



GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Great Denham Parish Council held at 7.30pm on Monday 10th January 2022. 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); Jo Ruskin (JR)

Parish Clerk: Anna O'Meara (AOM)

Borough Councillor: Jim Weir (JW)

Members of the Public: 1 member of the public in attendance

Public Questions:

Whilst there were no questions the member of the public in attendance expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council as a Councillor and gave a brief introduction.

Action: Co-option of a new Councillor will be added to the agenda for February 2022 meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies have been received from Councillors Louise Evans and Chris Slinn.

Resolved: Apologies were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

DP declared an interest as a Trustee of Great Denham Community Hall CIO.

3. Minutes of December 2021 meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held 6th December 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by DP.

4. Budget 2022/23

Council discussed the requirements for budget for 2022/23 and level of precept required. Clerk reported on the action from the last discussion on employment costs of a Youth Worker to lead and develop activities for Great Denham; sample job descriptions and pay rates had been provided by Cuxhoe Parish Council (Durham) who are providing a similar facility for their residents, with a small team of youth workers and leaders. £6750 has been added to the draft 2022/23 budget to cover the employment costs of a Youth Leader equivalent role; the requirements for Employer National Insurance and Pension Contributions have been factored into this figure. Additionally, discussion on provision of events or commemorative items to mark the Queen's Jubilee identified that additional provision may be needed for this and the Community Events and Activities line was adjusted accordingly.

Resolution: Council approved Precept request for £48,000 for 2022/23. This represents a reduction in the Band D equivalent charge of c.£7.50 (a 21% reduction) on last year's Precept. The Precept request form was signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

Action: Draft budget to be amended to reflect discussion and brought for approval to February meeting.

5. Parking.

A resident has contacted the Parish Council with concerns over the layout of the junction of Kingswood Way/Saxon Way, the confusion on right of way at this junction and the consequent near misses between drivers using this junction. It was also noted by Council that the painted hatching lines on this end of Kingswood Way were contributing to the confusion, as not only have they faded, but their purpose since the development of this area are now unclear, and are creating issues for drivers. Additionally, cars that continue to park on Great Portway are reducing visibility for drivers approaching the junction, and that in spite of writing to all businesses at the Village Medical Centre complex to ask for staff to use the Park and Ride (as actioned at a previous Council meeting), staff continued to park on Great Portway.

Action: A meeting to be arranged with Bedford Borough Council Highways for a complete review of the issues on this junction and to identify what solutions Highways would recommend to address the concerns. Clerk to arrange.

Action: Clerk to contact new operators of the Surgery to request that the staff parking area be opened up for staff of the other businesses on this site as it appears to be currently under-utilised, and this could help address the wider parking issues.

6. Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

Council discussed options to mark this occasion, including provision of memorabilia for children at the school, a community event on the Kickabout space, and a beacon lighting (located on the Country Park). Provision for additional budget was made in 2022/23 budget discussions (see 4 above). Council felt that residents should be asked for their suggestions/views before deciding on schedule of activities.

Action: DP/JR to survey residents via social media to gauge interest in type and timing of events. Responses to be brought to February meeting for discussion.

Action: Clerk to speak to Bedford Borough Council re a beacon on the Country Park.

7. Provision of dog waste bins

A resident has contacted the Parish Council about provision of dog bins, in particular in the Carnoustie Drive/St Mellion Drive area, given the number of dog walkers on the former golf course. It was noted that the golf course is private land, and that dog waste bins are already installed at sites close to the Public Rights of way, including Footpath 1 that crosses this area. It was also noted that the Borough Council will no longer provide dog waste bins, and that dog waste can now be disposed of in ordinary rubbish bins; any bins provided need to be in locations that Borough operatives can reach easily for emptying.

Resolved: Council agreed to request an additional rubbish bin to be installed on corner of Carnoustie Drive/St Mellion Drive; budget may be required for this, and JW will consider donation towards costs from Ward Fund.

8. Flood Group

DP reported that a request for interest in forming a flood group had been published to residents and 3 volunteers have stepped forward. An initial meeting will be set up and any Councillors interested to attend are invited.

9. Golf Course Update

Clerk reported that the sheep are now grazing on the former golf course land, and that she has asked Bidwells for an update. Bidwells have advised that, following discussion between the farmer and landowner, it was felt that the kissing gates that were due for installation are no longer required. Bidwells also advised that work on the lower pond will be undertaken to resolve potential drainage/flooding issues. There has been no further update on the buildings or land.

10. Neighbourhood Development Plan

Clerk reported that following comments the updated Design Code had been received and was being reviewed by the Steering Group. A first draft of the Green Infrastructure Plan had been written and was out for review. A review of budget and progress will be held with the Planning Consultant.

