



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th July 2020. The meeting was held remotely using Zoom.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Donna Parsons (DP) - Chair; Jo Ruskin (JR); Chris Slinn (CSL); Chris Staite (CST); Louise Evans (LE); Helen Allen (HA)

Borough Councillor: not in attendance

Parish Clerk: Anna O'Meara (AOM)

Members of the Public: 1 member of the public

Public Questions

The meeting was adjourned for public questions as follows:

1. Received via email. A resident asked what can be done to address parking at the corner of Lavender Lane/Hazlewick Drive; another resident regularly parks within 10m of the junction, blocking the view to drivers and causing blind spots.

DP advised that any obstructions can be reported to the police via 101 if it is dangerous. It was noted that double yellow lines have been implemented at the corner with Broadmead (Bovis Development); Lavender Lane/Hazlewick is a Linden development and currently not adopted. Council discussed implementing double yellow lines at the corners of all junctions, as has already been done on Greenkeepers Road and all roads off. It was noted that permission from all developers will need to be obtained in order to proceed and that the work would be done by Highways; some roads may need to wait until resurfacing has been completed.

Action: Clerk to contact all developers to obtain permission to implementation of double yellow lines at corners/junctions for King Alfred Way, Anglia Way, Cantley Road and Danegeld Avenue and roads off, before then speaking to Highways to raise request. There will be costs for this work and these will be brought to future meeting for agreement.

The meeting was re-opened.

1. Apologies

All Councillors were 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 the meeting held 6th July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by DP.

4. Co-option – Vacancy on Council

DP advised that an application has been received from Vince Arthur, and that she and LE have met with Vince to answer any questions regarding the role of a Councillor and how the

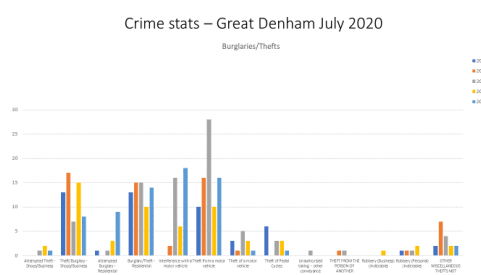
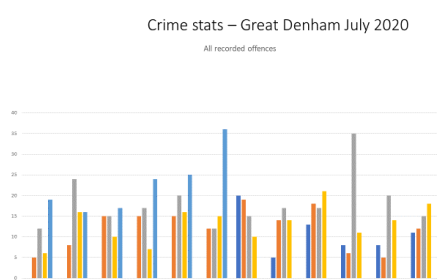
Parish Council works. DP proposed that Vince Arthur be co-opted to one of the vacancies still open following the election in May 2019.

Resolved: it was agreed unanimously to co-opt Vince Arthur to the Parish Council. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and witnessed by the Clerk, and Vince was invited to join the meeting as Councillor.

Action: Clerk to send necessary documents and set up email address.

5. Safety and Security – update on latest Crime Stats

2 slides showing year-on-year reported crime numbers and year-on-year numbers reported as burglaries and thefts were shared with Council. Year on year increases reflect the growing number of properties in Great Denham, and the previous spikes of vehicle break-ins in 2018 and June 2020 could be seen in the stats. Residents are encouraged to report all crime to the Police via 101 so that they are aware and can prioritise resources to support us.



CST reported that 2 new Streetwatch members had now been accepted, and 2 are pending.

LE reported that the admins of Great Denham Crimewatch FB page have now clarified that individual membership by a Councillor does not constitute endorsement by the Parish Council.

6. Environment

a) Bulb Planting around Great Denham

Potential sites and bulb mixes were identified:

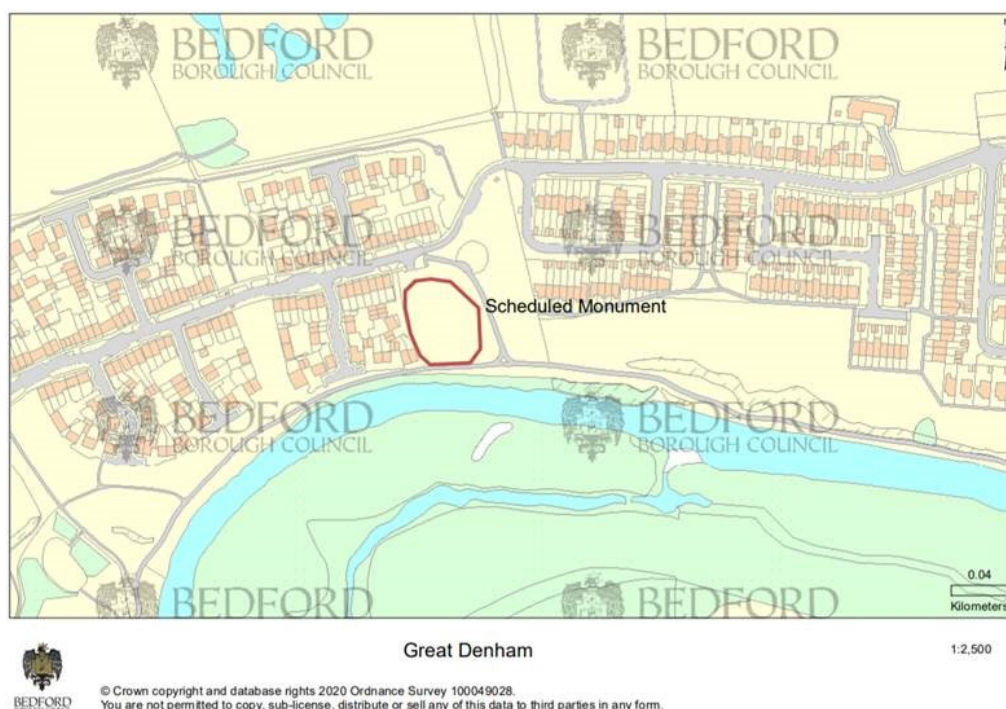
- Kingswood Way entrance to GD – the bank on right hand side (previously hand-planted by volunteers)
- Greenkeepers Road (entrance off roundabout) – it was noted that this may not be suitable given location of BT cabinets.
- Community Garden – further planting of the bee/bulb mix on the other side of the pathway.
- Queen Eleanor Drive – on the wide verge to the right (towards the Pavilion).

Resolved: a budget of £2000 from Community events budget line was agreed for bulb planting in Community Garden, Kingswood way and Queen Eleanor Drive. Clerk to advise Borough re locations and advice re amount of planting that is possible for this budget.

Action: Clerk to speak to Ward Councillor re potential donation towards planting.

b) Scheduled Monument – Wildflower Planting

This area is at the top of Greenkeepers Road near the Busgate. It is recorded as a scheduled monument <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1013523>



Resolved: The Council recorded their support to the proposal from Bedford Borough Council to plant this area with wildflowers and provision of some form of signage re its historical significance.

c) MUGA – reports of noise and nuisance after hours

DP reported that a number of residents had raised concerns and complaints about the use of the MUGA after hours and the noise nuisance that was occurring. She and the Clerk have asked Bedford Borough Council who own the facility to confirm that the timings of the lights are operating correctly and that signs are put up to request that the facility is not used after dark out of respect for residents. We will continue to push the Borough on these actions.

7. Local Services

a) To appoint solicitors to draw up lease between Parish Council and Great Denham Community Hall CIO for use of the Community Hall

3 solicitors have been asked to quote for this work, in line with Council Standing Orders. Quotes range from £950 to £2000, although it was noted that there may be additional costs to deal with any covenants/clauses in the Land Transfer document. Following discussion, it was agreed to proceed and Weller Hedley were selected for the work. Councillor Vince Arthur will work with the Clerk to progress the lease.

Resolved: Council agreed to engage Weller Hedley solicitors for this work. Heads of Terms to be drawn up in conjunction with the CIO.

b) Update from quarterly liaison meeting with developers (DWH)

Clerk gave a short update on the last meeting which took place on 24th June 2020.

- Work on the current build (behind Sainsburys) has been delayed approx. 3 months due to Covid shutdown, but has now restarted.
- Road resurfacing and remedial work to block paving by The Eatery – the remedial work is due by the end of July and the resurfacing in the Autumn. DWH will confirm timings so that residents can be informed.
- Streetlights on King Alfred Way/Anglia Way – the missing lights have been installed, awaiting connection.
- DWH to pursue installation of 30mph signage at entrance to KAW from Branston Way.

