



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present: Parish Councillors

Jim Weir (JW) - Chair; Martin Stuart (MS)

Borough Councillor

Mark Smith (MWS) from 8pm

Parish Clerk

Anna O'Meara (AOM)

30 members of public in
attendance

		<u>Action</u>
	The meeting was adjourned for public questions as follows: <u>Questions re number 11 bus were deferred to main agenda discussion.</u> <u>What are the plans for the Sports Pavilion in terms of facilities?</u> JW reported that proposed date of Spring 2018 is still current, no further information has been received. Plan of Pavilion building showing facilities is available on Parish website. <u>Issues re street cleanliness on Alnwick Way, seeing no visible evidence of rubbish clearance.</u> JW explained that whilst Parish Council organise litter picks etc, until the roads are adopted they remain responsibility of David Wilson Homes (DWH), which means they are not maintained as regularly as would be liked. We will ask the Handyman to target the area as a temporary measure. <u>There is still an issue with construction traffic passing the school.</u> JW has asked DWH to stop all contractors from accessing the site via Kingswood Way and they have put signage up; however there is no real evidence that this is stopping. Action: JW will write to DWH again. <u>Verge Parking issues in Downham Close – will be dealt with as agenda item.</u> <u>Construction and congestion down Anglia Way/King Alfred Way.</u> There are ongoing issues with lorries parking up very early for deliveries and causing obstruction/making it difficult for residents. This is made additionally difficult as both sides of the footpath are currently closed. Action: JW will write to DWH and also the Linden site people. <u>Complaints were made about Chamonix – they are giving different info to different residents re their responsibilities/the work they do.</u> MS explained that each area of land will have an Extraordinary General meeting in order to appoint Resident Directors who can then hold Chamonix to account. Where this has already happened in some of the more established areas we have seen some improvement and also brought costs down. He suggested that the resident makes a complaint and asks when the EGM will be happening for their area, he is happy to advise on the process. <u>Concerns raised re traffic blocking Saxon Way when events are on at the Community Hall.</u> JW explained that he met with Andy Prigmore of BBC today to discuss a number of issues, including this; measures are being put in place: (a) as part of the booking process all bookers will be asked to ensure they have a nominated traffic marshal in place to avoid this happening; (b) signs are up for the Car Park at the back; (c) additionally we are looking at establishing a Controlled Parking Zone and removing the wide pavement opposite the hall to create more spaces, this won't happen until the road is finished and adopted. There were no further questions and the meeting was reopened.	JW JW
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Steve Gallagher, Donna Parsons Resolved: The apologies were accepted.	
2.	<u>Declarations of interest</u> JW declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of Great Denham Community Hall (GDCH) and	

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	a governor of Great Denham Primary School. MS declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of the GDCH.	
3.	<u>Minutes of the last meeting -</u> As the meeting is not quorate the minutes will be agreed and signed at October meeting.	
4.	<u>Casual Vacancy – update</u> The period to request an election to fill the current vacancy runs until end of day 4 th September. If less than 10 people from the Parish have made such a request then the Parish Council will look to fill the vacancy by Co-option. Anyone interested in serving as a Parish Councillor please contact the Clerk or Chairman for further information.	
5.	<u>Safety and Wellbeing</u> (a) <u>Crime Stats and recent burglaries</u> (b) <u>Police Liaison – lack of response</u> (c) <u>Anti-Social Behaviour reporting – lack of response</u> A graph showing crime stats for last 5 years was circulated for information (attached to minutes). JW reported that a spate of burglaries had taken place recently in the older part of Great Denham. Whilst this is not a crime wave, it is important that the Police deal with it; their current response has been to visit the victims in a few days before deciding what to look for on CCTV. We have asked the Police re use of the Parish CCTV but have received no response to date. Given the money the Parish has invested in CCTV it is important to know that the Police will be using it. A member of the public highlighted that there is no CCTV coverage on the path down the Golf Course towards Queens Park which is frequently used by criminals for access/escape. Great Denham Neighbourhood Watch explained that they are considering events in the Community and has already spoken to PCSO re bike marking. (d) <u>Consultation – Mental Health Accommodation Strategy.</u> No comments to make on this consultation.	
6.	<u>Pride in Great Denham in partnership with Residents Association</u> (a) <u>Pathways – overgrowth on bypass</u> The Borough Council have promised the growth will be cut back within 7 days. (b) <u>Handyman role review.</u> John Hipkiss will be finishing at end of 2017. Given BBC are now establishing a regular maintenance programme it is proposed to dispense with the Handyman role and look at alternatives on an as and when basis. Proposals to be finalised at future meeting. The Parish Council would like to record their sincere thanks to John Hipkiss for all the hard work he has put in for the Great Denham community. (c) <u>Signage for GDCH</u> New signs directing people to GDCH have been ordered (and paid for) by BBC and will be put up in 6-8 weeks. (d) <u>Fly Tipping</u> Some residents have been leaving rubbish on pavements and common walkways. It is very important that any issues/incidences are reported to the Clerk and/or directly to the Borough Council (environmenthelpdesk@bedford.gov.uk). As a result of efforts already made, 2 people have been prosecuted to date. (e) <u>Parking – options for enforcement against verge/pavement parking.</u> There is a lot of parking on pavements and grass verges which is causing a nuisance to other residents and damaging the grass verges. JW explained that where yellow lines exist they cover the pavement/verge next to it as well. The Parish Council has investigated options with the Borough Council and have confirmed that we are able to enforce parking restrictions through the Parish for grass/pavement parking, with agreement from the Borough Council; it does have associated costs.	

