

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 November 2011.

C/116/11 Present : Cllr. D. Livingstone – Chairman
Cllr. M Cato
Cllr. M Chapman
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

C/117/11 Also present:
Cllr S Burke, MKC
Mrs S Devine, Fairfield Parish Meeting
Mr R Caddock, MKC

C/118/11. Apologies
Cllr C Williams

C/119/11. Declarations of interest
There were no declarations of interest.

C/120/11. Public involvement
No matters were raised.

C/121/11. Presentation
Council received a presentation from Robbie Caddock, Milton Keynes Council Neighbourhood Improvement Team Leader about the work he and his “Fix It” Team carry out. In addition to the statutory duty to inspect 500 play areas in the Borough, his team deal with the small things which impact upon quality of life, for example, bollards, bins, benches, etc.

He spoke also about his thoughts regarding the Challacombe play area to be funded jointly by the Parish Council and MKC through the Parish Partnership Fund. The sum of £8000 would not provide a lot of equipment but by recycling an old slide, “something spinning and something climbing” but,

particularly, removing some of the mature trees which created much tree debris and blocked off much light, the area could be improved significantly.

Council thanked Mr Caddock for the briefing on the work of his team and supported his proposals for the Challacombe play area. It was noted that local residents would be consulted.

C/122/11. Minutes of the meeting on Monday 24th October 2011

The minutes of the meetings held on Monday 24th October, having been tabled, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

A question having been asked about the Westcroft Nursery, the Chair advised that, within the last few days, there had been contact with a local social enterprise company, in a similar line of work and the possibility of a joint submission to MKC was being investigated. It was very early in these discussions with another meeting on 1st December. The Chair apologised for the lack of full information at this time but advised Council that if it looked as though this could be a possible way forward there would be a full report in December.

In answer to a question about new authorised signatories the Clerk advised that the paperwork was completed at the meeting.

C/123/11. Reports .

The Clerk – In addition to his written report the Clerk informed Council that removal of the mound on the Wimborne allotments had begun.

Police – No Police officers being available the Clerk presented the latest crime figures which, again, continued the downward trend with 116 crimes against 228 for the same time last year. The usual offences feature in the figures. However a person had been arrested for number plate theft and making off without payment (fuel) and he had admitted to over 20 such crimes.

The Police were preparing for Christmas when the risk is that shoplifting might increase because city centre shops are covered by the CCTV that Members saw on the 21st. Cllr Edmonds advised that he was to attend a meeting at Wolverton Police Station on 30th November at which there would be a briefing on restructuring of the local police service delivery arrangements.

Ward Councillors – Cllr Burke advised that he had heard that there were new plans for Little Stocking and there was the suggestion that there were no objections although he suspected that this was only to the modifications in the new plans rather than to the whole scheme. He was seeking clarity on this and also wanted the application to go before a committee.

The grit bins that had been under threat of relocation had been saved and he was seeking public views on possible additional bins. He had advised MKC Environment Department of an additional 4/5 and the viability was being assessed. He was aware that MKC had a budget of £10,000 for more bins in the next financial year.

Members drew to his attention a problem the previous week-end concerning indiscriminate car parking because of an event at the Rugby Club. The Club Steering group was looking in to this.

Planning & Environment Committee – Cllr Nicholas reported on the last meeting. The issue of grit bins, referred to by Cllr Burke, was progressing.

The Chair of Council suggested that Council might wish to discuss whether the Parish might procure and install bins. After discussion of how and where salt from bins could be used, and with an offer of a contribution to costs from his Cllr Burke's budget, **it was resolved that:-**

- the Parish Council should seek to purchase from a private supplier a number of additional, full, grit bins
- before doing so the Clerk should liaise with MKC about where they would be located
- the Clerk should consult MKC about the new bins being included in those refilled by that Council
- the total budget available to the Clerk for this action is £2000 in the current financial year

Community Committee – Cllr Edmonds reported on the television purchased as a grant. He also advised of a change to the grant process whereby applicants would be asked to attend meetings, as now, but would be asked to leave after they had made their presentation and answered any questions. The Committee would then decide upon the applications.

The date for the “brainstorm” was discussed again and **Monday 29th February 2012** was chosen for the event

Parks Trust – Cllr Nicholas reported on her first meetings with the Parks Trust since being elected to their Board and gave a few “factoids” about it.

**C/124/11. Internal Audit – Report No C/14/11.
Standing Orders
Members Allowances**

Council received the report of the Internal Auditor and:-

Resolved that Standing Orders be amended to match Financial Regulations by requiring contracts over £25,000 to be subject to tender

Noted that the recommendation concerning the powers under which grants may be awarded has been implemented

Resolved that Members' allowances should be paid quarterly

Referred those recommendations concerning payroll and risk management to the Policy and Finance Committee to consider

Noted that the recommendations about fixed assets will be taken into account when the 2011/12 Annual Return is prepared.

- C/125/11. Consultation on Neighbourhood Planning – Report No C/15/11**
Council considered the Government’s consultation on Neighbourhood Planning but **resolved to** leave responses to NALC and BALC.
- C/126/11 Data Transparency - Report No C/16/11**
Council noted the requirements of the Code of Recommended Practice on Data Transparency and the steps being taken to ensure compliance.
- C/127/11 Social Media Policy and Protocol– Report No C/18/11**
The draft Policy and Protocol for the Council’s use of Social Media was received. **It was resolved to:-**
- Adopt it with immediate effect but also to;
- Refer the document to the Policy and Finance Committee to consider whether any changes might be appropriate.
- C/128/11 Correspondence**
- The correspondence list was noted.
- C/129/11 Finance**
- Council received the report of the RFO with details of the current financial position and payments to be authorised which were approved. Council approved the two short-term investments which the RFO proposed.
- C/130/11 The Localism Act – Report No C/19/11**
The report was received. Members expressed concern about those sections covering neighbourhood planning and the possible risk to common and other undeveloped land. The need for the Parish to proceed with the development of one, or more, Parish Plans feeding into Neighbourhood Plans was discussed. An integral feature is community involvement which is the subject of the event on 20th February.
- The offer of a briefing on Neighbourhood Planning from an officer was accepted and the Clerk was asked to arrange this for the January meeting.
- C/131/11 New Boiler for the Office – Report No C/17/11**
It was resolved that the Clerk be authorised to instruct Plumbing and Gas Solutions to supply and install a new boiler on the first floor of the office including a powerflush of the complete heating system.
- C/132/11. Future events and meeting dates**
- Planning & Environment Committee** - Monday 5th December 2011
Community Committee - Monday 16th January 2012
Policy and Finance Committee - Monday 23rd January 2012
Parish Council - Monday 19th December 2011

SIGNED.....Chair