



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 7th October 2019 in Great Denham Community Hall, 86-88 Saxon Way, Great Denham, MK40 4GP

Present:

Parish Councillors: Donna Parsons (DP) - Chair; Steve Gallagher (SG); Michael Cuthbertson (MC); Jo Ruskin (JR); Chris Slinn (CSL); Chris Staite (CST); Louise Evans (LE)

Borough Councillor: Jim Weir (JW)

Parish Clerk: Lyn Lyman provided Clerk Duties in the absence of Anna O'Meara

Members of the Public: 5 residents and one resident from Bromham (who wished to speak about footpaths).

Also in attendance: Chief Inspector Rachael Glendenning. (She will be sharing information on the work taking place to reduce anti-social behaviour) and Inspector Nick Masters.

Public Questions

The meeting was adjourned for public questions as follows:

1: A resident living in Bromham spoke about the state of the Riverside Footpath, he is trying to get some mowing carried out as the footpath has become overgrown by brambles. He has been pursuing Borough to no avail and has also e-mailed the Mayor. It possibly only needs mowing a couple of times a year which could encourage residents to get out into the countryside. He asked if the PC would be willing to fund it. Although the area falls within the boundaries of Great Denham parish, it was felt that mowing is the responsibility of Bedford Borough in the first instance. The PC wouldn't be able to consider funding the mowing until all options with the Borough Council had been exhausted and any costs implications were provided. As an open space survey is being carried out at the moment, it was wondered whether the footpath could be registered as a Public Right of Way.

Action: DP will share resident's email exchange with the PC. DP has the resident's contact details and it was felt worth speaking to Borough and to explore the options.

2. Bedford /Milton Keynes Waterway Trust: the resident said he was trying to get the usable navigation route extended. He wants to get the muddy footpath concreted over. This route is also not suitable for disabled/pushchair etc but this has already been noted. He is ideally looking for donation / support. The Section 106 agreement requires a new bridge to cross the River Great Ouse to Kempston. The planning application for this bridge has been withdrawn in the face of opposition from Kempston residents & the PC would prefer the money (estimated at £400k) to be spent upgrading the non-accessible existing footbridge to Holme Island.

Action: DP agreed to forward a copy of the Great Denham Boundary map to the resident.

3. A resident noted that the bus gate bollard on Greenkeepers Rd is inoperative and asked whether tickets were being issued by the ANPR camera? The PC confirmed that tickets were indeed being issued, but had no update on when the bollard would be fixed (this has been adopted by the Borough Council).

4. Queens Park/Riverside: the resident pointed out that vehicles speed in this area and nothing appears to slow them down. Residents don't have the desire to walk along Riverside and into Bedford anymore as they no longer feel safe especially as there are drinking issues etc along

there. Pedestrians need to feel safe and they don't anymore. Lighting was suggested. The PC explained this would be expensive as there is currently no power to this area and it is outside this PC remit and the parish boundary. However, they could make some enquiries with BBC.

5. An incident took place recently and the resident wanted to know what was being done about the various issues which appear to arise mainly in the vicinity of the social housing. A response regarding the incident was provided by CI Glendenning (Agenda item 4), who confirmed the incident was isolated and targeted and that any questions with regards to social housing should be directed to those organisations. The Police and PC have no powers in this area.

6. The resident showed concern about policing statistics - 54% rise in sexual/violence/robbery crimes etc. Mopeds are also riding round the Country Park. Residents are really scared and concerned over the safety of their families and some are actually moving out of the area.

CST responded about the Police reports, noting that the [Police.uk](https://www.police.uk) website groups crimes into large categories and anonymises data such that the roads it says it is on is not in fact the road the crime was reported on. ASB reports have increased, mainly domestic or child abuse. Some of this can be attributed to the general increase in population in Great Denham, but also that the PC has been campaigning for any crime to be reported to 101/999 as appropriate. There is a need to recruit more volunteers onto Streetwatch.

Inspector Masters said Operation Meteor targeted Moped mis-use. It was suggested by residents exploring with Borough to see if a gate could be put in place on the entrance to Great Denham from Queens Park. But it was felt that this would not be a suitable solution due to all other users.

