



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 1st November 2021. The meeting was held in the Great Denham Community Hall, Great Denham. It was also available via Zoom for members of the public

Present:

Parish Councillors: Donna Parsons (DP) (Chair); Chris Staite (CST); Vince Arthur (VA); Helen Allen (HA)

Parish Clerk: Anna O'Meara (AOM)

Members of the Public: 4 members of the public attended (1 via Zoom).

Guest Speaker: Henry Parrott

Public Questions

Clerk read out 2 questions received via email/social media in advance of the meeting:

Road Safety – Traffic Calming measures on Carnoustie Drive: a resident has raised concerns about the traffic calming measures outside the former Golf Clubhouse, and that the reduced visibility on this section is creating issues. This issue has been raised on a previous occasion, and Borough Councillor Weir has also met with the Highways Officer regarding this. Clerk has asked Cllr Weir to provide an update on the outcome of this meeting to the resident.

Retail Centre Car Park – cars exiting via pavement onto Saxon Way: a resident has raised concerns over cars using the gap in the railings over the pavement onto Saxon Way as an exit from the car park instead of the actual exit. No details of how often this is happening are available. It may be necessary to place something like a planter/bollard to close up the gap.

Action: Clerk to speak to management company for the Car Park re the problem and possible approaches.

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Councillors Jo Ruskin, Louise Evans, Chris Slinn and Borough Councillor Jim Weir.

Resolved: Apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

DP declared an interest as Trustee of the Community Hall.

3. Minutes of October meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held 4th October 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by DP.

4. Parking

a) Parking issues on Lindsey Close

Residents had raised concerns re the impact on parking and access to Lindsey Close caused by the No Verge/No Pavement parking restrictions in place, and also the risk of damage to resident property at the entrance to this road caused by parking/narrowness of the entrance.

As agreed at the September meeting the Council has written to Lagan Homes regarding this. A reply from Lagan Homes has been received on 7th October and shared with residents. Following this response, Council has now written to both Highways and Adoption Officers at

the Borough Council requesting a meeting to review the issues and options available. To date no response to this request has been received.

Residents report continued problems with access to the road for refuse vehicles and risk of damage to walls and gardens by vehicles. The original planning application for this road also included a refuse collection plan which should describe access arrangements; this should be referred to in any correspondence with the Borough as may help residents progress the issue and get Borough Council attention.

Action: Clerk to chase the meeting with Highways and Adoptions, and supply Planning application number to residents for them to follow up with the Borough.

b) Parking on Greenkeepers Road

A resident has raised concerns over the parking on Greenkeepers Road, and that cars are no longer parking parallel with the kerb in the parking bays, but parking at an angle to the pavement (diagonal) and therefore sticking out into the road. This is causing reduced visibility, impacting on road safety and also obstruction for buses, cars etc. It was noted that Greenkeepers Road is currently in the process of being adopted.

Action: Clerk to escalate this issue to developer (DWH), Highways and Adoptions, to consider as part of adoptions process.

5. Crime

a) Update on CCTV

CST gave a brief update on the meeting with Bedford Borough Council CCTV team re improving signal transmission of images from Great Denham back to monitoring centre. BBC has plans to upgrade the fibre links, and asked the Parish Council to defer plans to move its own relay links until this has been completed. This situation will be reviewed in January 2022, and the relay network will be revised following this meeting. Any changes and associated costs will be brought to Council for approval. Following the vandalism in the Community Garden BBC will adjust the existing cameras to provide better coverage. CST suggested that the Council consider installing a camera to oversee the Play Park at end of Terrington Place. Following discussion, no further action on this suggestion will be taken at the moment.

b) Anti-Social Behaviour in Park and Ride (ASB)

The Police team have requested support in asking residents to continue to log any incidences of ASB that occur, in order to help them respond and patrol the area. CST has asked their contact to also extend this to the Pavilion car park.

