



Minutes of the meeting of Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council held on Monday 17/06/19 at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, 87 Kensington Drive, Great Holm MK8 9AY.

Councillors present: Councillors Todd (Chair), Nolan (Vice-Chair), Dyer, Howe, Feeney, Bailey, Altieri-Douglas, Nayee, Sargent and Hoyle.

Staff present: Bev Field (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public present: 5

FC32/19 Public participation:

Resident 1: Spoke on agenda items FC47&48/19 with concern about parking on Petworth. Enjoying the park with children is fine, but people travel in and park which causes residents access problems, and some people toilet in the bushes which is unacceptable behaviour. The bin lorry and emergency services can't get through.

Resident 2: I saw a leaflet by Councillor Hoyle and came because I object to his comments. Petworth is a fantastic park and I don't live there; it is a heritage site and is on Facebook because it is so good. Parking is an issue everywhere you go.

Resident 3: The proposed location is where people play football. I suggest joining the second bench to the first bench to leave space for football. The bin lorry and ambulances can't get through.

Resident 4: (Councillor Hoyle): I put out the leaflets because only residents by the park were consulted. I wanted the Parish Council to hear from the whole community and am happy to hear all viewpoints. There is parking congestion and I live right by the park and can represent residents' views better than those who live elsewhere but want to impose this bench. I would like a written report on parking solution (see standing order 10 (viii)). I saw a near-miss with a child on the road and safety is the priority. Drivers filter down Holyrood also causing problems there and come from as far as Bedford and Aylesbury.

Note: Agenda item FC47/19 was brought forward and debated within the public participation session. It is recorded in the agenda item order for clarity.

Note: Agenda item FC48/19 was brought forward and debated within the public participation session. It is recorded in the agenda item order for clarity.

Resident 5: I am the Chair of the NAG and came to listen to the decisions on the agenda for the "Picnic on the Green" event. The Council representative did not attend our last meeting, and I am in my first 6 months and struggling as I go, The Parish Clerk has helped.

Note: Agenda item FC42/19 was brought forward and debated within the public participation session. It is recorded in the agenda item order for clarity.

Resident 6: A resident of the top floor of Cavendish House contacted the Parish Clerk to say that residents are up in arms about the siting of the dog bin. They can see it from the top floor and know it is near the garden. It will smell in the summer. Can it be re-sited? The Clerk advised that she did not consider the visual aspects of the bin, only siting them at even intervals around the sports pitch fencing where the problem fouling is found; a new bin costs £190.00 to supply and fit.

Agreed: The Parish Clerk is authorised to arrange for the bin to be re-sited in consultation with residents of Cavendish House.

Resident 7: A resident posted to the Clerk on Facebook that the sports ground and Pirate play park need waste bins.

Answer: There is a litter bin serviced by Milton Keynes Council by the park and further bins would be costly to maintain. The Parks Trust do not recommend litter bins as they increase litter nuisance and complaints.

The public participation session ended at 8.37pm

FC33/19 Apologies: None

FC34/19 Declarations of interest: Councillor Hoyle requested advice on declaring an interest following a comment about property value for agenda item FC 47/19. The Clerk advised it is a matter for a Councillors' conscience as described in the Code of Conduct, but a park bench is unlikely to affect the value of a property. Councillor Hoyle declared an interest and withdrew for this item to the public gallery.

Councillor Dyer reported that the register of interests managed by Milton Keynes Council has been partially updated, but some entries are missing or incorrect. The Parish name is also incorrect.

The Parish Clerk holds a copy of each person's declaration and submits it to Milton Keynes Council. 8 members have completed theirs, but everyone should check whether their entry is fully complete and include jobs, property and memberships e.g. of political parties. The Clerk will circulate the form again for all members to double-check.

PJT

FC35/19 Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 13/05/19 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

FC36/19 Matters arising: Councillor Sargent signed his declaration of office on 17/05/19 as agreed in FC02/19.

FC37/19 Committee minutes: The draft minutes from the Finance and Staffing Committee meeting held on 10/06/19 were received.

FC38/19 Planning applications: None

Councillor Hoyle left the meeting at 8.44pm and returned at 8.48pm

FC39/19 Parish Clerk report. The Clerk is in the process of making a submission to Trading Standards and will seek new quotes for re-pointing the obelisk, following new court proceedings against Remi Willow contractors for non-delivery of the service.

FC40/19 Finance report. The RFO monthly report is a receipts and payment statement, with actual spending compared to the budget (see Financial Regulation 4.9). The format will change slightly next month to being ordered by nominal code, as agreed by the Finance Committee. Some nominal code names have been changed in the software, but the change will not show until a transaction takes places e.g. "Petworth playpark project" is now "play park projects" in the accounts.

