

Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council

Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st March 2016, 7:30pm at the Loughton Memorial Hall, Bradwell Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes

Present: Cllrs Peter Todd (Chair), Zoe Nolan (Vice-Chair), Peter Ballantyne, Sandra Boland, Andy Dransfield, Hilary Dyer, Thomas Gray, John Howe, Andy Sargent

Also present: Brian Barton (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: Three (3) members of the public

FC 144/16 Apologies:

Received from Cllr Claire Jones

NOTED

FC 145/16 Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

FC 146/16 Minutes of previous meetings:

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 15th February 2016 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016 were

NOTED

FC 147/16 Matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda:

Full Council meeting held on Monday 15th February 2016:

FC 106/15 To report on Members attending external meetings:

(b) Any Ward Councillors present to report on Milton Keynes Council meetings

At the Milton Keynes Council budget meeting it was agreed to retain the subsidy to bus number 26 which runs through the Parish area.

FC 133/16 Questions from Members of the Public:

A response is still awaited from Officers at Milton Keynes Council for a request that a survey is undertaken, and for a range of possible solutions to tackle traffic speeds, and delivery vehicles to the Coop Store that are damaging the kerbs and corners, which have been raised by residents on Highgrove Hill, Great Holm.

The Parish Clerk has received a holding response from the Coop.

FC 138/16 Notice Board Councillor Information:

Cllr Thomas Gray said that he had brought along his camera, and will take photographs of each member at the end of the meeting.

NOTED

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 7th March 2016:

PL 43/16 PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

c) 16/00040/FUL 105 London Road Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8AG Change of use from residential dwelling (use class C3) and cosmetic dermatology clinic (use class D1) to care home for 4 adults with learning disabilities (use class C2)

The Parish Council has produced and sent to the Planning Directorate a submission opposing this planning application, but the document does not appear to have been uploaded onto the Planning Portal.

Cllr Andy Dransfield will be requesting a site visit, and will be attending and speaking on this planning application at the next Development Control Committee meeting.

NOTED

FC 148/16 Questions from Members of the Public:

A resident from Highgrove Hill on Great Holm who had previously raised various issues to do with the condition of the road, and the amount of deliveries by vehicles to the Coop store, was disappointed at the lack of a response from Milton Keynes Council.

The resident said that the situation was getting worse, and had recently spoken to the Store Manager who said there was nothing that he could do.

The resident also said that he has taken photographs of the parking area to the front of the store as cones were being used for the delivery vehicles, to be able to park.

The resident said that he will be contacting the Police as the cages are unattended, which is not satisfactory as they have alcoholic goods stored in them.

The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Mr Adrian Carden at Milton Keynes Council to progress some possible traffic calming measures.

A resident from Loughton asked if there was any progress on the lack of lightening to the footpath from Redland Drive, Loughton that leads to Milton Keynes Central Rail Station; there is a lamp column that is covered by tree branches, which is situated near to no 5 Kirkham Court, she said ideally an additional lamp column should be installed at the corner of the foot bridge near to the bench.

The resident has asked if the bench could be removed due to anti-social behaviour.

Landscaping has been cut back, but not to the conifer tree near to the neighbouring properties, the matter has been reported to Milton Keynes Council, and hopefully more landscaping will be cut back in the next programme of works.

The Chair asked the resident to email the Parish Clerk with photographs along with a request of the items that need to be tackled so that this can be brought up at the next meeting that the Parish Council will be having with the senior landscaping officers.

The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Milton Keynes Council to request that the bench is removed due to anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Parish Clerk to contact Mr Adrian Carden Traffic and Transport Officer at Milton Keynes Council to progress some possible traffic calming measures**
- 2. That the Parish Clerk to contact Milton Keynes Council to request that the bench is removed due to anti-social behaviour**

FC 149/16 To receive a Crime Statistics Report from Thames Valley Police:

Cllr Zoe Nolan requested an update on the attack to a young lady on the redway near to the Crownhill Crematorium, although PC Tony Deeble had written to the Parish Clerk on this matter there was very little information, the Parish Clerk was asked to contact PC Deeble.

