



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 6th January 2020 in Great Denham Community Hall, 86-88 Saxon Way, Great Denham, MK40 4GP

Present:

Parish Councillors: Donna Parsons (DP) - Chair; Michael Cuthbertson (MC); Jo Ruskin (JR); Chris Slinn (CSL); Chris Staite (CST); Helen Allen (HA)

Borough Councillor: Jim Weir (JW)

Parish Clerk: Anna O'Meara (AOM)

Apologies: Louise Evans (LE)

Members of the Public: 2 in attendance

Guest – Craig Lymm, Great Denham Country Park Nature Group

Public Questions

DP opened the meeting for public questions as follows:

1. Resident asked if there are any plans to install directional signage for the Pavilion. DP advised that the Parish Council can lobby the Borough Council but the decision rests with Highways.

Action: Clerk to write to Highways to ask what directional signage is planned for the Pavilion.

The meeting was re-opened.

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from LE.

Resolved: Apologies were accepted.

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 meeting held on 2nd December 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by DP.

4. Local Services

DP welcomed Craig Lymm from the Great Denham Country Park Nature Group. Craig gave a short presentation on the flora and fauna in the Country Park, and the work he has been doing recently, both in his role for Bedford Borough Council as the employee working in the park, and also as the leader of a group of volunteers (Great Denham Country Park Nature Group). The Nature Group is managed via a Facebook page and currently has 130 members. They have held a number of wildflower planting events already. The Council welcomed the update and the future opportunities to work with the Nature Group which will be explored further.

Action: Clerk to speak to Community Events team at the Borough to ensure the Nature Group is registered as a Volunteer Group.

5. Budget for 2020/21

The Council reviewed and discussed the proposed budget for 2020/21; a small number of changes were made and the final budget of £60143 was agreed. This will be requested as precept from Bedford Borough council.

Resolved: Budget for 2020/21 of £60143 was agreed. Budget form to be updated by Clerk for signature by Chair at next meeting.

6. Precept Request for 2020/21

Following review and agreement of Budget for 2020/21 a precept of £60143 will be requested from Bedford Borough Council. The equivalent Band D charge will increase as a result from £34.05 in 2019/20 to £35 for 2020/21.

Resolved: The Precept Request form was completed and signed by the Chair and Clerk/RFO.

7. Safety and Security

- a) Police Liaison Meeting – to agree policing priorities for nex 3 months and attendance at meeting on 8th January 2020.

Following discussion, the priorities were agreed as Serious Crime (burglary, robbery, theft from/of motor vehicle, violence); Drug use/dealing; Crime Prevention/Visible Policing.

Resolved: Councillor Allen will attend the 8th January meeting on behalf of the Council.

DP also advised that the next Quarterly Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th February 2020 and that she may be able to attend on behalf of the Council.

- b) Home Office consultation on strengthening police powers to tackle traveller invasions.

This item was deferred from December meeting to enable Councillors to review consultation and survey questions. Following discussion, a response was agreed as follows: The Council supported the 4 points made in the consultation letter sent by NALC.

Resolved: Clerk to send agreed response by deadline.

JW also advised that he had received reports that a group of travellers were being moved from the Aldi roundabout and he had advised Bidwells/Wingfield estates of the need to ensure the gates to their land were padlocked. UPDATE: this has now been done.

It was also noted that 3 bollards were still to be installed at the end of Rowan Close.

8. Pride in Great Denham

- a) To confirm bench and bin selection for installation in Community Garden

DP advised that a meeting with the contractor and Bedford Borough Council was held on 18th December 2019 and that work is scheduled to commence w/c 13th January 2020. She has circulated the options recommended by BBC for benches and bins.

Resolved: the purchase of 2 Broxap Derby bins and 2 Broxap Borch benches was agreed. Clerk to advise contractor.

- b) To approve additional costs for 2 noticeboards (purchase agreed at December 2019 meeting)

Information on additional costs had been circulated by DP prior to meeting.

Resolved: Additional costs for noticeboard at Pavilion to be free-standing were approved.

9. Planning

Planning application 19/02661/FUL – single storey rear extension, single storey front extension with canopy roof and garage conversion – 11 Whitings, Great Denham
Council has reviewed the plans; an extension for comments has been agreed with Bedford Borough Council to 7th January 2020.

Resolved: No objections to this application were recorded.

It was also noted by MC that revised plans for DWH advertising (19/0229/ADV) had now been submitted, although not sent to the Council for review. No objections to revision.

10. 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.

b) The Loop subscription renewal

Resolved: renewal of subscription to the Loop magazine was agreed for next 12 months at cost of £10. Cheque 100427 was signed by 2 councillors.

c) Quarterly Financial Check for December 2019

JR confirmed that this had been completed with no issues identified.

Resolved: Completion of Quarterly Financial check was confirmed and accepted.

d) Clerk Training – to agreed budget for attendance at SLCC Practitioners Conference.

Resolved: Attendance and budget agreed.

11. Correspondence

All correspondence was available at the meeting and a list is attached to these minutes.

Resolved: No correspondence required discussion.

12. Any Other Business

- Borough Councillors Report – JW reported on a number of updates from the Borough Council, including a consultation on Ward Boundaries – a copy of his report is attached with these minutes.
- MC gave a brief update on the meeting between DWH and the BBC Adoptions Manager. The location of the missing streetlights on Anglia Way/King Alfred Way had been agreed. Installation will be arranged. BBC had advised that any changes to the pavement on Lindsey Close would not be adoptable and therefore not permitted. Useful advice on permitted size of Speed Indicator Display Signs on streetlights had also been received.
- MC asked that Council Standing Orders be reviewed at a future meeting.
- Great British Spring Clean – the best date for Great Denham looks like 5th April 2020; plans will be discussed at a future meeting. DP will bring this to next meeting for review. There may also be an opportunity to combine a Litter Pick with the Pavilion opening once the date of this is known.
- Annual Parish Meeting – a room has been provisionally booked for this at the Community Hall on 28th March 2020. DP will bring to next Council meeting for discussion.

- DP has circulated an email to Council re producing the next newsletter; all to contribute where possible. Likely date for circulation will be end February.

13. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 3rd February 2020