FC41/19 Payments: Payments will be made electronically this month, with one cheque for petty cash. Connolly accountants have increased their fees and there are 2 new employees to include in the payroll service. The fee is now £25.00+VAT for each employee per quarter. A further 2 invoices and a damage deposit refund have been added since last week.

Resolved: The payment schedule is authorised.

FC42/19 Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) expenditure was agreed:

- a) £60.00 for leaflets for "Picnic on the Green" event in addition to the MKPA session already agreed at £330.00.
- b) £15.00 for gardening equipment expenses
- c) The Great Holm Community Centre can be booked at no cost for NAG meetings, because they are the only voluntary organisation directly funded by the Parish Council.
- d) The NAG budget of £750.00 should be reviewed by the Finance Committee in the Autumn business planning exercise. NAG will be asked to review their annual budget and submit a budget proposal for their activities next year. The NAG can request up to £400.00 more in this financial year for consideration by the Parish Council.

Councillor Howe left the meeting at 9.01pm and returned at 9.04pm

FC43/19 Parish Newsletter:

The last newsletter was undertaken 2 years ago, and for various reasons the next issue was delayed and then it was too close to the election. The newsletter provides accountability to the community for how the precept is spent and raises awareness of the Parish Council and its activities and services. It includes adverts but generating these is time consuming. It should be in paper format to go to each household to ensure accessibility to all electors (proposed by Councillor Todd).

Resolved:

- a) A working group comprising of Councillors Todd, Nayee, Feeney and Dyer will facilitate producing and delivery of a Parish newsletter with contributions from the whole Council.
- b) Expenditure was authorised to include printing, design support and delivery to a maximum of £1,800.00+VAT (the previous issue cost approx. £1,700.00 in April 2017).

FC44/19 Anti-social behaviour at the Pavilion, Loughton: Councillor Bailey reported on a meeting with the Parish Clerk and PCSO Cooper with 10 residents, to listen and represent the Council regarding anti-social behaviour at the Pavilion car park. He saw several cars arrive and leave quickly on sighting of the PCSO. The residents were upset, and cars also park nearby with a range of anti-social behaviour with music, allegations of drug-related activity and late-night noise. The police said the 999 service will not come out for ASB; the neighbourhood team shift ends at midnight. Solutions were discussed including cutting back the vegetation, so the car park is visible from the road, removing the earth mound to aid visibility of the pirate play park, CCTV, lockable gate and how to lock/unlock gate.

A resident provided follow-up information that this is happening most nights between 11.00-2.00am and several said it is affecting family life e.g. because a granddaughter won't sleep over anymore because the noise wakes her up. Advice and quotes were sought by the Clerk from Serco, Tickford Security and Securitas. Unfortunately, not all had been received but there was enough information to consider the options. An audio live-monitoring system would cost approx. £7,300.00p in the first year to install and maintain, spot patrols are £6.00 per visit. All options were considered, and a phased approach agreed to see how each action affects the behaviour and how the café changes the situation when it opens.

Councillor Sargent attended a meeting with the police and raised this issue, they commented they are not receiving many reports of ASB and residents should be encouraged to ring every time there is a disturbance. A resident of Clover Court told him they could smell the drugs when they walk past.

Councillor Sargent proposed a motion to install a swing gate as per the Serco quote. No seconder.
Motion failed.

Resolved:

- a) To install the Tickford Security CCTV (without remote access) as a priority to facilitate the police access to the images.
- b) To accept the quote from Serco to cut back the front (left) vegetation to improve visibility
- c) Not to remove the earth mound, but to consider levelling and replanting it in next year's landscape budget.

FC45/19 Long Service Recognition: Consideration was given to a long service award for former Councillor Dransfield. He served the Parish Council continuously for 42 years, with 21 years as the Chair and was elected with large majorities (proposed by Councillor Howe).

Councillors Nolan and Todd objected because former Councillor Dransfield was a divisive figure in the community and was censured in the April 2019 Parish Council meeting for rudeness to a PCSO; he has brought the Council into disrepute, was rude to Councillor Nolan (not upheld by the standard committee) and the previous Clerk, sought publicity and had previous complaints against him that meant he resigned the education portfolio at Milton Keynes and an appointment with the Fire Service. Councillor Todd stated he would not attend an award event because it would send the wrong message.

Councillor Howe stated he was shocked, because the incidents referred to took place some time ago – former Councillor Dransfield later returned to a cabinet post at MK Council and the Fire Authority is a separate organisation to the Council. He urged the Council to put bad feeling behind them.

It was agreed that 42 years of service should be recognised, and there is a precedent for long service to being recognised for other former Councillors e.g. former Councillor Dennis Blackburn.

Proposed by Councillor Howe and seconded by Councillor Dyer.

