

**GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 7th January 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)

Borough Councillor

Apologies received

Parish Clerk

Anna O'Meara (AOM)

Members of Public

5 in attendance (inc 2 NW reps)

		Action
	The meeting was adjourned for public questions as follows: <u>Update on Great Denham Pavilion.</u> The minutes of 3rd December stated that Pavilion was expected to be transferred by Christmas. DP advised that transfer has still not taken place and Borough Council are working to resolve outstanding issues with developer. The Parish Council is in regular contact with the Borough Council regarding this, and a meeting is planned for later this month where a request for an update and engagement with the Parish Council will be sought. It was noted that an email from the PR department of DWH had been received enquiring when the Pavilion would be opening. <u>Are there any plans to fence around the Pavilion car park</u> The Parish Council will raise this question when they meet with the Borough Council later this month. <u>Ombudsman response to referrals of Open Space Management Charges</u> A resident reported that responses received from the Local Government Ombudsman re this state that they will not be taking this matter forward; all responses have been similar. DP advised that the Parish Council has submitted a Freedom of Information request to Bedford Borough Council and will be following up on this once received, but the Parish Council is limited in what it can do. It will try to look at the specific responses and advise where possible. PC will amend template on website if necessary. <u>The amount of litter around Great Denham does not show regular litter picks are taking place.</u> A resident noted that they had seen nappies in the park area by the transformer and these had been there for some time, would like to see more visibility of planned litter picks. Assistance with landscaping advice had been offered by resident, and would like to confirm that litter is being picked up before grass cutting is done. DP noted there was less litter at last Community Litter Pick. This topic will be raised with the Borough Council at their next meeting (end January) There were no further questions and the meeting was reopened.	
1.	<u>Casual Vacancy</u> DP confirmed that Jo Ruskin had been co-opted onto the Parish Council and had signed the Acceptance of Office. DP also advised that Parbinder Kaur had resigned from the council and a Casual Vacancy had been declared.	

	Resolved: Jo Ruskin confirmed as co-opted to the Parish Council.	
2.	Apologies Apologies were received from Mark Smith (MWS) Resolved: The apologies were accepted.	
3.	Declarations of interest SG declared a non-pecuniary interest as a trustee of the GDCH. JR declared a non-pecuniary interest as a governor of Great Denham Primary School.	
4.	Minutes of the last meeting - Resolved: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and signed by DP.	
5.	Safety and Wellbeing (a) Neighbourhood watch Hazel Snowden (guest) from Bedford and District Neighbourhood Watch gave an update on the status of NW in Great Denham, following representations by the Parish Council. GD is a recognised group 738, part of the Bedford and District NW area. If residents enter their postcode on the website, the area is shown as covered and there is information on the scheme. GD has one Area Co-ordinator, who is looking to step down, 11 street co-ordinators and 145 members. Individuals can join online as individuals; however there is currently no local support to gather members. On joining, members get a guidebook and stickers and can subscribe to the Beds Alert email system. More Street Co-ordinators are needed to help build the group; the Area Co-ordinator is responsible for liaising with Street Co-ordinators and holding quarterly meetings with the Beds and District group. Area Co-ordinator has access to a list of members in the area and can update their list. As a result of the GD Area Co-ordinator wishing to step down, and in order to be successful, GD needs someone to pick up the Area Co-ordinator role, and given the size of the parish, Hazel would recommend that 2 or 3 people take on this role. A councillor enquired on the accuracy of the member numbers as they were aware of people who may have moved away – Hazel advised that it is dependent on members updating NW. We need to advertise the fact GD is a Neighbourhood area and the benefits. Area Co-ordinators can generate newsletters giving advice and showing who covers where. It would be useful for GD to organise a regeneration meeting similar to that done by Clapham in order to generate interest, and to employ Area/Street Co-ordinators. Hazel can contact the current members to ask if they would like to step up, but the scheme is owned by the residents and must be run as such, as the more the residents put into it the more safe the area will be. Neighbourhood watch is not the police, but they do give advice on how to report crimes, share campaign leaflets (e.g. crimestoppers, cyber crime) & a handbook. The regeneration meeting will be run by the Beds and District NW team, but to continue the GD NW group will require Area Co-ordinators to be identified. The PC has previously indicated its support to holding this meeting. Action: Clerk to speak to Hazel about potential dates to organise a regeneration meeting and identify a suitable room in the Community Hall. (b) Highways – report back from meeting with Highways Dept BBC MC and Clerk provided report on meeting held with representative of Highways Dept on 17 th	Clerk

