

Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th December 2013 7:30pm at the Loughton Memorial Hall, Bradwell Road, Loughton

Present: Cllrs Peter Todd (Chair), Andy Sargent (Vice-Chair), Peter Ballantyne, Barry Barrington, Andy Dransfield (until 9:48pm), Hilary Dyer, Don Hoyle (until 9:48pm), Zoe Nolan

In attendance: Brian Barton (Parish Clerk)

Also in attendance: Three (3) members of the public, Denise Davis-Boreham, CEO of Make a Difference (MAD)

FC 149/13 Apologies:

Received from Cllr Ray Harrison

NOTED

FC 150/13 Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

FC 151/13 Minutes of previous meetings:

To add Cllrs Peter Ballantyne and Zoe Nolan as being in attendance

To add "Cllr Hilary Dyer attended a site visit on Monday 2nd December 2013 at the Stratfield Park Leisure Centre 53, Gatcombe, Great Holm"

With the above amendments **AGREED** the Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th November 2013 as a true and correct record.

FC 152/13 Matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda:

Cllr Don Hoyle inquired about the situation regarding Horseshoe Walk on Kensington Drive Great Holm.

Cllr Hilary Dyer replied that an approximate two (2) metre stretch of land along the entire length of the boundary of 23 Kensington Drive, Great Holm was being taken from the Horseshoe Walk. A substantial wooden construction was in the process of being made. There appears to be a ram-shackled assortment of fence panels which were propped up against the trees at the rear of 43 Kensington Drive, in the Horseshoe Walk making their back garden longer too.

Following on from a further visit the owner of number 23 Kensington Drive informed Cllr Dyer that he and the neighbouring residents had been contacted by Milton Keynes Council informing them that their boundaries were approximately 2.5 metres further away from their houses than the current fence line. There used to be a hawthorn hedge behind their garden fences and the boundary of their property was actually the other side of it, and that they have been given permission to incorporate this land into their back gardens. He also said that he had been told that there is a dispute going on as to who owns Horseshoe Walk.

The Parish Clerk had written to Milton Keynes Council asking for clarification regarding the position as to permission for residents to incorporate land into their back garden and as yet has not had a reply.

The Parish Clerk was requested to send to Cllrs Dransfield and Hoyle the letter sent to Milton Keynes Council and they will chase the matter up as ward members.

The Parish Clerk was also requested to contact the Land Registry for a search to confirm the present ownership of the land and had permission to spend up to £30.

Cllr Hilary Dyer enquired as to whether there had been a response regarding the parking issues outside the Great Holm School; the Parish Clerk confirmed that he had not had a reply to his email.

Cllr Andy Dransfield said that the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group can make car parking outside schools as one of their priorities and the Police would have to act on this.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne had himself contacted the School and spoke to the Office Manager who will be sending out a letter to parents and had spoken with PC Albert Bernard to ask if PCSO's could monitor the situation.

The Parish Clerk was requested to compile a list of outstanding replies to letters on various ward matters to the Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Council and copy in to Cllr Andy Dransfield.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Parish Clerk to send to Cllrs Dransfield and Hoyle the letter sent to Milton Keynes Council regarding the land ownership issue at Horseshoe Walk, Kensington Drive, Great Holm and they will chase the matter up as ward members.**
- 2. That The Parish Clerk was also requested to contact the Land Registry for a search to confirm the present ownership of the land and had permission to spend up to £30.**
- 3. That the Parish Clerk to compile a list of outstanding replies to letters on various ward matters to the Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Council and copy in to Cllr Andy Dransfield.**

FC 153/13 Questions from Members of the Public:

There were no questions from members of the public.

NOTED

FC 154/13 The MK Buszy:

Denise Davis-Boreham, CEO of Make a Difference (MAD) informed the meeting that they were some conditions placed on the licence.

Cllr Zoe Nolan had attended the Licensing Committee at the Civic Offices on the 27th November which reviewed the licence, committee members heard from Officers the issues concerned and agreed some restrictions, residents had never asked for the licence to be revoked.

The conditions placed were a noise assessment of the building and sound limiting devices, and outdoor activities to cease at 8:00pm instead of 10:00pm.