The crime figures for the month of February 2016 were as follows:

Loughton

Criminal damage to Dwellings	One (1)
Criminal damage to vehicle	One (1)
Making off without payment	One (1)
Theft from Vehicle	One (1)

Great Holm

Burglary other than in a Dwelling (Attempt only)	One (1)
Shoplifting	Three (3)
Other Crime	Two (2)

Total February 2016 Eleven (11)

Total February 2015 Twenty Six (26)

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk to contact PC Tony Deeble for further information on the attack to a young lady on the redway near to the Crownhill Crematorium.

FC 150/16 To report on Members attending external meetings:

(a) Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group – Cllr Peter Ballantyne

Cllr Andy Sargent presented the report as Cllr Peter Ballantyne was not able to attend.

The meeting was well attended, the Milton Keynes Parks Trust are to place warning notices in the car parks at Redland Drive Loughton and Garfield Place, Knowlhill to try and stop commuters using these areas as free parking.

It is proposed to have regular litter picking taking place with a designated area allocated to a specific volunteer or team of volunteers to clean on a regular basis (e.g. once a week) thus breaking the task down into easily managed pieces. Each volunteer would be supplied with: a litter picker; sacks; gloves; Hi-Viz jacket and other items yet to be agreed (e.g. first aid kit). The designated area would be local to where the volunteer lives (or further afield if agreed).

The Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group will at some stage ask the Parish Council if they would be prepared to contribute financially towards the kits for the volunteers.

There are plans for a Picnic on the Green' event to be held on Sunday 3rd July 2016.

Cllr Thomas Gray made a presentation on the MK50 celebrations.

To discourage birds being fed at the overflow at Lodge Lake and to stop ducklings falling down which need rescuing, two current fishing stations are to be converted to bird feeding platforms. One near the overflow and one at the other end of the lake near the wooden bridge.

Also signs are to be erected explaining that seed is better than bread to feed to the birds. Interpretation boards are being reconsidered due to a new source of signage. The Milton Keynes Parks Trust would consider part funding for this.

Cllr Nolan asked that the Milton Keynes Parks Trust communicates with the Parish Council on the style, content and location and to ask for pictures on the boards, the Parish Clerk was asked to contact Dawn Moreland.

Cllr Nolan asked if the Chief Executive Officer Mr David Foster could be invited to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to talk on the activities of the Milton Keynes Parks Trust in the Parish area. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Mr Foster and to invite him to the May meeting.

Cllr Sargent thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group for the consideration of the draft protocol.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Parish Clerk to contact Dawn Moreland on the style, content and location and to ask for pictures on the Interpretation boards for Loughton Lodge Lake.**
- 2. That the Parish Clerk to contact Mr David Foster Chief Executive Officer of the Milton Keynes Parks Trust and to invite him to the May meeting to talk on the activities of the Milton Keynes Parks Trust in the Parish area.**

(b) Any Ward Councillors present to report on Milton Keynes Council meetings

Cllr Zoe Nolan reported that the last Milton Keynes Council meeting that she had attended was on the budget, the Labour Group proposed a budget which entailed £22 million worth of cuts, this year more planning had gone into the budget process.

The Labour Group are looking into the issues of bus subsidies to see what else can be done, there was proposed pilot scheme for recycling in Beanhill to save £500,000 as the pink sacks are not recyclable due to the changes in the market.

The Conservative Group budget amendments were voted down, and the Liberal Democrat budget amendments were voted through.

More members of the public seemed to have been more engaged in the budget process this year, there are still more pressures on the social care budget.

Cllr Nolan had attended a recent Cabinet meeting which discussed the pressures on GP practises, resources have been allocated for a GP surgery in the expansion area, Milton Keynes Council will build the surgery and lease back to the NHS, as they had made little progress themselves in getting the facility built.

