

## Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council

### Full Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014, 7:30pm at Holmwood School, Kensington Drive, Great Holm**

**Present:**

**Cllrs Peter Todd (Chair), Barry Barrington (Vice-Chair),** Peter Ballantyne, Sandra Bolland, Andrew Dransfield (from 7:35pm to 9:03pm), Hilary Dyer, Zoe Nolan, Isobel Procter, Andy Sargent

**Also present:**

Brian Barton (Parish Clerk)

**In attendance:**

PCSO Christine Capstick (Thames Valley Police), Julie Foster (Great Holm resident), Rob Ward (Business Liaison Manager - Milton Keynes Council), Marcus Young (Director - Marcus Young Landscapes LTD)

**FC 44/14 Apologies:**

Cllr Don Hoyle

**NOTED**

**FC 45/14 Declarations of interest:**

There were no declarations of interests.

**NOTED**

**FC 46/14 Minutes of previous meetings:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2014 were **AGREED** as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 were **NOTED**

**FC 47/14 Matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda:**

**FC 26/14 Ward Matters:**

a) To agree to the supply and installation of two (2) benches on Lakeview Village Green on Great Holm – **Cllr Peter Ballantyne**

Cllr Peter Todd is awaiting a list of questions from Cllr Peter Ballantyne for the online consultation survey, on the siting of two (2) benches on Lakeview Green on Great Holm.

c) To discuss and agree to approach Milton Keynes Council's Planning Department to request that all of the trees on Horseshoe Walk, Great Holm are made the subject of a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) – **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

Cllr Zoe Nolan enquired about the status of householders obtaining permission from Milton Keynes Council to extend their rear garden boundaries onto the Horseshoe Walk on Great Holm, Cllr Hilary Dyer responded that after investigating the matter with Milton Keynes Council it was confirmed that residents can apply to extend their rear garden boundaries.

The Parish Clerk was requested to pursue a blanket Tree Preservation Order (TPO) for Horseshoe Walk on Great Holm, by sending in a supporting statement with maps identifying the area to Milton Keynes Council's Planning Directorate.

The Parish Clerk was further requested to send Cllr Zoe Nolan a copy of the Land Registry documents for Horseshoe Walk.

e) To discuss the closure of the H4 Danstead Way grid road and the nearby Redway by Great Holm due to the upgrading of the sewerage system – **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

Under this agenda item it was discussed about the progress of the arrangements for the interagency meeting.

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that from feedback that he had received from the agencies a meeting can be arranged for the beginning of October.

**FC 38/14 To agree the Quote from HW Masons & Sons for the Jubilee Graveyard Commemorative Stone:**

Cllr Peter Todd informed the meeting that he and Cllr Andy Sargent had contacted the Church Wardens of All Saints Church, and had agreed the wording for the Jubilee Graveyard Commemorative Stone.

The deposit will be paid by All Saints Church and that the work should be completed by Christmas.

**FC 42/14 Ward Matters:**

b) To petition Milton Keynes Council to mend the dilapidated path around the Loughton Sports ground which is in disrepair and dangerous – **Cllr Peter Todd**

Cllr Peter Todd said that he will progress this matter.

c) To avoid damage to the grass verges on Attingham Road, Great Holm the Parish Council writes to the Fishing Bailiff and request that he asks the Fishermen not to park on the grass verges when the car park is full, and to suggest that instead that they find a safe place to park on the road – **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that he had written to the Fishing Bailiff and is awaiting a reply; the Parish Clerk was requested to chase the matter up with the Fishing Bailiff.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. That Cllr Peter Ballantyne to send to Cllr Peter Todd questions for the online consultation survey for siting of the two (2) benches at Lakeview Village Green on Great Holm.**

2. That once he has received the questions from Cllr Ballantyne, Cllr Peter Todd to set up the online consultation survey by the next Full Council meeting.
3. That the Parish Clerk to pursue a blanket Tree Preservation Order (TPO) for Horseshoe Walk by sending in a supporting statement with maps identifying the area to Milton Keynes Council's Planning Directorate.
4. That the Parish Clerk to send Cllr Zoe Nolan a copy of the Land Registry documents for Horseshoe Walk.
5. That Cllr Peter Todd to petition Milton Keynes Council to mend the dilapidated path around the Loughton Sports ground which is in disrepair and dangerous.