Some residents were not happy about this, there were fifteenth (15) to twenty (20) in attendance mostly from the Loughton area, Cllr Nolan said that dialogue was needed with the residents who felt affected by the noise. The CEO of the Buszy explained the measures in place that was used to limit the noise.

One member of the public who lived on Hoppers Meadow Loughton asked how close to the venue were residents who had complained and how many of them?

Another who lived on Cottage Crescent Loughton was concerned about outside events which were very loud and took place between 1:00pm – 10:00pm on a Sunday in the Summer time and could not see how the noise could be limited.

The CEO replied that there is a noise limiter placed on the base equipment, and that she had not received any complaints when they have had heavy metal events on. The organisation would not be allowed to hold any music events if further complaints are made, however residents have not approached her on this matter, and that she has given certain residents her mobile number in case they had concerns and has advise them to circulate the number to their neighbours.

The Chair Cllr Peter Todd said that he had experienced hearing loud music from his property and has received complaints from nearby residents.

Cllr Andy Dransfield said that the MK Bowl had similar issues regarding complaints of noise and limits were imposed on the time and frequency when events could be held, if there are limits on the noise and the frequency when bands are on this would be a reasonable compromise, the licence would be revoked if complaints of noise continued.

The CEO said that there is a noise prevention plan in place following on from a previous Licencing Committee meeting, but was not informed that it was a legal requirement, and that it was just a warning, she was not informed regarding any complaints about the noise.

Cllr Barry Barrington said that there needs to be a look into communication methods between residents and the Buszy to sort out any problems, such as an article in the newsletter, where any complaints can be passed onto the Parish Clerk who can then forward on to the CEO.

The CEO was also requested to give the Parish Clerk her mobile number that can be used to contact her when any neighbours wish to make a complaint as regards the noise.

The CEO suggested that perhaps events could coincide with activities at the MK Bowl.

Cllr Andy Dransfield replied that there are very few events at the MK Bowl these days.

A member of the public suggested that whether events could be better publicised so that residents are more aware of what is happening.

The Chair suggested if events could be held on a Saturday rather than a Sunday as young children have school the following day and often have disturbed sleep due to the noise.

Cllr Zoe Nolan suggested holding all events inside, and Cllr Andy Dransfield further suggested restricting just the louder events inside, but the CEO replied that this would restrict the amount of events that can take place and would defeat the object of raising income to keep the venue operating.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne asked the CEO what the organisation did, she explained that there was a thrift shop, a music and dance studio, which were free to young people to use between the ages of eight (8) to twelve (12), there are schemes during the school holidays, the venue is OFSTED registered, Milton Keynes Council does make a grant but on the whole they are self funding and that young people from the parish area attend events.

The Chair thanked the CEO for her attendance.

NOTED

FC 155/13 Report from PCSO Christine Capstick of Thames Valley Police:

In the absence of PCSO Capstick her report was tabled and was as follows:

Loughton & Great Holm Parish Area Crime Figures For November 2013

Great Holm eight (8), Loughton fifteenth (15)
Knowlhill zero (0).

**Seven (7) Priority Crimes in the area
Loughton**

01. Back Door smashed, large amount of jewellery stolen.
02. Possibly insecure Vehicle documents stolen.
03. Insecure vehicle, Sat Nav stolen.
04. Damage to driver's side door lock Hand Bag stolen.
05. Attempt only, jemmy marks to window, nothing stolen.

The Bowl

06. and 07 Related, occurred on the same day, Catalytic Converters stolen

Cllr Peter Ballantyne informed the meeting that that a new PCSO for the parish area had been appointed Frank Callaghan.

NOTED

FC 156/13 Finance matters:

(a) Financial report for the month ending November 2013:

Cllr Andy Dransfield requested that a balance sheet is produced for each meeting.

Cllr Hilary Dyer wanted to ensure that a budget is still kept for possible office accommodation.

It was noted an overspend on the newsletter although advertising income had yet to have been received.

There was an overspend on the Millennium Meadow, although recent monies were needed to be spent on maintenance and there were an extra £495 spent on fruit trees.

The Chair informed the meeting that that he had been informed that Milton Keynes Council will be transferring another £10,000 to the Parish Council towards work on the Loughton Sports and Social Club building following a recent survey undertaken by the Parish Council.