11. Grants and Donations

A grant application has been received from Country Days for £1000 towards their development plans. It was noted by Council that this is the 3rd such grant application in the last 3 years, and that the concerns expressed on each previous occasion regarding the direct benefit to Great Denham residents still remain. The numbers provided by the applicant this year indicate that only 8 Great Denham children participated in 2021; Council felt that this was disproportionate to the amount of funding requested. Council also noted that Great Denham Primary School provides a Forest School curriculum for its children, 92% of whom are Great Denham residents.

Resolved: the application for funding was not approved.

12. Consultations

a) Police budget setting 2022/23

It was noted that an increase of £10 on Band D charge is being proposed to fund policing next year and that a consultation on this is open to all Borough residents. Council noted the PCC priorities, and welcomed the progress that has been made to date; it was noted that use of social media to engage with residents has improved.

b) Review of Planning, Bedford Borough Council

Resolved: Council delegated response to Clerk, following discussion. It was noted that the Planning department remains understaffed currently.

13. Planning and licensing

Planning application 2103197/FUL – Loft Conversion with front and rear rooflights, 14 Gleneagles Close, Great Denham

Resolved: no comments or objections on this application.

14. 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:

- JW advised that he had been contacted by the new Community Police Officer; as a result he was confirming ownership of the Park and Ride (believed to be Bedford Borough Council).
- JW also commented on the rising number of Covid infections in Bedford, and in Kempston Rural Ward.
- JW advised that he is challenging the Borough on the use of Covid grant money to fund other business grants.
- It was noted that £77k remains of the Rural Affairs Grant.

Action: Clerk to investigate what items may be considered for funding applications.

15. 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) Quarterly Financial Check

Resolved: JR confirmed that the checks had been completed satisfactorily.

c) Update on actions from previous meetings

Clerk gave a brief update on the following:

- Delivery of benches for the Country Park – concrete bases are in and benches to be fixed this week
- Community Defibrillator – Location agreed with Highways for Carnoustie Drive; chasing delivery of defibrillator and cabinet.
- 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. These are now being re-ordered.
- Planting in Community Garden – awaiting response from resident volunteer
- Poppies on Tommy statue/Swan statue – Clerk has met with the metalworker and is awaiting a quote and designs for the Swan, which will be brought to the next meeting. JW advised that the replacement Tommy statue had been funded by DWH.
Action: Clerk to write to DWH MD to thank them for the donation.
- Kickabout – following action at last meeting Clerk has written to DWH re an update; DWH have advised that a revised planning application is being prepared and that this will be shared with the Parish Council in due course.
- Anglia Way resurfacing – this has been chased with DWH and it was noted that work on preparing the kerbing on the laybys is now underway, prior to the road surface being laid. Awaiting an expected completion date from DWH.
- Archers Rest Café – it was noted that the new owners are now posting on social media; no opening date has yet been published.
- Village Medical Centre – CCG have advised that a new phone number will be effective from 9am 11th January 2022 – 01234 988560.

16. Correspondence

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

Resolved: No correspondence required follow up.

17. Any Other Business

No business was raised here.

18. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 7th February 2022

APPENDIX - Finance Summary to 31st December 2021**Bank Balances**

Treasurer current account - £84,799.25 BMM deposit account - £120,093.00

Receipts since December report

Date	From	Detail	£
21/12/2021	HSBC	Interest on deposit account	0.99
TOTAL			0.99

Payments since December report (figures include VAT)

Payment type	Payee	Detail	£
BACS	Clerk	Reimbursement of expenses	114.29
BACS	Christy Plumbing	Call out charge for heating issue at GDCH	210
BACS	Chapman Planning	Neighbourhood Plan work	1195
BACS	Clerk/HMRC	Salary payment and NI/PAYE	1155.25
BACS	EON	Unmetered supply charges 1/4/21 to 30/11/21	43.07
TOTAL			2717.61

Payments for approval (figures include VAT)

Payment type	Payee	Detail	£
BACS	Christy Plumbing	Replace indicator lights on heating control panel	326.40
BACS	Beds Borough Council	Purchase of 2 benches for Country Park	1208.50
BACS	HSBC	Monthly account fee	8.00
BACS	CLlr Ruskin	Expenses for Light Up Great Denham	70.19
BACS	Pam Anthony	Payroll services Sept to Dec	37.50
TOTAL			1650.59

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

		£
Pedestrian crossing	Anglia Way	40,000
2 benches	Country Park	866.19
2 x Defibrillators	Carnoustie Drive/Pavilion	1565
TOTAL		42431.19