of these Policies be given to each member at the start of each Council year as a refresher.
- Cllr M Geaney had asked for volunteers to assist with a tidy-up around the Westcroft area, removing weeds and rubbish from the planters. Cllr D Livingstone had suggested the Brownies could help with the activities and it was agreed that the Clerk contact Jane Morrison to arrange this for after the Easter break.
- It was confirmed that Cllr J Nicholas will tidy up the three planters at the front of the office, weather permitting.
- Members had discussed the bulb planting and the Clerk had confirmed she had contacted Dobbies, Wyevale and Frosts. Cllr M Geaney suggested the Clerk also contact B & Q and Homebase.

Policy and Finance Committee:

Cllr D Livingstone:

Confirmed there have been no further meetings.

The Parks Trust:

Cllr J Nicholas:

- Updated members that the Parks Trust have cut down the hedges at Howe Rock Place car park to help alleviate the issues with cars in the car park.
- The tree disease Chalara Dieback, which has been spreading on Ash Trees was an agenda item for March as they are being monitored but due to the weather the buds are not through. As soon as there is any update Cllr Nicholas will update members.
- Cllr Nicholas confirmed that she had attended an Environmental Education Working Party which gave an insight as to how The Parks Trust will be working with schools as to how the new environmental study centre will work.

Howe Park Neighbourhood Action Group

Eric Cooper - Chairman:

- Informed members that the Howe Park Neighbourhood Action Group meet on a bi-monthly basis and confirmed they have a Facebook page and that the minutes are now on the Parish Council's website.
- Confirmed that MK Council and English Heritage are having a meeting to discuss possible solutions to the flooded path by St Giles Church.
- Confirmed that Milton Keynes Rugby Club want to let out the void and that they are holding open days. The Clerk confirmed this was now on our website.
Cllr D Edmonds confirmed they are holding a meeting for interested parties to attend to discuss the fourth floodlight stanchion.
- Updated members that a tidy-up event around Westcroft has been provisionally booked for 4th May with McDonalds offering to help with the event.

Shenley Lodge & Furzton Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr M Geaney:

- Informed members that a couple more residents are attending the meetings.
- Confirmed that Cllr M Cato has taken over as Vice-Chairman.
- Updated members that the ditch that mysteriously had been dug at Furzton Lake had been neatly completed.
- Two EVA's have been completed with TVP taking what came under their remit.
- The NAG members took a vote on the time of meetings and it was agreed to remain at 7.30pm.
- Confirmed that David Livermore from Community MK had attended the meeting and had offered any support and assistance if required.
- Cllr M Geaney confirmed that MKC are still updating the Neighbourhood Action Group website as some of the information is still incorrect. Cllr K Thomas asked Cllr M Geaney to send him through the details to enable him to put them on the Parish Council's website.

Cllr D Livingstone informed members that the role of the NAGs have gone through a scrutiny process with three ward councillors taking part which has highlighted the benefits. Cllr Livingstone stated that Thames Valley Police value the work of the NAG groups.

The Valley Steering Group:

Cllr M Chapman:

- There had been no further meetings. Cllr D Edmonds confirmed he would like to attend the next meeting with Cllr Chapman.

The Local Council Support Associates:

Cllrs M & K Geaney:

- This was the last LCSA meeting of the year, discussions were related to allotment costs in particular the shortfalls. The meeting showed that all Councils are in a similar position. Cllrs K & M Geaney confirmed they would forward the report to the Clerk once received.

STARS:

Cllr N Vidamour:

- There had been no further meetings.

7. Finance

Payments to be authorised including retrospectives were approved.

The Chairman informed members that MK Council had confirmed the precept figure for 2013/14 will be £455,859.46 which includes the grant of £40,843.46 received from MK Council.

Members noted the report from Auditing Solutions following an Internal Audit which confirmed there had been no issues. Cllr C Williams stated that the audit report shows that there are no issues and thanks should be given to the Vice Chair, Clerk and Finance Officer, members agreed with Cllr Williams.

8. Underspent Funds from 2012/13

At the last meeting the Chairman asked members to suggest any creative ideas on how the underspent funds could be used. Members had not made any suggestions to council. Cllr J Nicholas confirmed that allocating potential funding such as contingency costs for the community asset transfer programme or accruing for things already committed to is acceptable, i.e. training and rent for Westcroft pavilion.

Cllr D Edmonds have a few suggestions including additional support staff and possibly more work to enable Council to access the elderly residents more freely.

9. Thames Valley Police

Members discussed the financial status and lease agreement which had been previously circulated and it was agreed the Clerk will write to TVP informing them the 'licence to occupy' is to be reviewed/renewed.

10. Christmas Shutdown 2013

Following a recommendation from the Clerk it was **agreed** to close the office mid-day on Christmas Eve, Tuesday 24th December and re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2014.

The Clerk confirmed Officers would need to save three days from their annual holiday, to which all have agreed would be the preferred option.

11. Council status with regard to Political Affiliation

Members discussed Council status with regard to Political Affiliation and it was **agreed** that the status quo remains and a vote was not deemed necessary.

12. Community Asset Transfer

The Chairman informed members that the Stage One application had been submitted for Shenley Brook End Community Centre and that we are awaiting confirmation from MK Council as to the next stage. Cllr Livingstone confirmed that the next asset was Shenley Lodge Meeting Place and that the meeting is to be held on Tuesday 26th March at 6pm.

- 13. Landscape Contract**
Members discussed the three short-listed contractors and the recommendation from the Clerk and it was agreed to re-engage the services of All Green Landscapes for a one year period. The Clerk was tasked with providing a new contract with the conditions agreed by members.
- 14. Parish Plan**
Members discussed the options with regards to the parish plan and Cllr D Livingstone stated that it had been agreed by Council to put together a register of land in the parish prior to any further discussions. Members agreed this is currently work in progress it was agreed to complete a register and bring to full council in July once the year end procedures and meetings have been completed.
- 15. Speed Indicator Device**
Members discussed whether to participate in the Loan and Operate scheme. The Clerk confirmed she had written to MK Council twice to ascertain costs of the scheme and that a rough estimate would be £5k per device if purchased. MKC are still waiting to hear from other Parish Council's to get an indication of numbers interested in the Loan and Operate scheme, therefore cannot confirm costs at the present time. Members agreed to register our interest in the Loan and Operate scheme with MKC.

Confidential Items

The Committee was invited to resolve that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded temporarily and they were instructed to withdraw.

- 18. Future meeting dates:**

The following dates and times were noted:-

Planning & Environment Committee – Monday 8th April 2013

Community Committee – Monday 15th April 2013

Policy & Finance – Monday 22nd April 2013

Parish Council – Monday 29th April 2013

- 19. Chairman's Statement**

Cllr David Livingstone informed members that he has decided not to stand as Chairman for the next year, therefore with immediate effect, resigning as Chairman of the Council. Cllr Livingstone confirmed he will remain on the Council but that the Acting Chairman would attend the ex officio meetings including Thames Valley Police Liaison and WEA Stakeholder Group in the future.

Cllr J Nicholas stated that Cllr Livingstone deserved a vote of thanks for all of the years served on the Council, joining in 2004, taking over as Chairman in 2005 where he has devoted his time, knowledge and experience to enable the growth and continued success of this Council.

20. Date of next meeting - Monday 29th April 2013

Meeting closed: 21:47 hours

Signed.....Chairman