**FC 48/14 Questions from Members of the Public:**

Julie Foster a resident of Great Holm said that she was impressed with the newsletter. She also was pleased following a letter sent by the Parish Council to Crownhill Crematorium listing her issues regarding the condition of the Childrens Remembrance Garden, that certain improvements have now been made.

The Chair introduced Marcus Young of Marcus Young Landscapes LTD who was attending for the agenda item on discussions relating to the possible devolving of the landscaping service to the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED**

**That Cllr Zoe Nolan to work with Julie Foster on a response received from Milton Keynes Council on the condition of the Childrens Remembrance Garden at the Crownhill Crematorium.**

**FC 49/14 Presentations:**

**The My Milton Keynes Service run by Milton Keynes Council:**

A Presentation was made by Rob Ward Business Liaison Manager, introducing a new online reporting system, an individual will need to register to set up their own account, and can pinpoint the area of concern by using the mapping system, at the moment it is not as accurate as it should be but this will be sorted out shortly, there is a menu listing various items that can be reported on and this will be expanded on in the future.

Cllr Hilary Dyer expressed her concern about the lack of response to issues that have been raised with Milton Keynes Council Officers, and that with the new online reporting system, and that there will not be now the opportunity to directly speak to an Officer.

Mr Ward said that all enquiries go through the help desk and they can answer any questions, but admitted that Milton Keynes Council fell down on updating members on the progress of any item reported.

Cllr Peter Todd felt that it would be useful to be notified when there was a change in the member of staff who is our point of contact. This was not the case when Neighbourhood Managers departed.

Cllr Hilary Dyer said that losing the Neighbourhood Officer has hit the Neighbourhood Action Groups hard.

Mr Ward replied that there are still Safer Neighbourhood Officers and Neighbourhood Action Group support from Milton Keynes Council, but due to a lack of staff it has not always been possible for an Officer to attend meetings, Mr Ward also said that it should be possible in future to allow the uploading of photograph(s) into the online system.

Cllr Hilary Dyer suggested that the street cleaning schedules are regularly uploaded on to the website; Mr Ward said that he will look into this.

The Chair thanked Mr Ward for his attendance and his very helpful presentation.

**NOTED**

**FC 50/14 To receive a Crime Statistics Report from Thames Valley Police:**

PCSO Christine Capstick informed the meeting that the crime figures for the month of August 2014 were as follows:

**Great Holm**

Twelve (12) reported crimes in total, three (3) dwelling burglaries, one (1) incident of criminal damage, one (1) shoplifting incident, five (5) priority crimes of a theft from a vehicle.

**Loughton**

Nine (9) reported crimes in total, one (1) attempted burglary to a dwelling, three (3) incidents of criminal damage to a vehicle, three (3) priority crimes of a theft from a vehicle, two (2) thefts of a cycle.

There then followed questions by members, Cllr Isobel Procter suggested that it would be helpful to have figures for the clear up rates.

The Chair thanked PCSO Capstick for presenting the crime figures.

**NOTED**

**Cllr Andy Dransfield left the meeting at 9:03PM**

**FC 51/14 To report on Members attending external meetings:**

(a) Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group – **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

Cllr Hilary Dyer reported to the meeting that there had been two (2) meetings that had recently taken place; the bee hotel project is progressing thanks to a £150 donation from Sainsburys in Central Milton Keynes.

A survey has been undertaken outside the Londis Store on Great Holm and at the Loughton Sports & Social Club 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary community event where the action group had a stall, most respondents said that they like living on Loughton or Great Holm and were aware of the activities of the Neighbourhood Action Group, some residents wanted to see improvements to Petworth Park on Great Holm, Cllr Peter

Ballantyne can provide a breakdown of residents responses to any interested members.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne said the Action Group stall at the Loughton Sports & Social Club 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary community event distributed copies of the newsletter and crime prevention material.

The Horticultural Committee has met to discuss a project to plant flowers at an entrance into Great Holm and on Leys Road, Loughton, but permission is needed from Milton Keynes Council, but unfortunately has so far not had a response so the project is on hold.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne said that the Milton Keynes Parks Trust are repainting the benches at Loughton Lodge Lake, Susi Jensen one of the Rangers has been replaced by Dawn Moreland.