7. Concern was expressed regarding the top end of Queens Park / Greenkeepers regarding lighting and CCTV. CCTV is constantly being monitored. Vehicles are being parked on double yellow lines around the village. The road is not adopted in some areas at present but parking officers have been seen ticketing vehicles 24/7 which is slowly making a difference.

8. Social Housing – does the PC have contacts of the Housing Associations if there are any issues. DP asked for any issues to be reported to her and contact will be made. The length of time to repair the shot window was mentioned.

9. An e-mail had been received from a resident. Can the bus gate between Great Denham and Queens Park be opened up to taxis please. I regularly make the journey from Great Denham to the station. The number 8 bus follows a bad path it has no stop near the station and it goes through the top of Great Denham but misses the centre. SO I take taxis, but I can only take them as far as the gate. Given 1 bridge is closed and 2 are undergoing repairs it can take 1-1.5 hours to get from my house to the station. It takes me 45 minutes to walk. Something needs to be done temporarily to support the residents of Great Denham and their regular commute to London. So couple of points. 1. Let taxis use the bus gate. 2. Improve the route of the number 8 bus, so it stoops near the station and follows a slightly wider route through the larger (new Parts) of Great Denham. The PC spoke about a previous discussion regarding the bus gate and Bromham Road bridge being closed. It felt that opening the bus gate to taxis would increase the pressure on Queens Park and Greenkeepers Road and it would end up causing a rat run along Greenkeepers Road for all taxis due to no proof that the taxi was being used by a Great Denham resident. It was also outlined that the number 11 did go to the station at peak times. However, there was a potential to look at the route of the buses.

There being no further questions, the meeting was re-opened.

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1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Borough Councillor Jim Weir

Resolved: The apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

SG and DP declared a non-pecuniary interest as trustees of Great Denham Community Hall (GDCH).

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September were agreed as an accurate record and signed by DP.

4. Safety and Security

a) Recent Crime Update/Guest speaker on work to reduce ASB

Chief Inspector Rachael Glendenning introduced herself as having recently come into post. She considered the level of ABH reports to be low. For privacy reasons, reports cannot indicate where incidents take place. She also spoke about the recent stabbing incident and reports in general.

Inspector Nick Masters said they had attended this meeting to support residents. They wanted to listen to concerns and to re-assure wherever possible. Kerry Jones and James Dancer are our local contacts.

Inspector Masters spoke about social media and the increase in the reports, it is appreciated that incidents are reported. He pointed out that where vehicles are breaking the law, they can be seized and destroyed. Streetwatch is excellent and helps the Police. The Police give as much information as they can with regard to serious incidents. It does seem that there are more incidents of sexual abuse but they are being targeted on social media.

An event is taking place on 17th October at the Corn Exchange for young people, where all types of crime are to be highlighted but it is hoped to make it fun too. It is likely there will be a charge but this has not been confirmed. Doors will open at 7pm and the event will close at 11pm. Contact details: www.police.co.uk. DP confirmed this has been circulated.

Chief Inspector Glendenning and Inspector Masters were thanked for attending and they then left the meeting.

b) Report from meeting with CCTV provider/renewal of annual service contract

SG advised that the Ace contract is up for renewal. He said price remains the same despite the incoming introduction of 50% more cameras, something to bear in mind when budgeting next year. Park & Ride is still awaiting clear ownership of cameras. Software at the control room is being upgraded but is a slow process, they are moving up 4 programs and have to do it in stages (can't just go from ACC3 to ACC7). SG reported on the meeting he had had with them and the services which they can provide. Number of technical questions submitted by Chris Staite:

- ☐ Redundant Uplink – No still required and being upgraded

- ☐ Hardlink internally – something to revisit
- ☐ Was unaware of Airmax
- ☐ Interference from additional 5Ghz repeaters not an issue as radio is set to auto change if 'noise' is detected
- ☐ Notifications still needs work, apparently BBC were notifying an email that is often not looked at out of hours. Still needs work but much better than previously
- ☐ If lamppost is damaged power is lost and could cause an uplink loss.

SG would like to renew the contract for the cost of £450 prior to new cameras being installed.