Cllr Andy Dransfield said that the Conservative Group had tabled amendments to the budget almost identical to the Liberal Democrat amendments; the proposal to discontinue the warden service has been scrapped, along with the green waste charges, and the bus subsidies reduction.

There will be a 4% increase in the Council Tax, the proposed health centre in the new expansion area has been planned for over three (3) years ago has taken far too long to be implemented, and when in administration will be brought forward.

At the recent Cabinet meeting it was disclosed that the present budget has been overspent by £3 million and has been poorly managed.

Proposals for the re development of the Badminton Centre have been discussed with the cabinet and is in the forward plan.

The Chair said that the Parish Council should met with the Badminton Centre to try and shape the proposals, and work up an acceptable plan for the site, which both parties can agree on, the Chair proposed to invite the Chief Executive Officer Mr Christie to the May Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk to invite the Chief Executive Officer of the Badminton Centre Mr Christie, to discuss the proposals to redevelop the site.

(c) Members to report back on any other meetings that they may have attended

Cllrs Andy Dransfield and John Howe had attended a meeting of the Shenley Leisure Trust, There appears to be a problem regarding the lease with the School, (as the extension will be connected to the School), which the trust are seeking legal advice on.

The monies for the extension is part of the section 106 agreement from the redevelopment of the former Dolphin Splashdown site which includes one (1) badminton court for the School which will be leased to the leisure centre.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne will be attending the next Parishes Forum meeting with Cllr Andy Sargent.

Cllr Andy Dransfield will be attending Mr Frank Daniels funeral with Cllr Andy Sargent, Cllr Sargent thanked the Parish Clerk for arranging the wreath.

NOTED

FC 151/16 To agree the Parish Youth Programme Development Officers Key Performance Indicators and to note her activities report:

Cllr Nolan informed the meeting that seventy (70) to ninety young people attend the six (6) after Schools Clubs, and the Parish Youth Programme Development Officer is looking into a venue at Holmwood School, the Great Holm Fire station and the Great Holm Community Centre, Cllr Nolan will try and attend some of these events.

Members discussed that ways should be looked into of using other facilities rather than just Schools, who should themselves be running such activities, including better use of the Loughton Sports Pavilion and the sports ground.

Members would also like to see the monthly attendance figures for each event.

Concern was expressed about value for money and what outcomes there are for delivering and facilitating activities.

Members wanted to know how many children are going to the sessions that live in the Parish area, the age of the children and the time and locations of each session.

NOTED

FC 152/16 To consider the quotes provided for the purchase and installation for a defibrillator:

Members discussed the quotes as provided, but needed to know more about the items included in each quote.

The British Heart Foundation could not advise on suitable locations, but suggested contacting the local ambulance service; the Parish Clerk had done so but had so far not received a response.

Concern was expressed that if in an accessible location a defibrillator could get vandalised, or go missing.

Members felt that a plan needed to be worked up and to identify a need before purchasing equipment.

The Parish Clerk was asked to contact the British Heart Foundation to find out the frequency that their grants are issued towards the costs of a defibrillator.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk to contact the British Heart Foundation to find out the frequency that their grants are issued towards the costs of a defibrillator

FC 153/16 To update members on progress so far on seeking quotes for the installation of a metal roof for the Loughton Pavilion:

The Chair informed the meeting that the quotes returned are far more expensive compared to the costs for a slate roof.

Members were concerned that the condition of the roof should have been highlighted in the survey, and even the cost for a slate roof is expensive, a business plan needs to be put in place, and that the Management Committee should be more self-sufficient and be able to raise the money.

Members felt that the entire site needs to be looked into, and a vision worked up, as something needs to be done soon due to the condition of the roof, discussions with the Management Committee need to be sought to seek their vision too.

Members would like to see the running costs and accounts, as concern was expressed that monies for the maintenance of the car park will be used to repair the roof, there was some discussion on whether planning permission would need to be sought for a slate roof, the Parish Clerk was asked to seek clarification.