- DWH will look into removal of the flagpole tubes left outside the school on Greenkeepers Road, and the PC concern over the brick entrance features as they reduce visibility for pedestrians.
- Adoptions – adoption of Greenkeepers Road has been held up as the Deed of Grant for drainage is still outstanding. DWH are chasing Anglia Water. Once GK is adopted then adoption of all roads off by the other developers can proceed.
- DWH reps at the meeting shared Council concerns over the attitude and service from Chamonix (management company) to holding EGMs and election of Resident Directors. DWH will confirm when a parcel of land has been handed to Chamonix so that residents can then follow up with requesting an EGM.
- No update on plans for the land opposite the Community Hall or land behind the school; DWH have been asked by the Borough Council to supply further detailed designs for the pedestrian/cycle bridge over the river.

Next meeting will be in September; LE and HA will attend.

8. Community Events and Engagement

a) Purchase of “there but not there” statues – covered in (b) below

b) Purchase of lamppost poppies

DP reported that following agreement to purchase the statues at June meeting, she has now obtained costs and an update on availability. Royal British Legion Industries Shop has the statues available at cost of £125 each + VAT and delivery. DP has also received an offer of donations of 1 statue and 50 poppies but suggested that if this proved viable then a donation in lieu should be considered.

Locations were discussed and the following agreed:

- Statues – 1 in the community garden, 1 by the benches at end of KAW.
- Poppies – on streetlights close to the Community Garden and KAW benches (where the statues are) and also around the Retail Centre.

Resolved: Purchase of 2 statues at £125 + VAT + delivery each, and purchase of 50 poppies at £3 each was agreed.

c) Covid 19 briefing with Mayor

DP reported that this had taken place on 4th July; Parish Council chairs were briefed on the requirements of a local lockdown should it be needed, and asked to support local communication efforts. Information on the Bedford Local Outbreak Control Plan is available via the Parish Council website (Borough Councillor Report)

d) Children’s Summer Poster Competition – road safety

Speeding and poor parking are consistently reported by residents. The proposed competition will ask children to design posters to highlight the dangers of speeding and inconsiderate and illegal parking. A selection will then be printed and put up around Great Denham. DP and JR will provide support to promoting the competition; the Head of GD Primary School has agreed to publish it in the last parents’ newsletter of the term. This is a follow up to the visit by the PC to the School last year and engagement of the Safety Squad.

Resolved: agreed to support the competition and fund the printing of posters, subject to quote obtained by Clerk.

9. Consultations

a) NALC Consultation on Model Code of Conduct for Councils

The new Model Code of Conduct has been written in response to the 2019 Report by the Committee for Standards in Public Life. Councillors were asked to respond to this consultation individually. Councillors sign the Code of Conduct on appointment to Council.

Action: Clerk to circulate to Council the details of the Local Government Association webinars that are being held on this topic.

b) Bedford Borough Council Draft Housing Strategy 2021-2026

The provision of housing is relevant to the current issue regarding future use of the Golf Course Land. Consultation will close on 17th August.

Resolved: Councillors to respond to Clerk who will collate the comments and submit by the deadline.

10. Planning

a) Planning application 20/01343/FUL – single storey rear/side extension, roof extension to increase roof height and dormers front and rear. Garage roof conversion with new dormer to side. 15 Woden Gardens, Great Denham.

Council discussed the plans which are available via the Borough Council planning portal. It was noted that the increase in roof height would be in keeping with neighbouring houses. There was concern that the garage conversion may impact available parking if it removed garaging for 1 vehicle with a subsequent adverse impact on neighbours in this cul-de-sac, although plans indicate that 5m space is still sufficient for car garaging.

Resolved: Clerk to circulate draft response based on discussion as “Comments”.

11. Borough Councillors Report

Borough Councillor Jim Weir was not in attendance due to clash with Bedford Borough Council Meeting. His report is available from the parish Council website.

12. Finance and Clerk’s Report

a) Finance Report & payments – signature of cheques/initial invoices/approve & initial Bacs payments

No Finance report was presented; there has been no further activity since the 6th July report

13. Correspondence

A list of all correspondence received since 1st July had been circulated to Council.

Resolved: No correspondence required discussion.

14. Any Other Business

- CST asked if we had received update from highways re installation of SIDS (agreed at June meeting). **Action: Clerk to chase Highways**
- CST asked that we follow up on quotes received from Borough Council for provision of Xmas lights around the Retail Centre. **Action: Clerk to chase Streetlighting.**
- DP gave a brief update on the correspondence that had taken place re the Golf Course since meeting on 6th July. A letter had been sent to the landowner, and template letters for residents to use with the MP Richard Fuller, and also with the landowner/land agent were available on the PC website.

15. Date of Next Meeting

7th September 2020. An extra ordinary meeting will be called before then if urgent business requires it.