



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on 9th July 2018 in Great Denham Community Hall, 86-88 Saxon Way, Great Denham, MK40 4GP

Present: Parish Councillors

Steve Gallagher (SG); Donna Parsons (DP); Parbinder Kaur (PK)

Martin Stuart (MS) - Chair

Borough Councillor

Mark Smith (MWS)

Parish Clerk

Anna O'Meara (AOM)

Others

12 members of the Public

		<u>Action</u>
	The meeting was adjourned for public questions as follows: 1. <u>What are the timescales for the work on Saxon Way re road surfacing?</u> There is some evidence of preparation activity. Action: Clerk to contact DWH and ask for further information on timescales 2. <u>When will the streetlights along first part of Saxon Way (opposite Retail Centre) be connected?</u> Action: Clerk to contact DWH and ask for further information on timescales 3. <u>Streetlights are still not working</u> on Edith Avenue and also corner of Broadmead/Lavender Lane. These have been reported multiple times to DWH Action: Clerk to chase DWH again. 4. <u>The online reporting system used by Bedford Borough Council does not provide adequate feedback on anything reported</u>, and often closes issues without including an explanation – this is particularly happening when the report concerns an unadopted area of Great Denham, but this is not made clear in the closure report so that a suitable follow-up can be made with DWH. Action: Clerk to write to BBC to raise this issue. 5. <u>Grass cutting</u> of green space between houses at end of Great Portway is not being done effectively and grass is now growing along the path. Action: Clerk to report to BBC There were no further questions and the meeting was reopened.	Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk Clerk
1.	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies were received from Jim Weir Resolved: The apologies were accepted.	
2.	<u>Declarations of interest</u> MS declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of the GDCH. SG 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 MS	
4.	<u>Safety and Wellbeing</u>	
	a) <u>Police Liaison meeting – to agree priorities</u> Next Police Liaison meeting for Parish Councils will take place on 14th August. The Council reviewed priorities submitted at last meeting (February) and confirmed these for the August meeting as Crime Prevention, Nuisance Parking, Speeding, Visible Policing, Drug Dealing and	

	Fly tipping. Councillor Kaur advised that she would not be able to attend the next meeting and Councillors were asked to check diaries to attend in her place. Resolved: Priorities were agreed. Clerk to respond to Police with the completed form. Action: All to confirm availability to attend to Clerk, who will then advise the organisers. b) <u>Enquiry re widening of Greenkeepers Road.</u> Further to resident issue raised at May meeting, a letter has been sent to the Chief Officer Highways and Planning raising concerns over width of this road and accidents with Stagecoach buses. A response has been received from the Council: Whilst this road may not yet be adopted it has planning permission for its current width and the Council would not be able to insist on it being rebuilt to wider dimensions. Any such widening would have to be funded from general council budgets and it is unlikely that a bid for this work would be successful against other priorities. ...It may be that more lining on the rest of the road could be considered to ensure unobstructed bus access. Resolution: To monitor the situation pending adoption of the roads by the Council and revisit when adoption has been completed. Resolution: to continue liaison with Stagecoach re any accidents. Action: Clerk to send response to resident who raised the issue.	Clerk All Clerk
5.	<u>Pride in Great Denham</u> a) <u>Litter Pick 24th June 2018</u> Councillor Parsons reported that a successful litter pick had been held on Sunday 24th June 2018; 25 volunteers helped on the day, collecting 23 bags of rubbish. Bedford Borough Council had been very helpful in providing equipment over 2 weekends to also support the Summer Festival (16th June). It was noted by a member of the public in attendance that the need for litter picks raised questions over the effectiveness of the services provided by BBC under the OMS. It is recognised that the OMS does not cover all of Great Denham. It was suggested that next Litter Pick scheduled for 9th September might be rescheduled to maximise publicity as Great Denham Primary School will only just have returned to school. Action: DP and AOM to consider rescheduling 9th September. b) <u>Update following OMS discussion at June Parish Council Meeting</u> MS provided an update to the meeting on the points raised in the discussion at June meeting and subsequent correspondence with BBC. The quality of the maintenance is still not satisfactory. MS has walked the area, and the Parish Council has also been supported by a resident who has completed an audit of the area – this has been forwarded to the Council. BBC continue to cut in this hot weather when it is not necessary; MS has asked them to prioritise other services such as Border Weeding and Litter Picking during this hot weather but has seen no evidence of this. The fencing by the Bus Gate also remains unrepaired. We are still awaiting full and detailed outturn data on both the 2017/18 accounts and also deployment of staff – this is still outstanding and we will continue to chase. The Parish Council continues to dispute the inclusion of the 2 large Play areas in the Country Park within the OMS charge; MS and the Chairman have gone through the planning applications in great detail and have sent a detailed response to BBC Chief Executive on this. We await a response from BBC on this point. It is understood that the Chief Executive is to ask for another Chief Officer to review the position. We are unsighted on some actions taken by the Chief Executive and Mayor following their attendance at the June PC meeting. BBC continues to insist that Great Denham and Land West of Kempston is treated as one package and that it cannot be split into respective areas. GDPC continue to argue on behalf of residents that this is unfair, unjust and simply not providing value for money to those paying the charge in Great Denham. GDPC will continue to push to clarify the Play Parks and BBC rationale for inclusion within the OMS area as opposed to that covered by Section 106 agreement funding. We will ask for and monitor adherence to the recently published maintenance schedule and also seek to have the	Clerk/DP