The Chair proposed to work up a firm quote for the costs for a slate roof and to bring back to a future meeting of the Parish Council for a decision.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Parish Clerk to seek clarification from Milton Keynes Councils Planning Directorate that planning permission will be needed for the installation of a slate roof**
- 2. That a quote for a slate roof should be brought to a future meeting of the Parish Council for agreement**

FC 154/16 To agree the following constitutional document:

(a) Risk Assessment Strategy

The Chair proposed that this agenda item is deferred to the next Finance & Staffing Committee meeting.

RESOLVED

To defer this agenda item to the next meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee

FC 155/16 To agree to approve the cost of proceedings against Mr Perou for eviction from the graveyard:

The Chair informed the meeting that Mr Perou had now moved out of the graveyard as a result of the Chair attending the site and asking him to leave and also attendance by the Milton Keynes Council Enforcement Team.

Cllr Dransfield asked that in future whenever a similar agenda item appears that a background note should be supplied for information purposes where possible.

NOTED

FC 156/16 To agree the date of Wednesday 30th March 2016 for the next meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee:

The Parish Clerk said that the venue for the meeting will be at Holmwood School.

RESOLVED

That the next meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee will be held on Wednesday 30th March 2016

FC 157/16 Planning Applications:

There were no urgent planning applications for consideration.

NOTED

FC 158/16 To note the update list of projects and other work:

The Chair informed the meeting that the Parish Council was successful in obtaining a WREN grant for £50,000 to refurbish the Petworth Park play area on Great Holm, Milton Keynes Council will make up the balance.

The Chair said that an update report will be given at the next Parish Council meeting.

Mr Phil Snell will work up the specification and carry out the tendering procedure, the Chair will check with Mr Snell if Milton Keynes Council are pulling out of maintaining the play areas, as some members had heard that this was going to happen.

The Parish Clerk was asked to contact Mr Paul Holland Head of Projects and Transformation at the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire & Rescue Service, as he would be the more appropriate person to address the May Parish Council meeting on any proposals for the Great Holm Fire Station site, rather than Mr Graham Freer the Station Manager.

Cllr Hilary Dyer asked about the organising of the proposed drop in will there be volunteers, what are the aims and objectives, will there be an area used just for drop in attendees at the MacIntyre Centre?

Cllr Dyer also would like to see planned activities.

The Chair responded that the drop in is to be held in the Macintyre Centre which is a free venue and ideal as it has a fully staffed coffee shop, the drop in needs to be publicised, and it is proposed to launch on the first Tuesday in May and then to be held on the first Tuesday of each month, and will be monitored to see what response there is.

The Parish Clerk was asked to speak with the Parish Youth Programme Development Officer for help in setting up the drop in and to seek volunteers.

The Parish Clerk was asked to check if Mr Iain Stewart MP can attend and speak at the Parish Meeting.

Members were concerned that there is too many agenda items proposed for the Parish Meeting the Chair said that he will look into this matter.

RESOLVED

1. That an update report will be given at the next Parish Council meeting on the proposed refurbishment of the Petworth Park play area on Great Holm.
2. That the Chair to check with Mr Snell if Milton Keynes Council are pulling out of maintaining the play areas.
3. That the Parish Clerk to contact Mr Paul Holland Head of Projects and Transformation at the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire & Rescue Service, as he would be the more appropriate person to address the May Parish Council meeting on any proposals for the Great Holm Fire Station site, rather than Mr Graham Freer the Station Manager.
4. That the Parish Clerk to speak with the Parish Youth Programme Development Officer for help in setting up the drop in and to seek volunteers.
5. That the Parish Clerk to check if Mr Iain Stewart MP can attend and speak at the Parish Meeting.

FC 159/16 Cheques for Payment:

The cheques as presented for payment were

AGREED

Date and time of Next Meeting:

Monday 18th April 2016, 7:30pm at the Badminton Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge, Milton Keynes

THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10:07PM

Signed _____ Chair Date _____