

GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of The Great Denham Parish Council Meeting held on 1st July 2024 at 7.30pm at Great Denham Community Hall.

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Jon Hannah (Chair), Joanna Szaub-Newton, Anna O'Meara, Janice Moran, Joe Quinn, Chris Staite, Jim Weir (also borough councillor), Robbin Brough (Parish Council Clerk).

1 **Apologies for Absence:** Helen Allen (prior commitment).

2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None

3 **Public Open Session**

A resident addressed the council to discuss a number of issues near her residence including; if the three benches near the Tommy statue were going to be replaced by David Wilson Homes, cars now parking on the opposite side of the new barriers on Anglia Way, the road being resurfaced on Anglia Way but the double Yellow lines have not been repainted, and a query regarding who owns the strip of land between the flats and the neighbouring house on Anglia Way.

The parish council agreed they have seen a rise in cars parking adjacent to the new barriers on Anglia Way and are discussing options with BBC Highways officers on ways to address this problem. The clerk will investigate the other issues which were raised and email the resident with a response to her enquiries.

4 **Correspondence received since the last meeting (requiring council attention)**

- *A resident emailed to ask if the dead trees on Saxon Way which had been recently removed will be replaced in the Autum.* Clerk has asked David Wilson Homes and they have confirmed they will be replacing the trees in Autumn.
- *A resident emailed to request the council investigate the faded double yellow lines on Broad Mead Avenue and surrounding roads. Cars illegally parking is affecting access and visibility.*
- *A resident emailed to inform the council of a broken piece of playground equipment at the country park playground.* Clerk has reported this to Bedford Borough Council who own the playpark.
- *A resident emailed to ask the council to assess the issue of parking on Downham Close, as he feels parked cars are restricting emergency vehicle access.*

5 **To confirm the minutes of the parish council meeting held on 3rd June 2024**

Resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting as an accurate record.

6 **Clerk's report on actions not covered by agenda items**

- *To locate the original file for the drawing of the country park presented by David Wilson Homes during their initial planning application. **Ongoing.*** Clerk will try gaining access to the original file using a contact recommended by Cllr O'Meara.
- *To contact BBC Highways to request an update on the council's request for double yellow lines at all junctions within Great Denham. **Complete.*** Clerk will contact David Wilson Homes to ask if they would offer a contribution towards placing double yellow lines on the junctions of unadopted roads. Once a response has been received BBC Highways will move to draw up the public consultation documents.
- *To contact BBC Highways and request Give Way markings markings at Great Portway and Kingswood Way junction, Saxon Way and Wayland Road, Saxon Way and Greenkeepers Road, Saxon Way and Woden Gardens and Mercia Road junctions. **Complete.*** Clerk will ask BBC Highways for an update on when the parish council will receive the proposed drawings for the requested Give Way markings.
- *To arrange a meeting with a Christmas lights supplier to obtain a quote for extending the current Christmas light display within Great Denham. **Ongoing.***

Mrs R Brough, Clerk, Great Denham Parish Council
E-mail: clerk@greatdenhamparishcouncil.gov.uk

7 **Finance**

- *To approve payments and note income and balances.*
Resolved to approve payments as shown in the appendix.
- *To note the Spend versus Budget variance report.*
Report received and noted. See appendix.

8 **Planning Applications:**

To consider any planning applications received since the last meeting – includes any received after the agenda is issued up to the date of the meeting.

APPLICATION NO: 24/01188/FUL Full Planning Application

PROPOSAL: Construction of 4-bed house with detached triple garage and all ancillary works

LOCATION: Land Adjacent 16 Vicars Close Biddenham Bedford Bedfordshire MK40 4BG

Resolved to provide a comment on the above planning application.

The council requests that the public rights of way are maintained and this area is left clear of building materials and machinery.

9 **Borough Councillors Report**

Borough Councillor Jim Weir presented his monthly report to council

See parish council website for full report.

10 **Great Denham Summer Fete**

To agree a budget for the event: proposed costs presented by the working group.