NOTED

(b) Budget for the year commencing 1/4/14

To note the budget for the financial year commencing 1/4/14 as determined by the Finance Committee:

Cllr Andy Dransfield proposed and Cllr Don Hoyle seconded that £10,000 of the capital and not the expenditure relating to the Loughton Sports and Social Club is removed from the budget.

To remove the Youth Programme budget heading.

That the Precept income and expenditure is reduced to £35,265 as per the 2013 budget.

That the £60,000 for Landscaping is reduced to £58,500.

To reduce the clerks hours and to remove the expenditure of the committees.

Cllr Andy Dransfield requested a recorded vote which was as follows:

For: Cllrs Andy Dransfield, Don Hoyle (2)

Against: Cllrs Peter Ballantyne, Barry Barrington, Hilary Dyer, Zoe Nolan, Andy Sargent, Peter Todd (6)

The motion was not carried.

Cllr Peter Todd moved and Cllr Barry Barrington seconded that the 2014/2015 budget as tabled be agreed.

Cllr Andy Dransfield requested a recorded vote which was as follows:

For: Cllrs Peter Ballantyne, Barry Barrington, Hilary Dyer, Zoe Nolan, Andy Sargent, Peter Todd (6)

Against: Cllrs Andy Dransfield, Don Hoyle (2)

The motion was carried.

It was further **AGREED** that more detailed work will be needed on the budget headings in the future.

(c) Precept for the year commencing 1/4/14

To determine the amount of income to be received via the precept for the year commencing 1/4/14:

Cllr Andy Dransfield proposed and Cllr Don Hoyle seconded that the precept is halved to £35,276 and to take money out of the reserves to make up for the shortfall.

Cllr Andy Dransfield requested a recorded vote which was as follows:

For: Cllrs Andy Dransfield, Don Hoyle (2)

Against: Cllrs Peter Ballantyne, Barry Barrington, Hilary Dyer, Zoe Nolan, Andy Sargent, Peter Todd (6)

The motion was not carried.

Cllr Peter Todd moved and Cllr Barry Barrington seconded that the precept of £70,500 for the year commencing 1/4/14 be agreed.

Cllr Andy Dransfield requested a recorded vote which was as follows:

For: Cllrs Peter Ballantyne, Barry Barrington, Hilary Dyer, Zoe Nolan, Andy Sargent, Peter Todd (6)

Against: Cllrs Andy Dransfield, Don Hoyle (2)

The motion was carried.

Cllrs Andy Dransfield and Don Hoyle then left the meeting at 9:48pm

FC 157/13 To report on external meetings:

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

The last meeting was very brief and took place afterwards with a Christmas lunch, the river birch trees had recently been planted on Lakeview Green Great Holm.

NOTED

b) Hugh Parkes Charity Update – Cllr Hilary Dyer

The Trustees meeting took place on the 4th December so far over £2,250 of grants half of which was distributed to All Saints Church in Loughton, thirteen individuals have received £60 each, Holmwood School £90 for an Ipad for a disabled pupil and £250 to Willen Hospice.

Mr Roger Blackburn is the Clerk to the trustees and visits Schools and other organisations in the parish area, to raise awareness of the charity and personally delivers grants awarded to all recipients.

That next year will be 500 years since Hugh Parkes ended his term of office as rector at All Saints Church, Loughton after serving for 29 years.

Cllr Peter Todd said he would research more details about Hugh Parkes for a piece in a future addition of the newsletter.

c) Report on the meeting of the Parishes Forum:

Cllr Barry Barrington informed the meeting that Milton Keynes Council had found £40,000 to be spread between Parish Councils to make up the shortfall in Government funding to Milton Keynes Council, which is then passed on to Parish Councils. The Parish Councils in the most deprived areas will receive £10,000 between them.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne said that there will be fund of £87,000 for grants to be applied for by Parish and Town Councils, to assist in parking schemes, the Parish Partnership Fund grants will be available for another two (2) years, and that the Parish Council ought to apply.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk to find out further information on the parking scheme and parish partnership fund schemes and put on the agenda for a future meeting.

d) LCSA Networking Club:

Cllr Peter Ballantyne attended on the 30th November a networking club event on contentious planning applications.

The next event will be on Devolved services to be held on Saturday 25th January 2014 but cannot attend and asked if anyone else could go in his place.