Resolved: A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed the contract should be renewed. SG to action.

c) Report back from Neighbourhood Watch AGM

SG advised that the main focus of the meeting was on the presentation by the Chief Inspector. There was a conversation amongst the counsellors about the fact that Neighbourhood Watch has been going a number of years, but needs more volunteers. One or two Area Coordinators or street coordinators are required. The Streetwatch group work hand in hand with Neighbourhood Watch.

d) Discussion of School Streets idea

MC spoke of the Living Streets Scheme – amongst other things, it could involve limiting vehicles from streets at certain times i.e. parking outside the school etc. He had spoken to Andy Prigmore (Borough) who felt it may help with our problems and thought Great Denham would be an ideal village to have the scheme. How would it be enforceable? It seems that cameras would be used, but more details were required. The fors and againsts were discussed. Speedwatch group was also discussed. It was thought that the courses of actions we are pursuing at present are the best. SG would rather carry on as we are doing. MC will not obtain further details on this scheme until the PC request them.

5. Environment

a) Report back from Parish and Town Council Network meeting (MC)

This meeting took place on 25th September & MC discussed the report on the meeting which he had circulated to all P Cllrs.

MC had had a pre-meeting discussion with BBC Highways Officer about several topics:

- i) Resurfacing of roundabout at Branston Way/GD entrance - Highways are well aware of the state of this roundabout (& the Branston Way in general), but cannot currently do the works until Bromham Rd bridge re-opens. Works will be scheduled as soon as possible.
- ii) Great Denham Primary School railings on Kingswood Way - AP's last knowledge of the topic was that Mrs Burgess (GDPS Headmistress) was investigating whether emergency access was still required at the Kingswood Way gates. It was agreed to request another GDPC/Mrs Burgess/AP joint meeting, in order to progress this project.

Action: DP to discuss/meeting to be arranged

- iii) Feasibility Study for Pedestrian Crossing (Anglia Way) - MC said he had asked AP to confirm the estimated cost of a feasibility study for a zebra crossing from Sainsbury's to the Roman Gate shops. £3k. This was confirmed, but it was felt that previous information suggesting that a crossing wouldn't be recommended was possibly no longer accurate. DP confirmed that the topic had been voted on previously by those in attendance at the September PC meeting. Based on the available information at the time, the Council decided not to proceed with one. But that she would have some further discussion with Highways in the first instance.

iv) Speedwatch van - The council no longer have a resource to operate the van, but are hoping to close a recruitment exercise in October. MC has said Highways Officer stated that GD is high on the list to have the van once the operative is recruited.

Regarding the Parish and Town Council meeting itself - these meetings take place roughly every 6 months. There is a spotlight on one Parish Council at each meeting and MC spoke of Great Denham at this meeting, which appeared to be well received (all Councillors had been provided with a copy of the presentation).

It was noted that Cambridge Open Systems have given notice to withdraw from providing "Project Involve" website services as of 31st March 2020 & a replacement service provider will need to be obtained. MC will come back to the PC with .gov.uk domain proposals - the requirement for a website is imperative.

MC noted that Cllrs can have their home address taken off of the online copy of the Register of Interest forms which Borough publish if you request it (it will still be present in the paper copy though).

Next meeting will be a "mini-conference" on planning policy/procedures on 11th November at 1830hrs. The next full meeting is scheduled for 19th February 2020.

b) Update following recent traveller invasion and liaison with Bedford Borough Council

A meeting had taken place between Paul Pace (Borough), DP, MC & SG re further works to improve safety access to the Country Park. DP explained that new bollards had been installed. Other possible accesses were discussed, with notes/photos taken. Bollards by the pavilion were installed after the first incident as these were available at the time, but these will be replaced with ones that drop into the ground.

It was also noted that the area by Greenkeepers (owned by Wingfield) is completely unsecured. This had been reported to the Clerk.

6. Community Events and Engagement

a) Bulb Planting – to agree locations and dates for community planting events

DP & MC had met with BBC to look at bulb planting. The verge on King Alfred Way is not really wide enough and there were concerns over the amount of obstacles (street lights, signs, etc.) in that area. DP advised that she had been liaising with BBC and confirmed that where the semi circles are, a 2m wide stretch of daffodils could be machine-planted on the outer part and tulips could be hand-planted on the inside area. DP explained exactly where these would be and that the tulips would need to be along the tree lines for mowing reasons. It was confirmed that a ward fund of £500 has been granted towards total cost. During the conversation, it was suggested that we could put wild flower seed on the verges. This is an option which has been discussed before and there may be an issue re the problems with planting daffodils. However, we could potentially explore in the future. DP asked about planting elsewhere and it was discussed about potentially planting on the stretch of grass by the school. A discussion took place about dates proposed to plant. Dates agreed were Saturday 2nd November 12.30pm, Sunday 24th November 10am – 12pm. DP confirmed that posters inviting help are to be put up.

