

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 16th December 2013.

1. Present:

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

Ward Cllr. G Small
Ward Cllr. E Bald

Mrs S Kerr – Minute Taker
PC Steve Jones

2. Apologies:

Apologies were received from:
Cllr. D Edmonds
Cllr. C Williams

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Public Time

There were no issues raised.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25th November

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

Matters arising:

Cllr. M Geaney explained that the delay on the bulb planting was due to the emails relating to this project were all on the Clerks PC and at the time no one had access to them, due to the Clerk being on sick leave.

6. Reports:

Police Report:

PC Jones attended the meeting. Members received the crime figures for December which showed overall that crime had reduced in comparison with 2012. Cllr Nicholas thanked PC Jones for attending and stated that the information had been very informative.

Clerk: There was no Clerks report due to the Clerk being on sick leave.

Chairman: The Chairman reported that a pond tidy day had been arranged for the ponds at Shenley Brook End for after the main contracts works had been carried out. Martin Kinkaid and a number of volunteers from the park trust would be attending on the 5th April 2014 to plant new plants and carry out a finger tip tidy. The Chairman has asked for further volunteers from the Parish council.

The new signed tenancy agreement has still not been received back from TVP, but a payment of an invoice at the new rate had been sent.

A date has been agreed for the installation of the new office computer system and the work is to be carried out in the second week in January.

Simon Wells has resigned his post as Parish warden and would be leaving this week, and the Parish council would be operating with only one warden for the current time. Cllr. Livingstone commented that Both Wardens do a great job and he feels it is important that Simon is replaced as soon as possible, and has asked that it is discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Nicholas requested that all contact for the wardens should be made through Sharon who is the line manager in the Clerks absence. This would enable work to be prioritised and contractors used where necessary.

Cllr. Chapman thanked both Cllr. Nicholas and Cllr. Cato for the hard work they have carried out in the Clerks absence.

Ward Councillors:

Ward Cllr Small: Informed Members that there had been a problem with travellers in the Kingsmead area which had now been resolved. New lighting had been installed on the redway on the H6 and that he was still trying to resolve the on-going traffic problem on Portishead Drive.

Ward Cllr Bald: Reported to members that the draft budget had been to cabinet and approved, she also informed members that cuts in funding mean that MKC will receive £20,000,000 less than last year and this figure is to increase over the next few years.

Ward Cllr. Bald also reported that the housing problem in the Milton Keynes area has improved and the number of people in temporary bed & breakfast accommodation had decreased.

Planning & Environment Committee: Cllr Verman along with Rebecca Zimmerman met with Richard Davis to discuss the location of where the rugby post was to be placed. Letters have been sent to all houses holders facing on to the open space and a few replies have been received requesting the exact location of the post. Once this has been decided a second letter along with a map showing the spot will be sent out.

Community Committee: No further meetings

Policy and Finance Committee: There had been no meetings since the last Parish Council meeting.

7. Meeting Updates

The Parks Trust: Cllr Nicholas was unable to attend

Shenley Lodge & Furzton Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr. M Geaney reported that residents were concerned that no Ward Councillors were attending the meetings and that they would be making contact with them in the new year to ask if one of them would be able to attend.

The yearly review is to be held on Wednesday 8th January 2014 and a small buffet will be available.

Howe Park Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr. Edmonds was not present at the meeting, so no report was made.

Valley Steering Group

Cllr. R Verman reported that the new signage had been erected and had improved the overall look of the building. The main item discussed was the parking and following the use of marshalls on busy match days the problem has slightly improved. The committee is still looking to resolve this issue and are looking in to the possibility of yellow lines on the outside road and a new hard-standing providing more parking spaces to be erected depending on funding.

The finances are improving, subs are now been paid on a monthly basis by direct debit and bookings are up with many events booked for next year.

LCSA: Cllr. Cato to prepare a report.

STARS: No further meetings.

Parishes Forum: Cllr. Vidamour had circulated a report

TVP Liaison Group: No further meetings.

Clerks Forum: No further meetings.

8. Staff Handbook

Cllr Nicholas reported that the wording concerning the holidays to be saved by staff to cover the office close down over the Christmas period was not very clear and suggested that a small alteration be made to the paragraph regarding this matter.

The amended section to read:

This entitlement includes 2 statutory NALC days and that no further days will be given by Council over the Christmas and New Year period. Employees are required to save sufficient days holidays to cover the required number to facilitate closure between Christmas & New Year.

Cllr. Thomas proposed that these changes be made and this was seconded by Cllr. Moore and agreed unanimously.

9. Finance

Members received the finance report and payments to be authorised including retrospectives, all were approved.

10. Budget 2014/15

Cllr. Nicholas reported that MKC had announced that were to give a grant of £32,245 for 2014/15, after preparing the draft budget for this period including this grant if the Band 'D' precept were to remain the same the Council would have a deficit of over £13,000. If the Band 'D' precept was to be increased by £1 raising it to £52.61 this would reduce the deficit to £5,000.

Cllr. Sanders proposed that the Band 'D' precept for 2014/15 be raised to £52.61

Cllr. Osler seconded it and it was agreed unanimously.

It was also agreed unanimously to make a balance sheet transfer of £75,000 from General Reserves to the Earmarked Reserves for the New Office Fund.

11. Meeting dates 2014/15

The proposed meeting dates for 2014/15 were distributed.

Cllr. Thomas proposed that these date were approved.

Cllr. Cato seconded this and it was agreed unanimously.

12. Support for MK Carnival of Life

Cllr. Nicholas reported that a carnival involving all parish Councils was to take place On Saturday 14th June 2014. An initial donation of £50 from each Parish is required To go toward the cost of staff training for traffic issues.

Cllr. M Geaney proposed that this sum is paid from the grant fund and Cllr Moore Seconded it and was agreed unanimously.

13. Pride in the Parish

Cllr Geaney reported that the Rugby Club does have liability insurance that will cover the event, but would not cover any traders who would be charging. These traders will be required to provide their own insurance. Cllr. Nicholas requested a copy of the Rugby Club insurance certificate to be kept on file.

Cllr. Livingstone expressed concerns over parking on the day and Cllr. M Geaney suggested that the army cadets are asked to assist with directing parking as this has proved successful at previous events.

14. The following dates and times were noted:-

Planning & Environment Committee – Monday 6th January 2014

Community Committee – Monday 13th January 2014

Policy & Finance – Monday 20th January 2014

Parish Council – Monday 27th January 2014

16. Date of next meeting – Monday 27th January 2014

Meeting closed: 20:50 hours

Signed.....Chairman