Resolved to allocate a budget of up to £7000. This action was proposed by Cllr O'Meara and voted in favour by all present councillors.

11 **Great Denham Community Hall**

To receive the Legionella inspection report for the Community Hall and determine if there are any actions the council needs to address.

Action: Clerk to check with the Community Hall manager that the shower heads have been cleaned. Clerk to request a quote for the remaining works highlighted with the inspection report.

12 **Tea and Talk**

To consider the grant request of £884.00 from Tea and Talk to cover the weekly room hire costs at the Community Hall.

Resolved to grant the requested funding support of £884.00.

13 **David Wilson Homes – Community Support Proposal**

To consider the proposed funding opportunities which the council could request support for from David Wilson Homes.

Cllr O'Meara presented the council with an extensive list of possible events and projects which David Wilson Homes could potentially financially support.

Action: Cllr O'Meara will present the document at the next meeting with David Wilson Homes on 6th August for them to decide where they would like to allocate their community funding.

14 **Business for future agendas (No actions can be taken on items not on the agenda)**

- Update on plans for the Great Denham Fete.
- Review parish council's financial controls.
- Receive quotes for annual parish council insurance premium.
- To receive the external auditors report.
- To agree the proposed additional Christmas lights.

Date of the next meeting: 2nd September 2024, Great Denham Community Hall.

Great Denham Parish Council - Receipts & Payments - July 2024

										Bank reconciliation	
Account	Date	Category	Payee	Description	Trf	Receipts	Gross	VAT	Net	Cashbook Balance	Bank Balance
HSBC Current	Opening									70,192.15	70,192.15
	11 June 2024	Banking charges	HSBC	HSBC Account charge			8.00		8.00		
	17 June 2024	GDCH Tea & Talk	GDCH	GDCH - Tea and Talk room hire from grant £180 - £60 = £60 remaining.			60.00		60.00		
	17 June 2024	Hall hire	GDCH	GDCH - Room hire June			20.00		20.00		
	17 June 2024	GDCH Tea & Talk	GDCH	GDCH - Tea and Talk room hire from grant £180 - £60 = £0 remaining.			60.00		60.00		
	17 June 2024	Hall hire	GDCH	GDCH - Room hire March			20.00		20.00		
	17 June 2024	GDCH expenditure	RyansPlumbingHeating	Inv2572 Replace heating pumps/thermostats			1,166.23	194.37	971.86		
	25 June 2024	Transfer	GDPC Unity Trust	Acct Opening: Cheque 100436	-500.00						
	25 June 2024	Transfer	GDPC Unity Trust	Acct Opening: Cheque 100435	-500.00						
	30 June 2024	Staff costs	Multiple				1,132.57		1,132.57		
	30 June 2024	Audit	Barnicoat Ltd	Barnicoat Ltd - Internal Audit fees			75.00		75.00		
	Closing									66,650.35	66,650.35
HSBC Savings											
	Opening									38,210.78	38,210.78
	21 June 2024	Bank Interest	HSBC	Savings account interest February		90.22					
	Closing									38,301.00	38,301.00
Redwood Savings											
	Opening									85,000.00	85,000.00
	Closing									85,000.00	85,000.00
Unity Trust - Current											
	Opening				500.00					0.00	0.00
	Closing									500.00	500.00
Unity Trust - Savings											
	Opening				500.00					0.00	0.00
	Closing									500.00	500.00
						0.00	90.22	2,541.80	194.37	2,347.43	

