

**GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held on 9th January 2017 at 7.30pm in Great Denham Community Hall, 86-88 Saxon Way, Great Denham, MK40 4GP

Present: Parish Councillors

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

Parish Clerk

Roz Buchanan (RB)

In Attendance

Nine members of the public

	<u>Action</u>
Resolved: In the absence of JW it was unanimously agreed that MS would chair the meeting. The meeting was adjourned for public questions as follows: • The roads, particularly Kingswood Way, are in a poor state as the road sweepers do not seem to have been out. Can they be cleaned as soon as possible? RB will contact David Wilson Homes (DWH) and ask that cleaning be carried out. • A member of the public advised that his CCTV had recorded two young men on bicycles attempting a car break in. The images had not been sufficiently clear for the police to follow up, but perhaps the use of bicycles may be a common link in other car crime? The Parish Council (GDPC) noted parishioners should be aware that car crime could be taking place in this way and to report anything suspicious to the police.	Clerk
Note: 7.35pm JW arrived. MS continued to act as Chair.	
1. <u>Apologies</u> Apologies had been received from JW as he would be slightly late, and from Mark Smith who may either be late or unable to attend. Resolved: The apologies were accepted.	
2. <u>Declarations of interest</u> JW declared a non pecuniary interest as a trustee of the CH and a governor of Great Denham Primary School. MS declared a non pecuniary interest as a trustee of the CH.	
3. <u>Minutes of the last meeting (5/12/2016)</u> Resolved: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by MS.	
4. <u>Co-option – including Declaration of Acceptance of Office/Register of Interests</u> MS advised that following a recruitment process the parish councillors (PCs) were delighted to invite Steve Gallagher (SG) to become a co-opted member of GDPC. Resolved: SG was unanimously co-opted as a member of GDPC and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed by SG and RB. Resolved: The Register of Interests form was handed to SG to complete and return to RB as soon as possible.	SG
5. <u>Budget – to agree final budget 2017/18</u> RB had circulated an amended copy of the budget. Resolved: The budget was unanimously agreed and a copy is attached to these minutes. JW noted that depending on when roads were adopted by Bedford Borough Council (BBC) the role of the Handyman may need to be reviewed. Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that the role of the Handyman would be reviewed in six months.	Clerk

6. **Precept – to complete and sign precept request**

Resolved: Based on the agreed budget a precept of £44,500.00 would be requested. The precept request form was duly completed and signed by MS and RB.

RB will submit the document before the end of January.

GDPC will require extra funding due to the increased responsibilities created by the Community Hall (GDCH), and to assist in meeting the objectives of the Charity for community activities which will take place there. However, it was noted that a slight reduction to each band of the precept charge had been achieved per household for at least three years.

Clerk

7. **Safety and Wellbeing**

a) **Street lighting**

RB has been attempting to get street lights in Broadmead avenue repaired for some months. Following an email to the contractors on 9/1/17 she will allow one week to see if the repairs have been carried out.

A member of the public advised a light in Stedeham Road had been broken for six months despite being reported. RB will follow this up.

Resolved: RB will raise these delays with Stewart Briggs.

Clerk

b) **Highways BBC/DWH – TRO Broadmead Avenue**

BBC has advised that nine objections have been received to their proposed TRO along the length of Broadmead Avenue. As a result they have revised the proposal to apply to the junction of Broadmead Avenue and Anglia Way and the “S” bend outside 25 Broadmead Avenue. BBC has asked for GDPC’s views.

Resolved: The new proposal was unanimously approved by GDPC.

RB will advise BBC of the decision.

Clerk

Now that the houses are occupied, cars are being parked on the road opposite Sainsbury’s. Due to the danger this is creating JW will discuss it with Andy Prigmore whom he has invited for a site meeting to discuss various safety issues in the Parish.

Clerk

JW

8. **Pride in Great Denham in partnership with Residents Association**

a) **Parking – to discuss proposals from BBC for additional GDCH parking**

GDPC asked BBC to consider allocating the 26 general use parking spaces outside GDCH for exclusive use by the Hall. BBC have suggested three options as follows:

- The Parish Council to enter in to their own agreement over the area with David Wilson Homes.
- Adopt the whole area and then “stop up” the parking area.
- Introduce a mini CPZ with permit holders only. The Parish Council would then administer the permits and BBC would carry out the enforcement.

None of these solutions is deemed fully satisfactory and JW will invite Mr Briggs to a site meeting to discuss further. An area for consideration might be the block paving which was originally to form a circulation zone had the proposed lower school been built.

It was noted that nine of the spaces currently marked for exclusive use by Toybox at the rear of GDCH are in fact shared with GDCH.

JW

b) **Links to Housing Associations**

DP reported that Aldwyck have withdrawn funding from the proposed youth club. DP will be meeting with them soon and hopes to keep an open dialogue so that future projects can be considered.

9. **Local services**

a) **Great Denham Community Hall**

The Hall is now open and, whilst some groups postponed bookings until the New Year following the delayed opening date, bookings are now increasing and the Hall is busy. The Charity has a Community Engagement Group which will help to create events and activities for the community. There will be an open day on 18th March to which the whole community will be invited.

It was noted that there are some snagging issues which have yet to be resolved but which

are in hand and are the responsibility of the contractor.

10. Planning/Infrastructure

a) Building development/Planning applications

i. 16/03604/S73 – 4 Coopers Close, Biddenham. Amended drawings for garage
Resolved: It was unanimously agreed there were no objections to this application.

ii. 16/03689/FUL – 38 Stedeham Road. Loft conversion
Resolved: It was unanimously agreed there were no objections to this application.

b) CCTV installation/maintenance

TH advised the system had been installed and was working. He asked for agreement to the agreement with the CCTV Monitoring Office.

Resolved: The agreement with the CCTV Monitoring Office was unanimously accepted and it will be signed and returned.

Resolved: TH will contact the parishioner concerned about the repositioning of the camera pole.

Once some small adjustments to the camera positioning have been carried out the final bill will be paid. However, it was noted that payment may be debated again should the camera pole need to be resited.

TH/Clerk

TH

11. Clerks report

a) Finance report and Payments - signature of cheques/initial invoices/approve and initial electronic payments

A copy of the finance report is attached to these minutes. The reserves held in the deposit account have been earmarked for outstanding payments to BT, the possible repositioning of one of the CCTV poles and sound baffles for GDCH. The latter are required due to the value engineering of GDCH which resulted in the main hall being finished in fair faced brick rather than plasterboard.

Resolved: The outstanding accounts were approved for payment and the cheques signed by MS and TH.

Resolved: All electronic payments were approved and the invoices /payment sheets were initialled.

b) Bedford Borough Council Budget Consultation – consider GDPC response

Resolved: All PCs who wished to respond would do so individually.

c) Subscription to Biddenham Bulletin

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to renew the subscription

Clerk

12. Correspondence

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

Resolved: No correspondence required discussion.

13. Any other business – for exchange of information only

RB will report the potholes at either side of the Great Denham roundabout to the “Pot Hole Hit Squad”. JW will also discuss the poor road surface with Andy Prigmore.

Clerk
JW

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be a Planning Committee meeting on 6th February. The next Parish Council meeting will be on 6th March.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.25pm.