



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 1pm on Thursday 26th March 2020. Meeting held by video conferencing.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Donna Parsons (DP)Chair; Michael Cuthbertson (MC); Helen Allen (HA)

Borough Councillor: not in attendance

Parish Clerk: Anna O'Meara (AOM)

Members of the Public: no members of the public were in attendance

Public Questions

No public questions were received in advance of the meeting.

1. Apologies

It was noted that due to the demands of the current Coronavirus situation and working arrangements, Councillors Lou Evans, Chris Staite, Jo Ruskin and Chris Slinn were unable to attend. Meeting was quorate with 3 councillors in attendance.

2. Declarations of Interest

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 March 2020 were agreed as an accurate record. They will be signed at next available opportunity (due to government guidance on being physically present at meetings).

4. Council operations during Coronavirus

a) Delegation of authority for council operations during period of restricted activity.

It is proposed to extend delegation of Council decisions to the Clerk during the current period of restricted activity declared by the Government in respect of the Covid-19 virus. Such delegation to enable the Council to fulfil its responsibilities where a decision cannot be reasonably deferred or is needed to meet statutory and commercial deadlines. Any decisions taken during this period will be made in consultation with members electronically or by telephone; the Clerk will seek guidance from the Chair as required.

Resolved: Delegation of Council decisions agreed as proposed. Approval for payments and planning responses will be sought via email. Clerk to maintain log of any payments and decisions made during this period to be presented for approval at next meeting in person.

b) To consider any community support during this period of restricted activity (Covid-19)

It was noted that the Borough Council has established a Community Hub for residents; St James Church also has a group of community volunteers, and a Great Denham resident has been co-ordinating volunteers and a postcard drop. Given the government guidance on staying at home, and the recent Parish Council newsletter, it is not practical at this time to publish and deliver another information sheet. The Parish Council will continue to publish information for residents via its social media channels and noticeboards (when possible), and review if further activity is required at future meetings.

Signed by Chair Date.....

26/03/2020 Final

c) Future meetings schedule

Resolved: the April meeting scheduled for 6th April will be cancelled. Schedule of meetings for the remainder of the year will continue, but may be changed at a later date and an extra ordinary meeting called subject to government guidance/need. Meetings will be held remotely until meeting in person is possible. Clerk to arrange and set up any necessary subscription services to enable this.

5. Planning application

Planning application 20/00591/FUL – demolition of existing conservatory erection of single storey rear extension, 1.5 storey side extension and loft conversion. New front extension to form a double height entrance hall – 9 Carnoustie Drive, Great Denham.

Resolved: no material considerations for objection were identified: no objections recorded to this application.

6. Borough Councillors Report

No report has been received; it was noted that Jim Weir is providing regular updates to the Council at the moment regarding the work being done by the Borough Council to support residents during the Covid-19 crisis; these updates are being shared by the Parish Council via its social media channels.

7. Finance and Clerk's Report

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. Payments will be signed by 2 councillors at next opportunity for meeting in person.

b) Grant application from Autism Bedfordshire

It was noted that Autism Bedfordshire have submitted grant applications for the last 3 years; that the amount requested since 2017 has been increasing. The organisation currently benefits 23 Great Denham residents (down slightly from last year); £250 has been requested.

Resolved: it was agreed to award £200 to Autism Bedfordshire in line with last year's award; the award took into consideration that the number involved had slightly reduced from last year. Payment to be made from 2020/21 budget.

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

It was noted that the Coronavirus Act: Page 56, Clause 78 (2) had passed through Parliament and that the Parish Council will follow NALC advice re future meetings.

The provision which may be made by virtue of subsection (1)(d) includes in particular provision for persons to attend, speak at, vote in, or otherwise participate in, local authority meetings without all of the persons, or without any of the persons, being together in the same place.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Currently May 4th 2020 – this will be held remotely unless otherwise indicated.