	recent investigative report issued by BBC amended to reflect the now acknowledged deployment of staff outside of the OMS area and an accurate position on the play park issue when resolved. It may be necessary to call an extraordinary meeting of GDPC over the August period when a more robust response is received from BBC. Resolution: PC to continue to seek clarity and information from BBC on behalf of residents and report at future PC meetings. c) <u>Update on implementation of no verge parking/double yellow lines at junctions on Greenkeepers Road.</u> The Parish Council resolved to proceed with implementation for this scheme at its May meeting. Costs have now been received from BBC as follows: £6,600 for No Verge Parking, £2,400 for Yellow Lines. Provision of £5000 has been made by the PC in 2018/19 budget and a contribution of £2000 has been made by BBC towards this in recognition of the PC efforts to promote road safety. MWS offered a further contribution of £2000 from Ward Fund to meet the costs. Funding for this scheme is therefore available. As Greenkeepers Road is not yet adopted formal permission from the Developer is required; the PC has verbal support but will seek formal support from DWH. Resolution: to fund the implementation from Parish Council Funds and the contributions offered by BBC and the Ward Fund. Resolution: Clerk and Chairman to seek formal authority from DWH for the scheme. Resolution: Clerk to write to thank Ward Fund and BBC for their contributions.	Clerk/ Chairman Clerk
6.	<u>Local Services</u> a) <u>Bus Service – update on request to change timings of number 11 bus</u> Residents have asked if the timings of the number 11 bus could be changed in line with changes to rail timetable. This request was passed onto BBC, who have now agreed to request this as a short term change. It will be done after the new rail timetable has been introduced and has settled down (introduced on 15/7/18). Action: Clerk to diary for end July and chase progress with BBC b) <u>Update on Great Denham Pavilion</u> Completion of this building has been expected sometime in July 2018. A recent update from BBC is that they are currently doing snagging before the building is transferred. Work will also be done on the pitches as they need to be brought up to standard, and BBC will run the building initially for an unspecified time before deciding on future approach. They are registering any interest from sports clubs or individuals re work opportunities – please email Clerk gdclerk@hotmail.co.uk and she will pass the contact details onto BBC. A question was asked regarding provision of CCTV at the Pavilion which would hopefully cover the Play Hub. It is not clear if this is included in the build and we may have to wait until the Pavilion has been handed over to the Council before pursuing. In the meantime we will check the plans to see if it can be identified; concerns were raised about crime around the Pavilion, given recent attendance by fire crews to deal with fires started by youths outside the building area. Action: Clerk to ensure any interest (sports clubs, individuals) is passed onto BBC. Resolution: Clerk to write to BBC highlighting concerns over crime and requesting assurances re CCTV.	Clerk Clerk Clerk
7.	<u>Planning/Infrastructure</u> a) <u>Response to Bedford Local Access Forum re footpath maintenance</u> A lead Parish Councillor to be nominated and also any requests for changes to planned second seasonal cut. Map of footpaths and planned cut areas available with minutes. Resolution: SG will take lead on this and review planned cut areas. Clerk to respond to Bedford Local Access Forum appropriately.	SG/Clerk

8.	<u>Finance/Clerk's Report</u> a) <u>Finance Report & payments – signature of cheques/initial invoices/approve & initial Bacs payments</u> 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) <u>Quarterly Financial Check</u> Councillor Parsons confirmed that the quarterly check had been done and no issues identified. Resolution: Quarterly Financial Check approved. c) <u>Grant Application – Junior Park Run</u> This application was initially made at June meeting and a decision deferred as Councillors had a number of questions re other sources of funding, sharing of equipment with Adult Park Run and parking concerns. Responses to these questions have been received and the applicant was present at the meeting to support the application. The Chair (MS) summed up that the Parish Council would like to support this but were not sure at this point what funding they could provide; they would like to see other sources of funding/fundraising being pursued in order to determine an appropriate contribution, as any contribution from the Parish Council must be clearly for the benefit of all or some of Great Denham inhabitants and commensurate with the level of benefit being provided. The Applicant was invited to come back to September Council meeting once further sources of funding had been sought. Resolution: Clerk to add application as agenda item for September meeting to determine funding available from the Parish Council.	Clerk
9.	<u>Correspondence</u> All correspondence was available at the meeting and a list is attached to these minutes. Resolved: No correspondence required discussion.	
10.	<u>Any other business – for exchange of information only</u> • Temporary Road closure of Kingswood Way will be in place 23rd to 30th July inc for sewer works. Diversion will be via Greenkeepers Rd, Mercia Rd and Saxon Way. Information has been posted on Parish Council website and will be shared via Facebook. • A free 1 hour training course is available for community groups on CPR/Defibrillator and may be of interest, perhaps to organise in association with GDCH. • Great Portway Play Area – no update on plans to refresh this from BBC. Action: MWS to chase again and report at next meeting • Park Run Defibrillator may be available to be sited at the Community Hall during the week, when not in use for Park Run. Action: Clerk to contact Event Director (Toby) • Village Medical Centre – following focus groups earlier in the year, there does not appear to have been any further feedback on issues from residents. • The World Cup Semi Final – England v Croatia – will be screened at the Community Hall on Wednesday evening (11th).	MWS Clerk
	There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8.27pm	