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	Resolution: to proceed with parking enforcement for pavement/verge parking. There will be communication activity to explain everything before the enforcement takes effect. JW asked residents to let Parish Council know of any issues so that we have full picture when discussing complaints with developers or BBC.	
7.	<u>Communication with residents/developers/Beds. Bor. Council/Services</u> (a) <u>Newsletters</u> (b) <u>Social Media</u> (c) <u>Website</u> Please let Clerk know of any items of interest to be included in future newsletters. (d) <u>Bedfordshire Day 28th November.</u> Parish Council are happy to fund any event for this, but requires someone to organise it. We are looking to build community activity from the GDCH now a new manager is in place. If anyone is happy to participate in a Social Committee please contact the Parish Clerk.	
8.	<u>Local services</u> (a) <u>Great Denham Community Hall – update on staffing</u> A part time Hall Manager has now been appointed. She is looking to build an events team, all volunteers welcome. A governance review will take place re other committees. Reminder that AGM for Community Hall is taking place 7.30pm 5th September. (b) <u>Bus Service – Number 11 timetable changes, update from Stagecoach meeting 1/9/17.</u> The Parish Council and the Residents Association met with Stagecoach and the Borough Council on 1/9/17. A report from that meeting has already been posted on the Parish and Residents Association Facebook pages, and on the Parish Website. Further questions and concerns were raised by the public on the timetable changes: - The morning bus which was busy has been removed - A member of the public has emailed Stagecoach regularly about the changes and has been informed that it is not commercially viable in spite of extensive marketing activity they have done. - Concerns re safety on number 8 bus as an alternative were raised, following an assault that one resident experienced. - What information was used to base revised timings? Assume it was ticket sales, yet the buses that were busiest (morning) have been changed and the quieter buses (lunchtime) remain. - Not just an issue of connecting with trains. None of the new bus times now connect with other buses leaving the bus station. - Issues with reliability – journey times and buses not making rail connections in time. In response MS outlined the response from Stagecoach: the number 11 service is a commercial service and was loss-making as received no financial support under S106. Stagecoach agreed to ask the Borough Council for further financial support, but have said services require consistent usage of 30-40 people to be commercially viable. Services are designated peak and off-peak, and on a commercial basis Stagecoach felt they could deploy peak services elsewhere for better return. Mark Weedon of Residents Association confirmed that all resident feedback received had been put to Stagecoach at the meeting. The next meeting will take place in October; it is not viable for this to be open to the general public, but please write to the Residents Association and the Parish Council with comments and feedback to take into this meeting so that a full picture can be shared with Stagecoach and the Borough Council.	

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	(c) Country Park and Green Space Maintenance – grass cutting update. MS reminded the meeting that the Open Space charge is not for the Country Park – all information for this is available on the Borough Council and Parish Council websites. MS has written to Paul Pace of Borough Council today re the breakdown and income and expenditure that was promised at last meeting. Next meeting with the Borough Council is later in September.	
9.	<u>Clerk's Report</u> a) Finance Report & payments – signature of cheques/initial invoices/approve & initial Bacs 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 and all Bacs payments approved by two councillors were initialled together with the invoices. (b) Insurance Renewal – Carne & Co Resolution: insurance renewal approved and invoice initialled by 2 councillors in order for payment to be made before due date and next Parish Council meeting. (c) Ward Fund – update. Monies have been received from Ward fund and Scrubber/dryer has been purchased for Community Hall. Delivery of machine expected w/c 11/9 (d) Clerk Training and CiLCA funding Resolution: training approved. Invoice initialled by 2 councillors in order for payment to be made before next Parish Council meeting to secure place on course starting in October.	Clerk Clerk Clerk
10.	Other (a) PCC Annual Parish Meeting 20st September – JW will attend (b) BATPC AGM 19th October – no Councillor is available to attend	JW
11.	Correspondence All correspondence was available at the meeting and a list is attached to these minutes. Resolved: No correspondence required discussion.	
12.	<u>Any other business – for exchange of information only</u> (a) Community Governance Review JW reported that the Review had completed and recommendations had been agreed.	
	There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.45pm.	