

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 27th June 2011.**

C/34/11 Present: Cllr. D. Livingstone – Chairman
Cllr. M Chapman
Cllr. D. Edmonds
Cllr. M. Geaney
Cllr. J Nicholas
Cllr. D Sanders
Cllr. K Thomas
Cllr. N Vidamour

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

C/35/11 Also present:
Cllr S Burke, MKC
3 members of the public

C/36/11. Apologies
Cllr. C Osler
Cllr. R Verman
Cllr C Williams

Also Cllrs E Bald and G Small - MKC

C/37/11. Declarations of interest

Cllr M Geaney declared a personal interest in agenda item 4.

C/38/11 Co-option of Councillor
Council received Mr Kevin Geaney who had indicated that he wished to serve as a Councillor.

After discussion **it was resolved to** co-opt Mr Geaney as Councillor for Furzton North.

C/39/11. Public involvement
No member of the public had any items to raise.

C/40/11 Secklow Sounds
Council received a presentation from Mike Johnson, on a new community radio station, "Secklow Sounds", which will

present weekly opportunities for local Councils to engage with their constituents.

After discussion **it was resolved** to ask the Community Committee to consider this initiative and the possible benefit to residents of SBE&T.

It was agreed also that Mike Johnson would forward the slides from his presentation to the Clerk and would liaise with him about a possible application for a grant.

C/41/11. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council on Monday 23rd May 2011

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on the 23rd May, having already been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting also held on the 23rd May, having already been circulated, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C/42/11. Reports.

The Chairman reported on the Localism event organised by BALC. The issue of devolving services to local councils is high on the MKC agenda although many details are still to be resolved particularly funding.

The Chairman also spoke about the twinning initiative that had been discussed last year. Although it had always been made clear that any action by the Parish would be at no cost, he now considered that this was the wrong time to pursue something that would involve foreign travel. It would give the wrong signal to residents. Therefore the Chair sought support from Council to take no further action on twinning at this time.

It was agreed to postpone any action on twinning until such time as Council considered it appropriate to look at it again.

The Clerk - Council received and noted a written report from the Clerk.

Police - Council received and noted the latest crime figure for the Parish which recorded a further decrease compared with the same period last year.

Ward Councillors – Cllr Burke reported on progress with the section of missing path on Saltwood Avenue, a return of travellers to the area, and the level of interest in the Little Stocking Lane planning application

Planning & Environment Committee - Cllr Thomas advised that there was nothing particular to report from the last meeting although he expressed surprise that the allotment terms and conditions review had not appeared on the Council agenda. He had understood that the final review by the Committee was

to be taken to Council for approval. It was re-affirmed that this matter would be taken to the July meeting.

Community Committee – Cllr Edmonds reported that the committee had awarded 4 grants and had finalised their Terms of Reference to be recommended to Council. (The Clerk advised that all terms of reference would be presented to Council for adoption after the Policy and Finance Committee had considered theirs.)

C/43/11 June Feedback from the Lcsa's Shared Services event - Saturday, 4

Council received a written report from Cllr M Geaney on the above event. (A copy is attached to these minutes.)

C/44/11. Policy & Finance Committee

It was resolved that the membership of the Policy and Finance Committee shall be Cllrs D Livingstone, K Thomas, D Edmonds, J Nicholas, M Geaney, R Verman, D Sanders, N Vidamour, and C Osler.

C/45/11. Emerson Valley Community Centre

The Council received the Treasurer of the Emerson Valley Management Committee who raised concerns about a request from the Parish Council for payment towards the cost of new blinds, and the contribution the Committee had been charged for several years for insurance. The former needed to be addressed because the Council had asked for a 50% contribution.

The Council were advised that the centre was in some financial difficulties because of a fall in business and the maintenance of hire charges at a level that had existed for some time.

However, the bigger issue was the insurance which the Management Committee had been slow to query but had just paid the sum the previous Council Clerk had requested. Recent enquiries of other Centres and conversations with current representatives of the Parish Council had given the Management Committee grounds for believing that they had paid for something which should have been the responsibility of the Council.

Both parties noted also that the Management Agreement had been allowed to expire and this also needed to be addressed.

The Chair of the Council observed that it was unfortunate that the Parish Council was only learning now of the difficulties which might have been less urgent had they been known some months earlier.