	December. The meeting was held in order to discuss the wider issues of road safety, speed management and parking across Great Denham and to investigate potential actions and solutions that might be available to the Parish Council. It was a positive meeting and has provided some food for thought, some of which has been reflected in the 2019/20 budget. BBC took away a number of actions, some of which are still outstanding. They did confirm that the resurfacing of Anglia Way at the Saxon Way junction will include a raised blocked paving area and crossing points in the pavement to improve the crossing there; this was in response to a Parish Council enquiry re installing a zebra crossing on this road; BBC have advised to wait until road surfacing has been completed and review how effective this is in traffic calming before proceeding; any request for a crossing will require an assessment on traffic flow and pedestrian footfall in order to confirm need and this can happen at a future date. Road safety/parking is one of the Council priorities for 2019/20 and we will continue to monitor requirements. (c) Anti-Social behaviour in Park and Ride Clerk reported that she had received complaints from residents about the littering and proliferation of NOS canisters in the Park and Ride, and raising concerns about potential indicators of drug use and anti-social behaviour. All material sent by residents has been forwarded to the Policing team, and the littering has been reported to BBC. Clerk noted that the litter was picked up shortly after it was reported, although littering in this area is an ongoing problem. Police have advised anyone with concerns of evidence of NOS activity to report it to them via 101 so that they can build up a full picture	
6.	<u>Pride in Great Denham</u> <u>Fencing on boundary between Great Denham and Queens Park</u> Bedford Borough Council have offered to replace the damaged fencing on this boundary with Knee-rail fencing planted with a beech/hornbeam hedge on the inside of knee-rail /new estate side to provide green boundary fenceline. This will be done at no cost to the Parish Council. Resolved: agreed to proceed with this.	
7.	<u>Planning/Infrastructure</u> Parish Council have been notified that an informal appeal meeting will take place re the recent appeal 18/00006/REF regarding plans for Bromham Nurseries; this will be on 5th February and all may attend. Parish Council has already sent in its objections to this planning application and appeal. Resolved: MC to attend informal appeal on behalf of council.	MC
8.	<u>Finance and Clerk's Report</u> (a) Finance Report & payments –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) <u>Quarterly Financial Check – for 3 months ending 31 December 2018.</u> Resolved: SG confirmed that this had been completed satisfactorily (c) <u>2019/20 Budget and Precept request</u> The budget for 2019/20 had been prepared and circulated for comment. Provision has been made within the budget to fund the priorities of the Council for the forthcoming year, and enables the Council to continue the trend of reducing the Band D Charge for residents. The Council will be seeking a precept of £56460, which is a 0.8% reduction from last year on the equivalent Band D Council Tax. Resolved: Budget for 2019/20 agreed and signed by Chair. Resolved: Precept request form completed and signed by Chair and Clerk/RFO.	

	(d) <u>Membership and Subscription renewal of The Loop magazine and CPRE.</u> The Loop magazine is produced by the Friends of St James at Biddenham and is for residents of Biddenham and Great Denham. Council for Protection of Rural England membership provides the council with access to research, planning advice and consultation response and has in past delivered planning training. Resolved: Subscription renewal of the Loop (£10) agreed and cheque 100420 signed by 2 Councillors. On renewal of subscription Clerk to ensure that all Council meeting dates are provided for publication and that it is made clear to publishers that we would also like dates of events in Great Denham, e.g. at the Community Hall to be included in future publications. Resolved: Annual membership renewal of £36 for CPRE agreed. Clerk to pay via BACS. (e) <u>Review of Grant Policy</u> The policy has been updated and circulated for comment; this includes an updated application form. In future grant applications will not be considered from individuals, but only from voluntary, not-for-profit or charitable organisations. Council asked that application form be amended to request ask applicants to confirm how they will advertise Parish Council support. Resolved: Policy and form (with agreed amendment) agreed and adopted. (f) <u>Councillor and Clerk training expenditure.</u> Resolved: Council approved training expenditure for New Councillor training for MC and JR, VAT workshop and SLCC conference for Clerk. Clerk to make arrangements and payment. (g) <u>Consultation response to BFRS proposed increase to council tax 2019/20</u> BFRS wish to test voter appetite to increase the Beds Fire and Rescue element of council tax above agreed threshold, which would require a referendum. This is a public consultation. Resolved: The Council is neither for nor against this and recognises that all individuals may respond as they wish. The consultation to be published on Parish Council website so all can see.	Clerk Clerk Clerk 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> - MC advised that he has been in contact with the Blood Transfusion Service in relation to a fund raising initiative by a resident whose young daughter is undergoing cancer treatment, with a view to a future community event. - Roles and Responsibilities – DP advised that any portfolio changes will be confirmed once all new Councillors are in post following the May election; in the meantime Council will ensure the priority areas have a lead Councillor on them as currently exists.	
	There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.15pm.	