In regard to the community garden, there was a discussion about where to machine plant the wild flowers. It was agreed these should all be on the house side. DP will go back to BBC to

discuss. It was agreed that the Community Garden clean up dates would be 17th November and 8th December.

b) Fireworks Event – to report on progress on event planning

JR confirmed arrangements, details of which DP will put on Facebook once the letters have been sent. Road closure for Carnoustie Drive will take place and letters will be delivered to Carnoustie Drive residents by the Golf Club. Risk assessment has come through today. Marshalling volunteers are required – Councillors were asked who could help, and JR volunteered to collate a rota. The event will be free but donations are to be requested for Friends of Great Denham. Residents only parking on Carnoustie Drive between 4 & 7pm - all residents of those roads will need to produce the letters sent. DP spoke about posters and it was agreed by everyone that we would professionally print 10/15 copies of the event posters. DP to arrange. Barriers are to be obtained (DP). DP has the road closure notices to put up. JR asked about requesting volunteers for various areas, but it was felt that it was too early for this to be progressed.

Actions: DP to arrange posters, road closure signs and road signs

c) Community Garden – to agree contract for pathway

JR advised that 2 quotes have been obtained. (Phoenix and DJT Surfacing). JR and DP explained that DJT was the preferred choice despite being more expensive than Phoenix – this was due to DJT being the Borough's preferred supplier and that the Borough would be maintaining the land for us going forward and due to them including more detail in their quote. £4,000 has been provided from Ward Funding, with the remaining amount being met by CIL funds. Claire Pick will set up the agreement and Bedford Borough will maintain it.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed to accept the DJT quote and to proceed with this at appropriate time.

It was confirmed that the dates for the Clean up of the Community Garden are 17th November and 8th December.

d) Provision of Christmas lights at entrance to Great Denham (Kingswood Way)

DP confirmed that the quote is for £1,600 which is a small increase on previous years - £1500 was budgeted for these lights. She advised that it has been confirmed that we would like the lights for 1st December. **It was agreed to proceed with the quote.** It was felt that the Council should investigate what other options are available (though this question is asked regularly and other options have not been possible previously). DP will investigate the possibility of having lights around the central area.

Resolved: Quote agreed, to proceed with lights from BBC.

Action: DP to investigate potential for lights elsewhere.

e) Report back from meeting with Aldwyck

DP reported on the meeting which she had attended with BCllr Weir and Aldwyck re potential youth club events within the village. It was advised there could be two sessions 5/7pm and 7/9pm. It was a very positive meeting. DP confirmed that this was just for information purposes at the moment as an update to the meeting. Once she has received all of the relevant information from Aldwyck, she will collate it together and circulate to Cllrs.

Action: DP to compile information once received and cascade out for review.

CIL Monies – a further suggestion for BMX trail was recorded.

7. Planning

DP confirmed the application 19/02022/FUL - 15 St Mellion Drive.

Resolved: After discussion it was agreed there would be no objections.

8. Borough Councillors Report

DP read from a message sent by Jim. It confirmed that he had spent some time with Inspector Nick Masters regarding getting more patrol car coverage which Inspector Russell Goldman has set up. He mentioned a quote he had had from Highways Officer for a 20mph zone from the community hall and into Anglia Way. This is effectively the blocked paved area. The cost for this was £2,500. He said that there was feedback from the police that the CCTV cameras do not give very good imagery and this may be should be discussed with ACE. He concluded by advising that the total ward fund monies going into GD projects was £6,000.

9. Finance and Clerk's Report

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.

It was noted that there will be a quarterly budget check due in November.

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 – no decisions may be made here.

- Newsletter distribution: DP will circulate the draft newsletter to Cllrs, this will then need to go to the printers, then be distributed.
- MC asked if the bank mandate had been updated? DP/AoM to check

12. Date of Next Meeting

Next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 4th November 2019.

The meeting closed at 22.30.