

**GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on 3rd April 2017 in Great Denham Community Hall, 86-88 Saxon Way, Great Denham, MK40 4GP

Present: Parish Councillors

Jim Weir (JW) - Chair; Steve Gallagher (SG); Tony Harrison (TH); Donna Parsons (DP); Martin Stuart (MS)

Borough Councillor

Mark Smith (MWS)

Parish Clerk

Roz Buchanan (RB)

In Attendance

Twelve members of the public

Action

Public questions: There were no public questions.

1. Apologies

Mark Smith offered his apologies as he would be late.

Resolved: The apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of interest

JW declared a non pecuniary interest as a trustee of Great Denham Community Hall (GDCH) and a governor of Great Denham Primary School. MS declared a non pecuniary interest as a trustee of the GDCH.

3. Minutes of the last meeting – 6th March 2017

Resolved: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by JW.

4. Safety and Wellbeing**a) Police liaison – Parish meeting with police**

Our local PCSO James Dancer and Inspector Nick Masters, who is part of the policing team for Bromham and Turvey, invited representatives of the relevant parish councils to attend a meeting to discuss priorities. Each parish set its priorities – visible policing, drug dealing, parking and speeding being the agreed top issues. Inspector Masters advised that whilst other issues may take precedence he and PCSO Dancer will try to address these matters. This may involve Days of Action where specific areas and issues are targeted. Another meeting will be held in May and they will report back on progress.

b) Highways BBC/DWH – update

A meeting was held with the Mayor and the CEO Philip Simpkins at which the Parish Council (PC) fed back their dissatisfaction with parking enforcement, although it is understood the Borough Council (BBC) does have finite resources. As a result discussions are ongoing about Controlled Parking Zones. Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) will be introduced for safety in some areas once building work is complete. The TRO for Muirfield is being consulted upon.

JW and MS met with the landlords who own the Sainsburys car park and they are working on a scheme to introduce a one way traffic system and some speed ramps.

The footpath along the golf course will be reopened soon and the potholes on the Great Denham roundabout have been repaired. The white directional lines at the roundabout will be done during April.

5. Pride in Great Denham**a) Litter Pick 22nd April**

DP advised the litter pick will take place from 10am to 12 noon with all equipment provided. She encouraged as many people as possible to come along and help. A member of the public asked if the excluded land off Greenkeepers Road should be cleaned up by the land

owner. JW advised the Wingfield Estate was responsible for clearing rubbish from this land.

b) Parking – update

Covered under 4b above.

c) Defibrillator

DP advised she is looking into the purchase of a defibrillator and also at the possibility of having one donated by a charity. She also noted that the Vet practise in Kingswood Way has a defibrillator, although access to it is obviously restricted to their opening times.

DP

d) Footpath 5 next to Redgates Field – consider repairs

Resolved: RB will contact BBC to ask if surface repairs can be carried out.

Clerk

6. Communication – Residents/BBC/Developer/Services

a) Events – Open Day at Community Hall

A very successful open day had been attended by many residents. They were able to see the extensive facilities available and there were free activities and refreshments for those who came along.

JW advised that a newsletter had been issued prior to the event and further newsletters will follow to keep people updated.

7. Local Services

a) Great Denham Community Hall

MS advised that bookings were good and the losses, which are to be expected in the initial years of the Hall's existence, were much lower than predicted.

b) Country Park – update on charges

MS has been in correspondence with BBC about the management fee of £120 which all residents of the new development in Great Denham must pay as part of the sales agreement for each property and the rental agreement of those whose houses are owned by a housing association. The fact of payment is not in question but the timing is, as MS believes the charge is only to be levied when a fully functioning Country Park is available. There is also confusion as to whether BBC consulted on its decision not to use a management company. A letter has been received from the Chief Finance Officer of BBC (Lee Phanco) maintaining their position.

Note: 7.50pm MWS arrived and MS updated MWS as to the discussion so far.

The issue is to be debated by BBC at Full Council in July and MWS advised that BBC have refused to delay the payments until after the debate. He believes the issue has been handled very badly.

The PC asked MWS to facilitate the meeting offered by Lee Phanco at which they wish to establish:

- i. Transparency and accountability
- ii. Confirm that the money will be ring fenced for the purpose intended
- iii. Legality of the appointment of BBC as the management company instead of a professional parkland management company
- iv. How a figure of £120.00 (£180k per annum) was arrived at and which areas this sum is to be used to maintain
- v. The use of the S106 Commuted Sum for open space management

It was noted that the PC must ensure it does not incur any inappropriate liability when advising members of the public as to the outcome of any discussions.

Resolved: MWS will arrange a meeting with Lee Phanco at the earliest opportunity.

MWS

8. Planning

a) Neighbourhood planning – report on meeting with Jemma Mclean

This meeting will take place in May

b) Planning applications

i. 17/00570/FUL 35 Carnoustie Drive

Having not been advised of any objections from neighbouring properties the PC initially responded that it had no objections to this application. Subsequently residents of Carnoustie Drive contacted the PC setting out their concerns to the

application and the precedent it will set. The PC has reconsidered and will object based on the inappropriate size of the development, the privacy issues it will result in for neighbouring properties and that its proposed use does not line up with its size.

Resolved: RB will draft a letter for circulation and agreement before submission.

Clerk

- ii. **17/00743/COU – proposed change of use of land to residential caravan site for 8 Gypsy caravans at Bromham Nurseries.**

This is almost identical to application of 13/00070/FUL which was rejected at appeal. The PC will once again object in the strongest terms to this inappropriate application.

Resolved: RB will draft a letter for circulation and agreement before submission.

Clerk

- iii. Whilst not on the agenda JW noted he has received an amendment from David Wilson Homes to the layout of houses to be built behind Sainsburys and asked for the PCs views.

Resolved: Following discussions it was agreed that JW would advise David Wilson Homes that until formal plans are submitted the PC cannot comment.

JW

9. Finance

a) Annual Accounts

RB had circulated a copy of the annual accounts which now require approval.

Resolved: The annual accounts were approved and signed by JW.

b) Finance report and payments –signature of cheques/initial invoices/approve & initial electronic payments

The Finance Report had been circulated and a copy is attached to these minutes. All receipts were available for inspection.

Resolved: All payments were approved. Cheque 100409 was signed by JW and DP and all electronic payments which had been approved by two councillors were initialled together with the invoices.

c) Quarterly financial checks for March 2017 – confirm carried out

DP confirmed she had checked the bank reconciliation against the bank statements, the budget against actual expenditure to date and checked the bank statements against the cash book. All had been found to be in order.

Resolved: The quarterly financial checks had been satisfactorily carried out.

d) Risk register – signature of revised document

Amendments to the Risk Register had been agreed at the meeting on 6th March 2017 and the amended document was tabled for signature.

Resolved: The amended document was signed by JW.

e) Approval for increase to Clerk's salary in line with NALC (National Association of Local Councils) scales

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to increase the Clerks salary in line with NALC scales for 2017/18.

10. Correspondence

All correspondence was available at the meeting and a list is attached to these minutes.

Resolved: No correspondence required discussion.

11. Any other business – for exchange of information only

There were no items for discussion

12. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 8th May and will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.32pm.