Action: Following discussion it was agreed to ask residents for their help in logging the time/date of all incidences via the Council website and Social Media page, and that a letter would be drafted and distributed to all residents who live adjacent to both car parks.

c) CCTV footage on social media

Following recent incidents, Council reiterated the advice received from Police re publishing any CCTV footage on social media.

Action: Clerk to publish the advice received again on PC social media page and to include in next newsletter.

6. Projects to develop Great Denham for residents.

a) Community Garden

Councillors noted the recent vandalism of both Tommy statues that had been placed in the garden; crime reports have been recorded with the Police.

Henry Parrot, metalworker/sculptor (guest speaker) gave a brief presentation of his work, including a Silent Soldier figure and other figures as potential statues for the Community

Garden. All statues are constructed from metal; a Silent Soldier statue has already been produced for Bromham Parish Council. Timeframes for any work are likely to take 6-8 weeks from agreement. Council thanked Henry for attending as his work has provided food for thought, both for potential replacement of the damaged Tommy and also further development for the Community Garden. A quote for the Silent Soldier statue has already been supplied. Henry then left the meeting.

Council discussed potential locations for a replacement Tommy, given the recent damage. The Meaningful Meeting Place was agreed as a suitable new location, given its visibility and high footfall to hopefully deter any would-be vandals in the future.

Cllr Allen and Clerk also reported back on a visit to the Primary School Years 5 and 6, where the children are working on a World War 1 project and have a number of ideas to develop a memorial area for Great Denham; the children were passionate, both in their disgust at the vandalism and damage, and their thoughts and ideas for a memorial area; they are keen to get support from both Borough Councillor Weir and the Parish Council to implement their ideas as funding will be required. It was noted that the Parish Council have no powers to contribute monies directly to the school for any work.

Resolved: Following discussion it was agreed that a Council project would be formed to create a memorial space using the ideas from the children, and that the children would be invited to help with the implementation of this. Budget to be agreed once ideas are formed. Decision on purchase of Silent Soldier or alternative replacement for damaged Tommy to be made once project ideas are known.

Action: Clerk to follow up with the school regarding their ideas, to inform this project.

Action: Clerk to ask Henry Parrott for costs to create a statue of a Swan for the centre circle in the Community Garden and bring back to future meeting.

b) Tree Planting – Queen's Green Canopy

Council discussed opportunities for tree planting and applying for trees from Woodland Trust as part of Queen's Green Canopy. Clerk advised that following enquiries with Woodland Trust, delivery of tree packs is now March 2022. Clerk also noted that a volunteer team will be needed to undertake the planting and this will need to be arranged in order to ensure best use is made of any trees received. Potential locations were considered and a suggestion to create an avenue of trees in the Country Park, behind the football pitches, was felt to be the most suitable as the Council remain keen to establish a Community Orchard in the land behind the Park and Ride. Cllr Weir has also advised that the Borough wish to plant a commemorative tree in each Ward for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and has asked for suitable location for this; the end of Footpath 1 by the Pavilion was proposed as a suitable location, given the tree's eventual height etc., the need to avoid proximity to houses but where it can be seen by most people.

Action: Clerk to respond to Cllr Weir with proposed location for Commemorative Tree (end FP1)

Action: Clerk to liaise with Bedford Borough Council re planting in Country Park before application for trees from Woodland Trust (Queen's Green Canopy)

Action: DP will also make investigations re requirements to create a Community Orchard.

c) Installation of Christmas Lights

Resolved: the quotation for installation of Xmas lights on the tree (Kingswood Way) and lamppost decorations at Retail Centre were agreed.

7. Budget 2022/23

As part of pre-budget setting discussions Council reviewed the current earmarked reserves and CIL monies. It was noted that CIL monies have conditions on what this can be used for and that Clerk had spoken to Bedford Borough Council to confirm. It was noted that

provision for the following projects should be retained as earmarked reserves/potential CIL monies within 2022/23 budget: CCTV – upgrade of cameras; GDCH landlord responsibilities; Feasibility study and installation of pedestrian crossing on Greenkeepers Road; Provision for development of Community Garden. First draft of budget to be presented to December meeting.