GREAT DENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

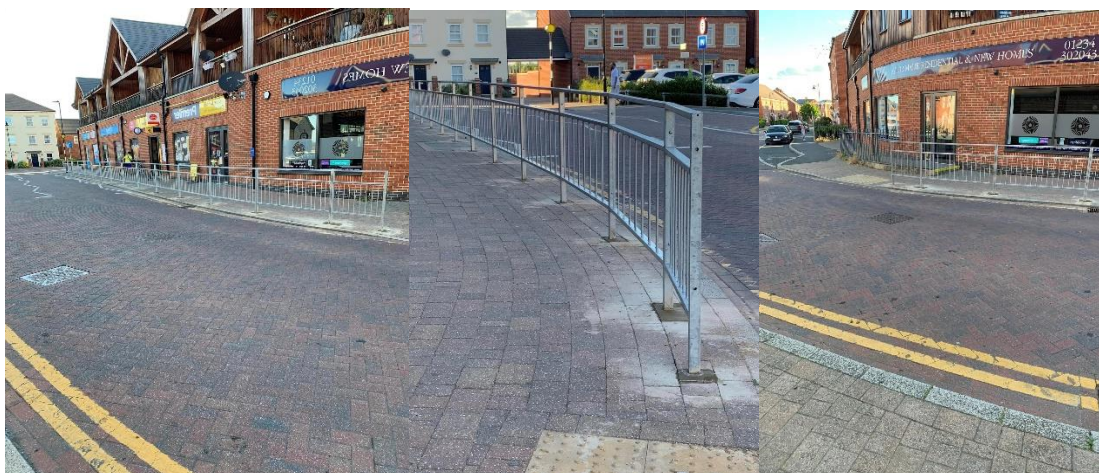
Financial Year 2024/25

<u>Income</u>		YTD (Actual) Gross	YTD (Actual) Net	Annual Budget 2024/25	Full year (Forecast)	Variance
	Precept	20,708	20,708	41,415	41,415	
	VAT reclaim	0		1,500	1,500	
	CIL Income	0	0	0	0	
	Bank Interest	493	493	1,000	1,000	
	Other income	0	0	0	0	
Total Income		21,200	21,200	43,915	43,915	
<u>Outgoings</u>						
	Staff costs	4,686	4,686	15,497		
	Staff costs	4,686	4,686	15,497	15,497	0
	Christmas lights	1,586	1,586	2,500		
	GDCH expenditure	1,166	972	3,600		
	Community defib	0	0	200		
	CCTV Monitoring	0	0	0		
	CCTV Maintenance	0	0	0		
	Electrics (Unmetered supply)	118	112	0		
	Open spaces & community facilities	2,870	2,670	6,300	6,300	0
	Audit	75	75	420		
	ICO Annual Fee	0	0	40		
	Insurance	0	0	4,000		
	Payroll	90	90	230		
	Travel - mileage	0	0	0		
	Hall hire	80	80	220		
	Banking charges	24	24	96		
	Information Technology	0	0	400		
	Stationery	0	0	150		
	Membership/Affiliations	0	0	1,031		
	Training	0	0	500		
	Admin - other	0	0	100		
	Admin	269	269	7,187	7,187	0
	Newsletter	0	0	1,931		
	Youth Club	0	0	6,250		
	Community Events	0	0	5,000		
	Other	0	0	13,181	13,181	0
	GDCH Tea & Talk	255	255	750		
	Junior Park Run	1,200	1,200	1,000		
	Grants	255	255	1,750	1,750	0
Sub total		8,080	7,880	43,915	43,915	0
	Gateway sign install	266	266	0		
	Outside budget	266	266	0		
Total Outgoings		8,346	8,146	43,915	43,915	0

Monthly Borough Report to GDPC Jun/July 2024

- **Safety Barriers on Anglia Way**

Following many months of dangerous parking on the zig-zag lines designed and placed to allow drivers to have a clear view of pedestrians using the crossing we have finally seen the barriers in place. This will stop people parking on the kerb and lines and thus enhance safety for all residents but especially children. As we expected but hoped not to happen some motorists are now parking on the bend on double yellows on the opposite side of the road to avoid the 10-20 metre walk from the car park. I will be asking enforcement Officers to attend regularly.



- **Great Denham Summer Sizzler July 2024**

Once again, the annual summer session is being hosted by Great Denham Community Hall Trustees and staff.