Discussion centred on the new balance beam at the Lodge Lake stepping stones, and the fact that it did not fit in with the local environment.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne reported that he had attended a meeting between Thames Valley Police, Shenley Church End and Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe Parish Councils, on the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2014.

The meeting covered the number or lack of Police Officers and PCSO's in the parish area, with the lack of visible Policing and had the monthly crime figures presented.

Inspector Iain McIlwain indicated that Policing numbers were unlikely to increase in the foreseeable future, three (3) PCSO's have either resigned or are changing roles which have not helped the situation, Replacements or temporary cover has been requested.

PCSO's are being used to target hotspots rather than randomly patrolling the streets.

A replacement is in hand for PC Albert Bernard, a new Police Officer is being recruited for Loughton Park, and Sargent Nigel Jordon is now in post.

Sargent Jordon had attended a meeting of the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group, and confirmed that leaflets can be put on windscreens advising of bad parking.

Inspector Iain McIlwain said that there are still problems in obtaining the crime figures from the new computer system.

The meeting was told that there had been a number of arrests and convictions following a number of garages break in's in Woodward Place, Loughton Lodge.

**NOTED**

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

Cllr Zoe Nolan asked members if they had any questions for her.

Cllr Peter Todd asked if repairs can be enacted on the footpath around the Loughton Sports Ground, Cllr Nolan replied that the Councillors ward monies would not cover the costs of repair.

Cllr Nolan has taken up various case work matters, including issues from residents living nearby to the Sainsburys store on Shenley Church End, and started regular surgeries.

Cllr Nolan mentioned that the Westbury Arts Centre in Shenley Wood is in financial difficulties.

The Chair thanked Cllr Nolan for her report.

**NOTED**

**FC 52/14 Finance:**

The Finance report for the month of August was

**NOTED**

**FC 53/14 To review the action to take regarding the Landscaping Service from Milton Keynes Council and future devolution:**

Cllr Peter Todd informed the meeting that he had met along with the Parish Clerk; Andy Hudson Head of the Environmental Services at Milton Keynes Council, for discussions on devolving the landscaping service from Milton Keynes Council to the Parish Council, any further discussions will be reported back to a meeting of Council.

The start date for the new Serco contract is the 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2014; the proposed start date for devolution of services to the Parish Council has been put back to that date. There are a number of options – the Parish could appoint its own contractor, or ask Serco to undertake the landscape service on the Parish Council's behalf and can change the specification of the contract.

Milton Keynes Council will pay a sum of money over to the Parish Council if the service is devolved, the Parish Council could then add to this to improve the service, or keep the some of it if there were savings achieved.

Members then discussed various issues relating to funding, the management of the service, to ensure in the meantime that the present landscaping service is improved, and when issues are reported that a timely response is made, that if the landscaping service is devolved to the Parish Council, that the landscaping in the Parish area is brought up to a good standard before it is in taken on.

Concerns were expressed that such devolution may save MK Council money but it might lead to an increased burden on the precept payers to maintain and/or improve the service.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. To continue discussions with Milton Keynes Council regarding the devolved landscaping service to the Parish Council.**

2. To report back at a future meeting of the Parish Council with any proposals.

**FC 54/13 Planning Applications:**

a) 14/01998/FUL 1 Radian Court Knowlhill Milton Keynes MK5 8PJ Prior notification for part change of use from office accommodation (Use Class B1) to residential use (Use Class C3) consisting of 8 x self contained flats - Pending Consideration.

**RESOLVED**

1. To object to this planning application.
2. That the Local Plan 2005 designates distinct areas within the Parish area making for a well-balanced environment of residential, light industrial/commercial and leisure neighbourhoods.
3. That to create residential units in the Knowlhill, Light Industrial/Commercial area will undoubtedly set an unhealthy precedent to change this area in to residential and reduce the employment opportunities this area was designed to create. It does not comply with the Local Plan in this respect.
4. That Knowlhill is totally unsuitable for residential use with no services or amenities in the immediate area to cater for their daily needs thus creating more unnecessary traffic movements. Also being alien to the surrounding buildings it will not be a desirable area to live.

b) 14/01797/FUL 46 Gatcombe Great Holm Milton Keynes MK8 9ET Single storey side extension.