Resolved: current projects to be accounted for as CIL expenditure agreed: Purchase and installation of noticeboards, purchase and installation of benches in Country Park, installation of Pedestrian Crossing on Anglia Way, purchase and installation of 2 additional defibrillators. Earmarked reserves to be adjusted accordingly.

Action: Clerk to obtain costs of replacement of boilers/heating at the Community Hall to inform setting of suitable reserves for landlord responsibilities.

8. S104 Agreement

Legal advice has been provided by Wellers Hedley; however, the developers have advised that updated plans will be sent out, and these will be considered before agreement on next steps.

9. Golf Course Update

There has been no update since last meeting. The Compound Security concerns reported to Bidwells have resulted in a visit by security firm, but it is not clear what (if any) further action will be taken by them.

10. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Clerk reported that the Steering Group had met to discuss stakeholder engagement. A plan for this has been agreed, and views will be sought from relevant businesses and organisations as part of the consultation process.

11. Planning Applications

Planning Application 21/01365/COU – Change of Use for Greenkeepers Compound

It was noted that this application has now been withdrawn by the applicant. No further information is available at this time.

12. Borough Councillors Report

JW has provided a written copy of his report which has been circulated to Council and will be published on the Parish Council website.

13. 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 published on the website. All receipts were available for inspection

Resolved: The Finance report was noted. All invoices for payment were authorised by 2 Councillors.

b) Renewal of SLCC Membership for Clerk

Resolved: Renewal of membership at cost of £166 was agreed.

c) Update on actions from previous meetings

Clerk gave a brief update on the following:

- Delivery of benches for the Country Park – latest update forecasts delivery early in New Year.

- Both new noticeboards have now been installed (at Retail Centre, and at Sports Pavilion).
- Clerk has chased Highways re installation of Pedestrian Crossing on Anglia Way and has been advised that this is programmed in for March 2022.

14. Council Meeting dates for 2022

Resolved: meeting dates agreed. Council will continue to meet on 1st Monday of each month, except for January (10th) and May (9th). No meeting will be held in August.

15. Correspondence

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

Resolved: No correspondence required follow up.

16. Any Other Business

For Exchange of information only – no decisions may be made here.

- An expression of interest has been received from a resident to be a Parish Councillor. Clerk has sent further info and awaiting response.

17. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 6th December 2021

APPENDIX - Finance Summary to 27/10/2021**Bank Balances**

Treasurer current account - £92,872.55 BMM deposit account - £120,090.99

Receipts since October report

Date	From	Detail	£
21/10/2021	HSBC	Interest on deposit account	0.99
TOTAL			0.99

Payments since October report (figures include VAT)

Payment type	Payee	Detail	£
BACS	Greenbarnes Ltd	2 noticeboards and delivery	3745.63
BACS	Wellers Hedley	Professional charges for GDCH lease	1080
BACS	Pam Anthony	Payroll services July to September 2021	37.5
BACS	Thistle Property Mtce	Installation of noticeboard at Retail Centre	504
BACS	Great Denham Valkyries	Grant funding (agreed October meeting)	300
BACS	BHIB	Annual Insurance premium	3272.68
BACS	Clerk	Salary and HMRC payments (NI/PAYE)	1155.25
BACS	Kall Kwik	Printing of NDP posters for Community event	270
TOTAL			10,365.06

Payments for approval (figures include VAT)

Payment type	Payee	Detail	£
BACS	Cloudnext Ltd	Renewal of Website hosting	95.98
BACS	GDCH	Tea and Talk (from grant - £195 remaining after payment)	120
BACS	GDCH	Room Hire - October and November PC meetings	7.5
BACS	SLCC	Membership renewal for Clerk	166
BACS	MK Illuminations	Additional Xmas lights for tree	888.96
TOTAL			1278.44

Committed funds not yet invoiced (work to be completed) figures excl VAT

		£
Pedestrian crossing	Anglia Way	40,000
2 benches	Country Park	2074.69
2 x Defibrillators	Carnoustie Drive/Pavilion	4000
TOTAL		46,075