



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 6th December 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: Chris Staite (CST) (Chair); Vince Arthur (VA); Helen Allen (HA); Chris Slinn (CSL); Louise Evans (LE)

Parish Clerk: Anna O'Meara (AOM)

Borough Councillor: Jim Weir (JW)

Members of the Public: none in attendance.

Public Questions: No members of the public in attendance

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Councillors Donna Parsons and Jo Ruskin.

Resolved: Apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared

3. Minutes of extra ordinary November meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held 16th November 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by CST.

4. Budget 2022/23

Council discussed the requirements for budget for 2022/23 and level of precept required. It was noted that an estimated £34,000 was required to meet all statutory and ongoing commitments: these include staff costs, audit costs, affiliation fees, insurance and costs associated with the Community Hall, Christmas light display and maintenance and monitoring of CCTV. Council discussed budget provision for projects, including budget for grants for local organisations, hosting/funding community events and newsletters. CST proposed that the Council consider budget for upgrade of the CCTV cameras: this can be part-funded from CIL monies, but may require additional monies which could come from existing reserves or 2022/23 budget. Council discussed the need for youth-age activities in Great Denham and the possibility of employing a Youth Worker for this purpose.

Action: Clerk to investigate what other Councils do re employment of a Youth Worker, to source an example job description and salary range for discussion at final budget setting in January.

5. Projects to develop Great Denham for residents.

a) Community Garden

A quote has been received from a resident who responded to the request for support in planting/design for the centre circle in the garden.

Resolved: a budget of £200 was agreed, all purchases to be receipted.

b) Tommy Statue – purchase of metalwork poppies

Following the installation of the new Silent Soldier in the Community Garden, a quote for provision of metalwork poppies at the base of the statue was discussed. Clerk advised that

some of the poppies will be based on the design of those made by the children from Great Denham Primary School, and a plaque to that effect will be included.

Resolved: a budget of £398 for up to 11 poppies and a plaque was approved.

6. Grants and Donations

A grant application has been received from the Tea and Talk group to part-fund the costs of the weekly meetings for 52 weeks at a cost of £780. A similar grant was approved in 2019.

Resolved: the grant of £780 was approved. Clerk to make necessary arrangements for billing via the Community Hall.

7. Public Space Protection Orders

Bedford Borough Council has invited nominations for PSPOs relating to dog control; typically, these are used to cover public spaces such as sports pitches and play areas: PSPOs may either be Dog exclusion or Dogs to be kept on leads. Councillors discussed potential locations and agreed on the following:

The football pitches at the Pavilion (Dogs on leads), all play areas throughout Great Denham (Dogs excluded unless play area is not fenced, in which case Dogs on Leads), the MUGA at the Pavilion (dogs excluded) and the area, including the fitness equipment, on Footpath1 from Sainsburys to the Pavilion (dogs on leads).

Resolved: Clerk to submit request for PSPOs on areas as agreed in discussion.

8. Golf Course Update

There continues to be no communication from Bidwells or the landowners. It was noted that the area has been mowed, and that electric fencing is going up: it is assumed this will be for the return of the sheep. A resident has contacted the Council re fly tipping on golf course land along the Branston Way; this will be reported to Bidwells.

9. Neighbourhood Development Plan

LE reported that a draft of the Design Code has been received from Aecom and is currently being reviewed by the Steering Group before comments are sent back to Aecom.

Resolved: the invoice for work done to date by the Planning Consultant was approved for payment (this is funded by the Locality grant received).

10. Consultations

Bedford Borough Council are consulting on the Corporate Plan and Strategy for 2022-2026. Council discussed a response to highlight the need for the Borough Council to work more closely with Parish Councils in order to empower communities, and that the characteristics of settlements such as Great Denham should be protected (including the urban gap) with improved transport routes.

Resolved: Council agreed its response to be submitted by Clerk by 10th December.

11. Planning and licensing

a) Street Trading Licence – Ice Cream Joe

Resolved: Council had no objections but noted that the 20-minute waiting restriction would need to be relaxed if a queue has formed as moving the vehicle will lead to greater traffic congestion.

b) Street Trading Licence – Mr Ice Cream Man

Resolved: Council noted the application but recommends that timeframe for trading is changed to 19:00 hours in winter/21:00 hours in summer. They also repeated the need for the 20-minute waiting restriction to be relaxed where a queue has formed.

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. JW gave a brief verbal update on the following:

- He has met with BLMKCCG regarding the Village Medical Centre; the new owners are very much aware of the past problems and are working to address these: a new phone system is on order and more appointments are now being offered.
- Kickabout land – JW noted that a revised planning application is expected and he has received an email from the Land Manager for DWH regarding this.
Action: Clerk to work with JW on raising the issues relating to this application and the provision of school land at a future Bedford Borough Council meeting.
Action: Clerk to response to DWH asking for an update since last email in July.
- Pharmacy Consultation: Bedford Borough Council are currently holding a consultation on Pharmacy services and all residents are invited to respond.

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) Update on actions from previous meetings

Clerk gave a brief update on the following:

- Delivery of benches for the Country Park – awaiting delivery.
- Community Defibrillator – Clerk is meeting Highway's w/c 13/12 to agree location for Carnoustie Drive
- Lockable gates outside the school have been chased with Highways. £3,000 has been earmarked for these, and installation has been outstanding for nearly 2 years.
- Pedestrian Crossing on Anglia Way – the plans have now been received. In the light of this, Clerk will now contact Highways regarding the feasibility study for the crossing on Greenkeepers Road, as agreed at a previous council meeting.
- DWH have advised that the top end of Greenkeepers has now been signed off for adoption by Highways: awaiting formal confirmation. A new contractor has been appointed and they will be starting remedial works on the remaining stretch of Greenkeepers in preparation for adoption.
- Flooding in Great Denham – Clerk attended the online Flood forum with Bedford Borough Council on 23/11/21. Parishes are encouraged to form a flood response group who will receive training and equipment from the Borough. Council asked that the Flood Risk Officer from BBC be invited to a future PC meeting, and that residents were invited to join a flood group.

14. Correspondence

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

Resolved: No correspondence required follow up.

15. Any Other Business

No business was raised here.

16. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 10th January 2022

APPENDIX - Finance Summary to 30/11/2021**Bank Balances**

Treasurer current account - £87,516.86 BMM deposit account - £120,092.01

Receipts since November report

Date	From	Detail	£
21/11/2021	HSBC	Interest on deposit account	1.02
TOTAL			1.02

Payments since November report (figures include VAT)

Payment type	Payee	Detail	£
BACS	Cloudnext Ltd	Renewal of Website hosting	95.98
BACS	GDCH	Tea and Talk (from grant)	120
BACS	GDCH	Room hire – Oct/Nov meetings	7.50
BACS	SLCC	Renewal of membership for Clerk	166
BACS	MK Illuminations	Light strings for tree, Kingswood Way	888.96
BACS	Community Heartbeat Trust	Purchase of defibrillator and post	2922
BACS	Clerk	Salary and HMRC payments	1155.25
TOTAL			5355.69

Payments for approval (figures include VAT)

Payment type	Payee	Detail	£
BACS	Clerk	Expenses (purchase of microphone for streaming)	114.29
BACS	Christy Plumbing	Service call out and repair to Hall heating	210
BACS	Chapman Planning	NDP services to date	1195
TOTAL			1519.29

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	1565
TOTAL		43,640