Confidential Item

At this moment in the proceedings, 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.

During the confidential session Council considered the history of this matter, the current finances of the Centre, the need to find a way forward that was equitable to both sides, and the need to negotiate a new Management Agreement.

After considerable debate **it was resolved that** the Chair would make the offer recorded below to the Treasurer of the Management Committee.

It was further resolved that Cllrs Livingstone, and Nicholas, with the Clerk be deputed to represent the Parish Council in the negotiation of a new management agreement.

The press and public were invited to return and the meeting proceeded in open session.

The Chair of Council advised the Treasurer that:-

- i. The Council accepted that that buildings insurance should have been the responsibility of the Council
- ii. There would be an audit of the insurance payments made by the Management Committee since its inception
- iii. The Council would refund to the Management Committee the sum calculated from that audit that should have been paid by Council
- iv. The Council would negotiate a new Management Agreement with the Management Committee
- v. The Council will take a much closer interest in the running of the Centre than had been the case.

In response the Treasurer of the Management Committee stated that a part of the refund would go in to a separate "wear and tear" fund for future repairs and the Committee would welcome the Parish Council becoming more involved with the Centre.

C/46/11. Inventory of Assets – Report No C/03/11
It was resolved to receive and approve the 2011 inventory of assets

C/47/11. External Representation
It was resolved to confirm the nomination of Cllr J Nicholas as the MKAULC representative on the Milton Keynes Parks Trust Board.

C/48/11. Members Attendance and Allowances – Report C/04/11

Council **noted** the schedule of meeting attendance and allowances paid that will be published.

C/49/11 Westcroft Nursery

Council received a copy of the draft submission to Milton Keynes Council regarding the future of the Westcroft Nursery.

It was resolved to instruct the Clerk to make minor typographical changes to the document and then to submit it to MKC via the electronic portal by the due date of 8th July 2011

C/50/11. External Audit for 2010/11:

The Statement of Accounts for 2010/11 and the Annual Return were tabled at the meeting. Council considered the document and observations about its production from the Chair and Clerk.

It was resolved to:-

- i. authorise the Chair and Clerk to sign the Annual Return
- ii. note the review of the effectiveness of internal audit
- iii. note also the explanation of variances in the Annual Return
- iv. authorise the RFO to submit the accounts to the external auditors.

C/51/11. Correspondence

Members noted that the correspondence list that had been tabled. No questions arose.

C/52/11 Finance

After a brief adjournment to enable Council to study the monthly Finance Report, it **was resolved to** receive the report with details of the current financial position and to authorise the payments listed.

C/53/11. Future events and meeting dates:

The following meeting dates were noted:-

Planning & Environment Committee – 4th July 2011

Community Committee – 11th July 2011

Policy & Finance – 18th July 2011

Parish Council - 25th July 2011

C/54/11. Date of next meeting – 25th July 2011

SIGNED.....Chair

Shared Services Seminar
4th June 2011

The morning started as any good Saturday morning should, coffee and bacon rolls. This was followed by the usual introductions and then down to work.

We were given three handouts on the day, both for comment and shared discussion.

The first one was a case study of an example that is already happening in MK of sharing a speed indicator system, an expensive item to buy and both sides benefit from the use of it.

Number two focused on the range of services which are provided in Milton Keynes and discussion followed on which ones could be shared.

The third handout focused on the problems and issues that cross Parish boundaries.

All three led to lively comments from all areas, but it was interesting to see how many people saw their priorities as being the same. Many saw problems, although from different angles, of anti social behaviour being the one area they felt shared knowledge was invaluable.

This was on the grounds that if people are moved on from one area they may just move their problems to another parish.

It was also felt that combining the purchase of expensive equipment such as ride on mowers, providing the grounds rules of who uses when were established from the start, could be a great saving to all concerned.

The main problem which is foreseen is that the initiating Parish could be seen as trying to dominate the approached one, so great care would have to be taken to ensure this was seen as a partnership and not a takeover.

A further point of interest was economies of scale, in purchasing such services as landscaping. If Parishes combined they may be able to interest more companies to tender for these services, getting a far more competitive quote.

All together I found this a very informative and interesting seminar, which was made even better by meeting people from other town and Parish councils, and discovering how diverse their thoughts plans and areas are.

I would encourage all new councillors to partake in any of these seminars they are able to, as I found it a great learning curve.