



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 3rd February 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); Louise Evans (LE); Helen Allen (HA)

Parish Clerk: Anna O'Meara (AOM)

Members of the Public: 2 members of the public in attendance

Public Questions

In addition to residents present in the room, a number of public questions had been received by email and were read out. The meeting was adjourned for public questions as follows:

1. Parking congestion around the Pavilion/King Alfred Way. DP noted that this is an agenda item (6). The issues of parking, especially during Parkrun and football matches, is frequently discussed by Council and monitored regularly. The Parish Council has previously spoken to Highways about the use of double yellow lines on the entrance to Great Denham, and has written to the Borough Council (BBC) about the state of the overflow car parks at the Pavilion, which remain out of service for the second winter since the pitches were made available to use; BBC has responded to advise that they are discussing potential solutions to the overflow car parks as part of the Pavilion snagging with the developers (DWH). It was suggested that BBC should be asked to suspend booking of the football pitches until the parking can be resolved; the PC will offer this suggestion to BBC as an interim approach.
2. It was also noted that there are some parking bays missing from King Alfred Way.
Action: this will be raised at the next quarterly meeting with the developer.
3. There are no dropped pavements on Edith Avenue to enable road crossing for pushchairs/mobility scooters etc.
Action: this will be raised at the next quarterly meeting with the developer.
4. It was also noted that there are still a number of missing bollards on Edith Avenue.
Action: this will be raised at the next quarterly meeting with the developer.
5. A resident of KAW raised concerns about speeding by drivers along KAW, and that there is no 30mph speed limit marking at the KAW entrance to Great Denham. It was noted that the traffic calming measures are not effective, and that cars continue to park on junctions obscuring visibility and at crossing points. DP noted that the Council have previously discussed the use of double yellow lines at junctions (as has been done on Greenkeepers Road) and this will be revisited once the road surface has been brought up to a reasonable standard.
Action: Clerk to write to Highways re the 30mph signage.
6. A resident of has asked about the missing bollards at the end of Rowan Close, and whether fencing would eventually be installed there. DP noted that the bollards were installed following the traveller invasions last summer and in order to prevent drivers creating a short cut from Rowan Close to Queen Eleanor Drive to exit Great Denham.

The plans for Rowan Close were reviewed and it was confirmed that no additional fencing is on the plans and therefore will not be installed.

Action: Clerk to ask BBC to complete work on the missing bollards. The Council will also speak to DWH re the fence and whether some form of path could be installed to tackle the muddy ground.

7. Danegeld Avenue – a number of residents have reported concerns about vehicles exiting Danegeld at speed, and the reduced visibility as a result of the hoarding on the construction site. It was noted that this is an agenda item (6), but Council discussed it here.

Action: DWH will be asked to re-instate the lines (Give Way) at the end of Danegeld Avenue, and also to consider changing the hoarding and any other measures to tackle this.

8. It was noted by a resident that the next annual invoices for the Open Space Management Charge were due to go out shortly, and that the Council had previously asked BBC to improve the communications with residents regarding the Value for money and background to this charge.

Action: Clerk to write to BBC to confirm this will be done.

9. A resident stated that the work on the Community Garden was very much appreciated. It was good to see that parents and children are now using the new pathway to and from school. Following an enquiry, it was noted that any decision to re-open the Kingswood Way school gate remains a school decision.

10. A resident asked when the development is likely to be completed so that residents can request EGMs to take place from Chamonix Management company. MC explained that it is still likely to be some time; hopefully once the handover of the pond outside the DWH show homes is complete the phase including Edith Avenue will be done and an EGM can be requested.

Action: this will be raised at the next quarterly meeting with the developer.

The meeting was re-opened.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from JW.

Resolved: The apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by DP.

4. Bedford Electoral Review

The Council has been notified of a meeting regarding a review of Ward boundaries, on 13th February 2020.

Resolved: it was agreed that Clerk will attend and report back to Council.

5. Safety and Security

a) Report Back from Quarterly Policing Priority Meeting, 8th January 2020.

HA has circulated her report from this meeting and it is attached to these minutes.

Action: Clerk to contact the Policing team to find a suitable date to hold a Police Community Surgery in Great Denham.