For: 5 Against: 4 Abstain: 1

Resolved: This Council will invite former Councillor Dransfield to attend a meeting of the Parish Council and will make a suitable award to him, to acknowledge his service and thank him for his contribution

FC46/19 Paper-free Administration: A proposal to move towards a paperless operation to benefit the environment, reduce administration costs and the workload in the Council was considered, so that from 01/09/19 documents will be distributed electronically to Councillors and no paper copies will be distributed or provided (proposed by Councillor Howe).

The Council has been paperless previously, but people were printing the papers at home and then forgetting to bring them or their device. The Council needs to work efficiently. The Centre does not have Wi-fi and some people might need to have a tablet device provided. Documents could be downloaded and a tablet used, to avoid the need for paper. Some people prefer paper for personal reasons e.g. for accessibility or to make a change from the workplace.

The Clerk gave the costs for paper copies relating to Council meetings during 2018/19:

Materials: ink £421, postage and paper £448, photocopying £396 **subtotal £1296.00**

Time: to print top copies, number and cross reference, use a photocopy service, collate, assemble, envelope and post varies between half to 1 day for full Council (£60 - £120 x 11= £660-£1320) half a day for committees (60x15=900)

subtotal is between £1560.00 to £2,200.00 for staff time per year.

The lowest real cost is therefore 1296+1560=**£2856.00** per year to provide paper copies to Councillors.

Amendment proposed by Councillor Nolan and seconded by Councillor Howe: Documents will be sent electronically only with immediate effect, but Councillors can opt for paper copies by requesting them from the Parish Clerk.
Motion carried.

Resolved: All documents relating to Council meetings will only be sent electronically with immediate effect. Councillors can request paper copies from the Parish Clerk. The Clerk to explore the most efficient way to facilitate this.

Councillor Hoyle left the meeting and joined the public gallery for agenda item FC47/19.

FC47/19 Bench at Petworth play park: responses to a consultation of affected residents regarding a second bench to be sited at the playpark in Petworth, Great Holm were considered. The original decision was FC71a/18 that if a consultation to the nearby residents supported the proposal, a bench would be commissioned.

The park was first installed pre-1985 and was rebuilt using grants in partnership with MK Council. It had 2 benches, but funding did not stretch to both in the re-build. It is an attractive and needed park aimed for residents, parents will want a bench while the children play. Councillor Nolan objected to the tone of Councillor Hoyle's leaflet. Families will walk/cycle/drive to explore play parks other than their nearest one. The toilet issue is a lack of respect. Minimising benches is aimed at reducing late night noise and nuisance. Sensitivity is needed with a park so close to houses.

Resolved: Not to install a second bench at the Petworth play park.

Councillor Hoyle returned to the meeting.

PJT

FC48/19 Road Safety at Petworth: A proposal to consider the issues of road safety and parking in Petworth and investigate possible solutions for further consideration at full Council was considered (proposed by Councillor Hoyle). Parking in Petworth is diabolical and is on pavements and across driveways and the wider problems caused by the park should be investigated. A Facebook entry inviting wider use of the park is by an enthusiastic blogger who promotes great quality activities in the local area. For pedestrians there used to be a wooden fence to prevent children running onto the road.

Resolved: To seek specialist advice from Milton Keynes Council on parking management and road safety and report to Council on the options recommended. Councillor Hoyle to work with the Parish Clerk on details of the local situation to inform.

FC49/19 Landscaping works report: an update on landscaping work that was commissioned from Serco for 2019 was received and noted.

FC50/19 Thames Valley Police report: The crime statistics report from Thames Valley Police was received and noted.

FC51/19 Reports from members: To receive reports from members attending external meetings:

- a) Councillors Nolan, Sargent, Bailey, Altieri-Douglas and Dyer and the Clerk attended a meeting with PC Nisbet, PCSO's Capstick and Cooper on 31/05/19. The tension caused by former Councillor Dransfield's comments to a PCSO and the resulting investigation and censure were briefly discussed, anti-social behaviour at the Pavilion car park was discussed, as well as parking enforcement and pavement obstruction relating to Milton Keynes Council responsibilities.
- b) Councillor Nolan said parking is on the Milton Keynes Council agenda this week, the STEM (science, technology, engineering & maths) awards have been launched, a consultation on child poverty, and the "Fostering Fortnight" to promote places in Milton Keynes specifically for local children was successful.

FC52/19 Items for the next agenda: Councillor Howe requested a meeting of the Premises Committee. This could be arranged on 08/07/19 and ideally after the contract with the Grumpy Cook is completed.

Date and time of Next Meeting: Monday 15/07/19 at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, 87 Kensington Drive, Great Holm MK8 9AY

The meeting closed at 10.22pm

Signed:



Date:

09/09/19