

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 26th November 2012.

1. Present:

Cllr. D. Livingstone – Chairman
Cllr. J Nicholas – Vice Chair
Cllr. M Chapman
Cllr. M Cato
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
Inspector Iain Mcilwain – Thames Valley Police

2. Apologies:

Cllr. D. Edmonds
Cllr. D Wolfe

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 29th October 2012

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 29th October, having already been circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

6. Reports

Police – Inspector Iain Mcilwain tabled the police report giving an update on crimes reported in the parish and confirmed to members that this parish is one of the safest in Milton Keynes, in which to live.

Clerk

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

Ward Councillors**Cllr Chris Williams:**

- Updated members that a major accident had taken place on the H6 at Shenley Lodge and advised that there are concerns about the number of accidents at the junction of Livesley Hill. Cllr Williams confirmed that he will be meeting with Thames Valley Police in approximately 6 weeks to discuss the issues.
- informed members that he would be attending a Clean-up event at Coldharbour Spinney, this land previously belonged to The Woodland Trust, which now belongs to The Parks Trust on Saturday 1st December between 1 – 3.30 pm if any member wishes to help.

Planning & Environment Committee**Cllr K Thomas:**

- Informed members that there were no issues to report and that the minutes of the last meeting were on our website.

Community Committee**Cllr M Geaney:**

- Informed members that at the last meeting two grant applications were received but members had voted not to award a grant to either applicant. There were concerns that the number of residents to benefit from the grants may not be substantial.
- More suggestions were still being sought for the areas to plant bulbs around the parish.

Policy and Finance Committee:**Cllr D Livingstone:**

There had been no further meetings therefore there was nothing to report.

The Parks Trust:**Cllr J Nicholas:**

- Informed members that Briony Serginson, Head of Community Engagement, would be attending the next Planning & Environment meeting to talk to members about an environmental study centre at Howe Park Wood.
- Updated members that the tree disease Chalara Dieback, which has been spreading on Ash Trees, fortunately no cases have been found in Milton Keynes but confirmed that they are in regular contact with the Forestry Commission who are updating their website regularly and the Trust's landscape officers are watching for any signs of the disease on their regular inspections.

Shenley Lodge & Furzton Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr M Geaney:

- Confirmed that the start time of the meeting had been changed to 7.30 as some people found 7pm start too early. A new member has recently joined the group, unfortunately due to other commitments, the Chairman, Sarah Addison, has been unable to attend the meetings.
- Confirmed that (EVA's), Environmental Visual Audits were still taking place and that a residents survey is in the process of being distributed to Furzton and Shenley Lodge.
- Updated members that the NAG have now purchased graffiti kits.
- Cllr Geaney confirmed the Annual Meeting should have already taken place but this is being arranged for December.
- Cllr Geaney also confirmed that she will ensure all future minutes will be forwarded to the Clerk of the Parish Council to keep her updated.

Cllr Chris Williams praised Cllr Maggie Geaney for all her efforts keeping the group going in the absence of the Chairman, Sarah Addison. Cllr David Livingstone added his appreciation.

Howe Park Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr J Nicholas:

- Confirmed that Eric Cooper is the new Chairman and the Vice Chairman is Neil Warden.
- The meeting dates have changed to the 3rd Thursday every other month.
- Updated members that there have been reports of litter in the car park at St Giles Church and the NAG have purchased litter pickers to help alleviate the issues.
- There have also been reports of issues around the car park at Howe Rock Place and this area is being monitored.

Cllr K Thomas informed members that the Safer Neighbourhood website is out of date and needs updating with the correct contact details for the Parish Council, and NAG members.

The Valley Steering Group:

Cllr M Chapman:

There had been no further meetings therefore there was nothing to report and that the next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 11th December.

The Local Council Support Associates:

Cllrs M & K Geaney:

The next meeting is to be held on Saturday 1st December therefore an update would be presented at the next full council meeting.

STARS:

Cllr N Vidamour:

There had been no further meetings therefore there was nothing to report and that the next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 27th November.

7. Finance

Payments to be authorised including retrospectives were approved.

8. Budget 2013/14

Confidential Item – The Chairman asked members for permission to change the running order moving Agenda Item 8 to be dealt with at the end of the meeting due to the nature of the discussions.

It was proposed, seconded and unanimously **agreed** to move Agenda item 8 to after Agenda item 13, and to exclude the public and press.

9. Pensions

The Chairman informed members that Under the Local Government Pension Scheme each Employing Authority is required to formulate, publish and keep under review a policy statement in relation to the exercise of a number of discretions.