- **Bedford Borough Council Draft 2023/24 statement of accounts**

Bedford Borough Council ended its previous financial year (2022/23) with a £2.27m deficit that occurred prior to the 2023 local elections.

Despite the challenging financial landscape and £2.27m deficit the Council have ended the year showing a £174k surplus at year end while delivering services to residents and managing spiralling costs. However, there is a large funding gap being carried forward over the next three years which the Council is working to reduce.

- **New Customer Hub**

The Council opened its new Customer Hub situated at 2 Horne Lane, Bedford, the town centre hub which will serve as one-stop destination for residents seeking assistance with Council services.

The initiative aims to offer more personalised assistance, digital support, and access to valuable resources that will improve the support the Council provides to residents.

- **River Festival**

The River festival will be taking place on Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st July 2024.

To celebrate the Bedford Borough the Council has launched a new community art project in honour of the River Festival which residents of all ages and abilities can participate in.

The theme of the project is "Favourite places in Bedford." With residents being encouraged to submit works depicting historical landmarks to hidden gems, parks to shops, and artists favourite Bedford spots in a 2D piece of artwork.

The River Festival itself will also be hosting an all-new Family Island at St. Mary's Garden with activities/workshops primarily geared towards young families – workshops are free but will have limited availability.



Activities include:

- Dance workshops: Get your groove on with energetic dance sessions.
- Storytelling and sensory activities: Spark imaginations and ignite curiosity.
- Arts and crafts: Unleash creativity with exciting crafting opportunities.
- Little Science Lab: Explore the wonders of science with hands-on experiments.
- **Financial Boost for Kinship Carers and Special Guardians**

Bedford Borough Council is providing some much-needed extra support to our Foster Carers with an additional 4% increase to their allowances for 2024/25 taking the total increase to 8.6%.

The money will be instrumental in helping carers them meet the challenges of raising their extended families ensuring all children receive the support they need.

The allowances will be backdated to 1st April.

- **Town Centre Vision**

Earlier this month, the Council unveiled its Bedford Borough Town Centre Vision and Capital Delivery Programme for Bedford and Kempston.

This is a collaborative initiative that brings together ideas from the Mayor, Council, residents, and businesses across the Borough in a series of medium- and long-term projects.

The overall vision will aim to modernise the Town Centre by embracing the changing roles they play in our communities today, adding to the small steps already taken by the Council to make a much more compelling Town Centre offering – from free parking, enhanced street cleansing, more shops which have all had a positive impact with increase footfall figures.

- **Armed Forces Day Parade**

The Council held an Armed Forces Day Parade in Bedford Town Centre on Sunday 30th June, 2024, starting from De Parys Avenue at 10.20am to honour past and present serving personnel, reservists, veterans, and military charities.

Following the parade, there was an array of stalls and activities suitable for all ages, providing an opportunity for the community to engage with and support our armed forces. The Council also granted the Freedom of the Borough to a distinguished unit from Chicksands.

- **Tennis**

The National Tennis Association (NTA) will be taking over Bedford Borough's newly (£400,000) refurbished Tennis courts as the new operator, NTA is a non-profit social enterprise who have extensive experience of managing park tennis sites across the UK.

National Tennis Association (NTA) will initially take over the running of courts in Bedford Park, Mowsbury Park, Southfields and Allen Park. Linden Road, Addison Howard Park and Russell Park will follow once works on these courts are complete.

The Courts will cost £6 per hour for pay and play, and £40 for an annual household pass which is the equivalent of just 77p per week.

- **General Election**

There will be a General Election on Thursday 4th July and a by-election in Wyboston ward.

Please remember show photo ID to vote at polling stations, many residents will have an acceptable form of ID however, please see linked here a list of accepted identity documents: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/voter-identification-at-polling-stations-and-the-new-voter-card/protecting-the-integrity-of-our-elections-voter-identification-at-polling-stations-and-the-new-voter-card#annex-a-list-of-identity-documents-that-will-be-accepted>