6. Traffic and Parking

A number of issues had been raised by residents since the last meeting regarding parking and traffic concerns in Great Denham:

1. Parking on King Alfred Way and at the Pavilion – this issue was also raised in public questions and was dealt with (see above).
2. A resident of KAW has raised concerns about cars apparently parking on pavements – photos have been supplied which shows cars parking on Winchell Mews. The Council have reviewed the photos and the plans for that area; this road is designed to be shared space, to be used by vehicles and pedestrians alike. As it has no formal pavement it will not be possible to introduce No Verge/No Pavement parking in this area. However, if any car is double parked and causing an obstruction then this can be reported to the police.
3. A request to support the provision of double yellow lines at the end of Rowan Close has been received from a resident, in order to prevent parking which is blocking the entrance to driveways. Photos have been supplied to illustrate the problem. It was noted that this area already has No Verge/No Pavement parking restrictions in place. JW has also been contacted by this resident and is looking into it; it was noted that a consistent approach needs to be taken on all roads, and that the Parish Council would support double yellow lines if appropriate once the Borough Councillor has completed his investigation.
4. Danegeld Avenue – visibility and cars exiting at speed. This was raised and discussed in public questions (see above).
5. It was noted that 2 residents have contacted the Clerk re a caravan parked on Great Portway, and that the Clerk has sought advice from the Borough Council which has been forwarded to the residents concerned. No further action at this time.
6. Cars exiting Carnoustie Drive and turning right against flow of traffic. It was noted that there are road markings at end of Carnoustie, but that this behaviour is dangerous.

Action: Clerk to ask Highways to erect a one-way arrow opposite Carnoustie Drive exit.

7. Local Services

Further to decision at previous meeting to install a noticeboard at the Retail Centre, notification has been received from Vail Williams that a letter licence and survey fee of £250 is required to progress this work. All agreed that the noticeboard is required.

Resolved: The surveyors fee of £250 + VAT was agreed for this work.

8. Community Events and Engagement

a) Newsletter – items for inclusion/timescales

Potential items for inclusion were discussed and allocated to councillors to prepare.

Action: all to send draft submissions to Clerk by 14th February 2020 with a view to print and distribution at end of February.

b) Great British Spring Clean

This will run from 20 March to 13 April 2020; the Council has run a Litter Pick for each of the last 2 years, and a poster competition with Great Denham Primary School. DP proposed that the Council participates again this year.

Resolved: A litter pick will be arranged for Sunday 5th April 2020 as part of the Great British Spring Clean. A poster competition will be run with Great Denham Primary School; as in previous years, book tokens will be awarded for the best posters. A budget of £70 was agreed for prizes (2 x £5 book tokens for each year group).

c) Annual Parish Meeting

This has been discussed at previous meetings and a provisional date of 28th March 2020 put in the diary. A number of groups have been identified and the Clerk has been contacting these to ask for their participation – stands will be provided for each group. The event will run from 5pm to 7pm, and refreshments will be provided.

Resolved: date agreed as 28th March 2020. Clerk to check licensing conditions and costs for serving wine and nibbles to be brought to next meeting for agreement.

9. Planning

a) Planning application 20/00065/S73 – Variation of condition, 12 and 12A Vicars Close.
MC noted that this is a request to vary a condition which requires all materials to be specified after demolition.

Resolved: no objections recorded.

b) Bromham Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Resolved: no comments were recorded.

10. Borough Councillors Report

JW has sent a report which has been circulated and is attached to these minutes. It was noted that a Rural Grants Fund is available for parish Councils, and that suitable projects for funding requests should be considered.

11. 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) CPRE Membership – renewal of annual subscription.

Resolved: it was agreed, following discussion, that the annual subscription to CPRE will not be renewed this year.

c) Review of Council Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

A copy of revised orders using the latest NALC-issued model orders has been circulated for comment and input. A number of amendments were suggested and agreed.

Action: Clerk to revise both documents in line with suggested amendments for sign-off at March PC meeting.

d) Review of any previous actions not covered in agenda

All outstanding actions were reviewed. Any requiring further work will be brought to future meetings.

12. Correspondence

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

Resolved: No correspondence required discussion.

13. Any Other Business

- Clerk advised that the Internal Auditor has confirmed they are available to for 2019/20 audit; risk register, asset register and internal audit effectiveness review for 2018/19 audit will be brought to March meeting.

14. Date of Next Meeting - Monday 2nd March 2020.