Cllr J Nicholas informed members that as pension providers, it is a requirement to consider the following discretions.

1. Whether to augment membership of an active member (by up to 10 years)

Members agreed unanimously not to adopt this discretion.

2. Whether to grant additional pension to a member (by up to £5,000 p.a.)

Members agreed unanimously not to adopt this discretion.

3. Whether all or some benefits can be paid if an employee reduces their hours or grade (flexible retirement)

Members agreed unanimously not to adopt this discretion.

4. Whether to waive, in whole or in part, actuarial reduction on benefits paid on flexible retirement

Members agreed unanimously not to adopt this discretion.

5. Whether to grant application for early payment of benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60 (for both active and deferred members)

Members agreed with 1 abstention not to adopt this discretion.

6. Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to benefits paid early

Members agreed unanimously not to adopt this discretion.

7. Whether to grant an application for reinstatement of a suspended tier 3 ill health pension on or after age 55 and before age 60.

Members agreed unanimously not to adopt this discretion.

8. Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to the reinstatement of a suspended tier 3 ill health pension paid early (i.e. on or after age 55 and before age 60).

Members agreed unanimously not to adopt this discretion.

9. Whether the Employer intends to adopt a discretionary injury benefit scheme.

Members agreed unanimously not to adopt this discretion.

10. Whether to permit late inward transfer of pension rights.

Members agreed unanimously to allow members to opt to transfer pension rights beyond the 12 month time period only if there is evidence of administrative shortcomings.

It was further agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Jean Nicholas would revise the wording of the completed Discretionary Policy prior to being adopted by Council, ready for the next meeting.

10. Update on MK Bowl Development

Cllrs Chris Williams and Michael Cato updated members following a meeting they attended with regard to the proposed National Badminton Arena.

Cllr Williams stated that the preparation for planning application will be February 2013.

Cllr Williams informed members that he, as Ward Councillor would be sending a mailshot to the residents of Shenley Lodge and Furzton as this development will have an impact on traffic for the residents. Cllr Livingstone asked for clarification as to if the letter should be from the Parish Council. Cllr Williams stated he will be sending the letter in his capacity as Ward Councillor but will show the draft letter to the Chairman.

Cllr C Osler asked Cllr Williams if the car auction would still take place, Cllr Williams agreed to seek clarification.

Cllr Williams confirmed that the Ridgway Centre have agreed to host a large display with the proposed plans for residents to go along to view and discuss. This is planned for Saturday 12th January between 11am – 2pm.

Cllr David Livingstone confirmed that he is meeting with the Chief Executive of Badminton England, on Thursday for a progress report.

11. Meeting Dates 2013/14

Members reviewed the Clerk's report regarding the meeting dates and it was **agreed** that the meeting dates would revert back to Mondays. If a meeting is due on a Monday where a bank holiday falls, it was agreed that the meeting would be either put forward or back a week, whichever Monday was free.

It was agreed that the Clerk would publish the dates for the whole of the next year.

12. Electrical equipment

Members reviewed the quotations that had been sought with regard to replacing the dishwasher. It was **agreed** that the Clerk have discretion as to which model to purchase and similar purchases in future, need not be brought to council.

13. Code of Corporate Governance

The Chairman informed members that Cllrs Roy Verman & Nick Vidamour had completed the draft version previously submitted to Council and thanked them

for their efforts. The Chairman asked members if they were satisfied with the draft completed version. It was **proposed** to adopt this version of the Code of Corporate Governance, this was unanimously **agreed**.

Confidential Item - Council resolved that, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, it was resolved that the press and public be excluded temporarily and they were instructed to withdraw.

Members reviewed the proposed salary increases for officer's with effect from April 2013 and these will be ratified at full council next month. Mrs Carole McMillan, Clerk to the Council left the meeting whilst her salary was discussed.

8. Budget 2013/14

Members were given the budget pack showing the draft budget proposals for their comments and observations, only one small change was requested.

These draft budget figures will be finalised shortly and brought back to full council in December for ratification.

The Chairman thanked Cllr J Nicholas and the Clerk on the hard work put into these proposals.

14. Future meeting dates:

The following dates and times were noted:-

Planning & Environment Committee – Monday 3rd December 2012

Community Committee – Monday 10th December 2012

Policy & Finance – Monday 21st January 2013

Parish Council – Monday 17th December 2012

Meeting closed: 21:50 hours

Signed.....Chairman