



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 8pm on Tuesday 28th August 2018
in Great Denham Community Hall, 86-88 Saxon Way, Great Denham, MK40 4GP**

Present: Parish Councillors

Jim Weir (JW) - Chair; Donna Parsons (DP, Martin Stuart (MS)

Borough Councillor

Mark Smith (MWS)

Parish Clerk

Anna O'Meara (AOM)

Members of Public

3 in attendance

		<u>Action</u>
	The meeting was adjourned for public questions as follows: 1. Concern was expressed about the level of vehicle break-ins occurring; 5 had been reported to Police over last weekend. JW advised all residents to report incidents to police as this will help to get attention to the area. 2. A resident raised a concern that, in the light of the recent break-in attempts, they wished to put lights on their driveway, but had been advised by Bedford Borough Council that planning permission was required. JW advised that he believed this advice was incorrect, but will check. Action: Clerk to confirm requirements with Bedford Borough Council Planning Dept. 3. A resident noted that the original planned parking spaces at the new Pavilion (92) appears to have been reduced, and that it seemed people could drive across the grass to the Car Park in spite of barriers being in place. JW advised that the Pavilion is still in the process of being handed over from the developer to BBC. There were no further questions and the meeting was reopened.	Clerk
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Parbinder Kaur (holiday) and Steve Gallagher (illness). 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 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> Resolved: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by JW.	
4.	<u>Safety and Wellbeing</u> (a) <u>Police Liaison – update from Community Forum meeting 14/08</u> Clerk gave a brief update on the meeting at which presentations were made on a Community project in Wilmington and action against Knife crime. A local housing association (BHPA) is offering to support a Speedwatch through its volunteering scheme, and discussion took place about the possibility of using this in Great Denham as it offers the potential to highlight the issue of speed to the Police. The information will be held on file for future use. (b) <u>Highways – update on implementation of parking restrictions</u> It was recorded that permission from DWH to support implementation had been received and passed on to the Borough Council, JW reported that in spite of numerous attempts by himself and the Clerk to contact Andrew Prigmore of the Highways Dept to progress this, no update had been	

	received. Resolution: Clerk to escalate this to Chief Officer Highways (Jon Shortland) to progress implementation.	Clerk
5.	<u>Pride in Great Denham</u>	
	(a) Litter Picks Clerk advised that BBC have confirmed litter pick equipment will be available for the following weekends in September – 9th, 16th and 23rd. It had been suggested that as schoolchildren will not all be back from summer break until 17th it may be preferable to hold the Litter Pick later than originally planned. Action: DP to confirm date. Clerk to make necessary arrangements. (b) Update on Open Space Management charge (OMS) and next steps MS reported that following the attendance of the Mayor and Chief Exec at the June Parish Council meeting and subsequent exchange of emails and other documents, the Borough Council have not changed their views regarding the inclusion of the Play Parks in the OMS charge. Overall this is a very disappointing outcome. Additionally the OMS area is currently in a very poor state and little seems to have been done in terms of cutting/weeding. MS confirmed that the Parish Council are not able to escalate this further to the Local Government Ombudsman; however any resident(s) may do so privately. He offered to draft a statement which local residents may use which will cover: • The unfairness of the scheme in viewing Great Denham/Kempston development as a single entity, despite disparity in land area being maintained • The failure of BBC to adequately ring-fence monies received from residents for the OMS area • The ongoing lack of clarity regarding the inclusion of the large Playparks • The failure of BBC to properly investigate the issues raised by the Parish Council on behalf of residents, e.g. the utilisation of equipment funded through OMS charge outside the OMS areas, and refusal to amend the investigation report accordingly. DP advised that the Ombudsman, if engaged by residents, would probably go through everything related to the OMS, and could include documentation not seen by the PC. She noted that there might be value to residents for a 3rd party to now look into this on residents' behalf. Action: MS to provide a draft statement for use by any resident who wished to pursue this. JW noted that there is an option for the Parish Council to take on the responsibility for providing maintenance of the OMS area as it has the power to do so, however, it was felt that this would be very difficult to agree given the OMS area of Great Denham and Kempston is viewed as a single entity, but is within the boundaries of 3 Parish Councils. Additionally, provision would need to be made for collection of payments/debt management etc. MWS stated he believed there could be value in contacting all Parish Councils affected (Kempston Rural and Kempston Town), and that the simplest option in his view would be that BBC continue to collect the fees but hand over in entirety to the parishes to manage and provide service. Action: MWS to make enquiries on views of Kempston Rural Parish Council at their next Council meeting.	DP/Clerk MS MWS
6.	<u>Local services</u>	
	(a) Great Denham Community Hall JW confirmed that official opening of Great Denham Community Hall will take place on 11th October 2018 at 10am. The Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, Helen Nellis, and John Dillon, Managing Director, David Wilson Homes will be officiating, and children from Great Denham Primary School will be in attendance. All are invited to attend. (b) Country Park and Pavilion Clerk provided an update received from Bedford Borough Council on status of the Pavilion. The Chief Environment Officer has responded that BBC is still in discussion with the developer regarding	

	the transfer of land and handover of the Pavilion, and no date is yet available for this to be completed. He has also advised that the football pitches will be operational for this season, however the changing facilities will not be available until handover has been completed.	
7.	Finance	
	(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: Payment of the annual CCTV service contract will be reviewed for agreement at October meeting. All other payments were approved and all Bacs payments approved by two councillors were initialled together with the invoices. (b) Annual Audit 2017/18 The audit report from the external auditors Mazars had been received and no issues had been identified. Resolved: the External Auditor report for 2017/18 was accepted by the Council (c) Insurance renewal Quotations for renewal had been received from the Insurance broker Came and Company, and had been reviewed by Council. Quotations have been received from 3 insurers, with the option to secure a 3 year discount via a 3 year agreement which will deliver savings against budget. Resolved: It was agreed to renew on a 3 year agreement with the insurer Inspire with Axa. Clerk to complete paperwork and make payment of renewal premium. (d) Grant Application – Junior Park Run It was noted that no further information on this application had been provided, but discussion was understood to have taken place with the Adult Park Run on opportunity to combine costs. Once further information is available this grant application can be reconsidered. Resolution: a decision on whether to support this application is deferred to a future meeting. (e) Application of funding to purchase a Community Defibrillator DP advised that an application has been submitted on behalf of the Parish Council to Tesco Bags for Help scheme to purchase a defibrillator to be fitted to an external wall of the Community Hall. It is likely to take 6 months before a response is expected. DP reported that she is also investigating other organisations which may grant funding as an alternative approach, including British Heart Foundation who would require a contribution of £600 towards purchase. Resolution: agreed in principle to contribute £600 towards purchase of defibrillator if BHF application successful.	Clerk
8.	Correspondence All correspondence was available at the meeting and a list is attached to these minutes. Resolved: No correspondence required discussion.	
9.	Any other business – for exchange of information only (a) Future events at Community Hall – 22/9 Casino Night, 26/10 Halloween Disco, 8/12 Winter Wonderland (b) Letters from DWH had been received by Danegeld Avenue residents advising that the road will be closed until further notice as construction work on flats is starting shortly. It was noted that this will cause considerable disruption to residents of Danegeld Avenue and Cantley Road (c) JW registered thanks to MS for his contribution to the Parish Council and all his work on behalf of residents of Great Denham. MS will be leaving the village and will be resigning from the Parish Council before the next meeting.	
	There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.55pm.	