**RESOLVED**

**That the Parish Council has no objection to this planning application**

c) 14/01844/FUL 20 Leys Road Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8AZ Erection of dwelling with garage and vehicular and pedestrian accesses.

**RESOLVED**

1. To object to this planning application.
2. That the proposed dwelling is a total over development of the site, in consideration of its location being sufficiently close to the current Loughton conservation area.
3. That a development such as this will impact greatly on the clear and open aspect of the area which is one of the significant features of the current (and future) Loughton Conservation Area that the statement seeks to preserve.
4. That yet again the potential flood plain is being built on with the consequence of any flooding being more severe than it would have been without this property taking the space.

**FC 55/14 Ward Matters:**

(a) To agree to the repair of a section of wood that has rotted, to one of the Loughton Planters outside Loughton School – **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

**RESOLVED**

**To approve costs of up to £150 for the repair of a section of wood that has rotted, to one of the Loughton Planters outside Loughton School, if the cost of repair is greater than £150, then the matter should be brought back to another meeting of the Parish Council with quotes to consider further.**

(b) To write to the Milton Keynes Park's Trust to urge them to do only essential maintenance, to the landscaping in the area between the Stratfield Park development and Lodge Lake and to provide only the occasional vista across the lake, and to further ask to urge the Milton Keynes Parks Trust to preserve the existing character of this beautiful area, and not to provide wide open areas to give all of the Developer's new houses uninterrupted views across the lake - **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

**RESOLVED**

**To write to the Milton Keynes Park's Trust to urge them to do only essential maintenance, to the landscaping in the area between the Stratfield Park development and Lodge Lake and to provide only the occasional vista across the lake, and to further ask to urge the Milton Keynes Parks Trust to preserve the existing character of this beautiful area, and not to provide wide open areas to give all of the Developer's new houses uninterrupted views across the lake, and to seek assurances that the landscaping will not be removed and that all trees will be protected.**

**FC 56/14 To resolve whether to publish a winter edition of the Parish newsletter in December 2014 (including authorising the costs of design, printing and delivery less any advertising revenue generated):**

Members agreed to authorise expenditure to produce the next edition of the newsletter for December 2014 (including design printing and delivery) such costs to be set off by any advertising the Parish Council was able to sell. Articles need to be provided by November 2014, and Members are encouraged to provide content.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. To publish a winter edition of the Parish newsletter in December 2014 (including authorising the costs of design, printing and delivery less any advertising revenue generated)**
- 2. That all articles need to be provided by November 2014**

**FC 57/14 to agree the cost of replacing a vandalised tree at the Millennium Meadow, Loughton:**

Members were informed by the Parish Clerk that RTM Machinery LTD has provided a quote for £60 plus VAT for the replacement of a vandalised tree at the Millennium Meadow in Loughton.

Members preferred the replacement to be a fruit tree.

**RESOLVED**

- 1. To replace the vandalised tree at the Millennium Meadow, Loughton by RTM Machinery LTD at the cost of £60 plus VAT**
- 2. That the replacement will be a fruit tree.**

**FC 58/14 To agree to apply under the next available Parish Partnership grant application scheme for a grant towards the cost of refurbishment of the children's play area at Petworth, Great Holm:**

The Chair informed the meeting that Phil Snell from Milton Keynes Council will produce plans for approval by the Parish Council; the costs for the refurbishment will be covered by applying for a Parish Partnership Fund grant, the use of the Section



106 monies of £15,000 from the Stratfield Park redevelopment, and by applying for a grant by WREN.

**RESOLVED**

**To apply under the next available Parish Partnership grant application scheme for a grant towards the cost of refurbishment of the children's play area at Petworth, Great Holm.**

**FC 59/14 Cheques for Payment:**

All cheques presented for payment were authorised.

**AGREED**

**FC 60/14 To review the negotiations over the commercial terms of the lease of the Loughton pavilion, car park and sports ground to Loughton Sports & Social Club and to determine the future action to take:**

It was agreed (after discussion and a vote) that this matter should be dealt with in private.

Due to the late hour of the meeting members felt to do justice to the agenda item that it would be better to defer to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED**

**To defer this agenda item to the next meeting of the Parish Council**

**Date and time of Next Meeting:**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October, 7:30pm at Loughton Memorial Hall, Bradwell Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes.

**THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11:03PM**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Chair Date \_\_\_\_\_