NOTED

FC 158/13 Lakeview Green, Great Holm:

a) Report on the Village Green application following the meeting of the Milton Keynes Council Regulatory Committee meeting held on Friday 29th November 2013 – Cllr Peter Ballantyne:

Cllr Peter Ballantyne informed the meeting that the Regulatory Committee agreed to the application for Lakeview Green, Great Holm to become designated as a village green.

The whole process seemed to be bias towards Milton Keynes Council but none the less it was a great outcome.

There were six (6) Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk who had attended in support.

The Chair congratulated Cllr Ballantyne and thanked him for his hard work on his matter.

NOTED

b) To authorise expenditure on a suitable plaque for the village green:

Cllr Peter Ballantyne proposed two (2) signs, one at the top and one at the bottom of the village green one next to the post box with the other placed near to the fallen willow stump next to the lake.

RESOLVED

That Cllr Peter Ballantyne to provide prices for two (2) signs on the village green and bring back to a future meeting of the Council.

c) To note a report on the planting of River Birch Trees – Cllr Hilary Dyer

The meeting thanked Cllr Dyer for her report and the hard work of all the volunteers who had planted the trees on the village green.

NOTED

FC 159/13 To agree a quote for work on the Millennium Meadow, Loughton:

The Chair informed the meeting that this matter cannot be put off for much longer as the millennium meadow needs maintenance work to be undertaken, the Parish Clerk had obtained quotes but they had come back with different criteria's for the work.

Cllr Hilary Dyer was concerned about the amount of money spent on the meadow; the Chair replied that it is considered that perennials be planted at the Millennium Meadow to save on future costs.

Cllr Barry Barrington suggested on seeking advice from a Landscaping Officer at Milton Keynes Council.

To look at other options such as perennials or annual plants

RESOLVED

The Chair will look into this matter and report back to a future meeting of the Council.

FC 160/13 To note the statement of the consultation responses about the draft Loughton Conservation Area Review:

The Chair informed the meeting that the consultant Peter Howard will be finalising the document with comments sent to planning officers at Milton Keynes Council.

NOTED

FC 161/13 To review the procedure for the publishing minutes of Full Council and the Committees:

RESOLVED

To ensure that spare copies of the agenda are available for members of the public.

FC 162/13 To agree a new internet domain for the Parish Council:

The Chair informed the meeting that as www.lgh-pc.gov.uk has been declined for registration; to register the domain www.loughtonandgreatholm-pc.gov.uk instead (the latter being indicated as complying with the .gov rules. Only central government can use abbreviations in .gov domains)

RESOLVED

To register the domain www.loughtonandgreatholm-pc.gov.uk

FC163/13 Following completion of the acquisition of the Loughton sports grounds etc;-

a) To agree to appoint solicitors to draft a new lease to Loughton Sports & Social Club Limited:

RESOLVED

- 1. To appoint Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors to draft a new lease to Loughton Sports & Social Club Limited**

b) To authorise expenditure from the LSSC fund to repair the dilapidations identified in the structural survey.

RESOLVED

- 1. To fund the repair of the dilapidations identified in the structural survey from the LSSC fund.**
- 2. That the Parish Clerk to obtain quotes for the repair of the dilapidations identified in the structural survey (with the LSSC).**

FC164/13 Ward Items:

To decide what action to take (including expenditure) in respect of the following matters:

a) Request for a dog bin to be installed on the corner of Lakeview Green - **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

The dog bin requested would ideally be situated by the redway at Chawton Crescent just off from the Village Green.

The Chairman informed the meeting that permission would be needed from Milton Keynes Council and nearby residents consulted, then the results of the consultation need to be lodged with the Council and they would then undertake a site visit.

Cllr Dyer would not commit at this stage to undertake a consultation exercise with residents but will monitor the situation.

NOTED

b) To discuss the potential Section 106 Monies for Community and Recreation use, subject to the approval of Planning Application 13/02030/FUL Stratfield Park Leisure Centre 53 Gatcombe Great Holm Milton Keynes MK8 9EA Demolition of existing leisure centre and erection of 5 detached houses – **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

It is proposed that there will be £15,000 of section 106 monies to be spent on community facilities in Great Holm.

Cllr Dyer proposed that the monies are spent on the refurbishment of Petworth Park with additional funds to be sought through applying for a WREN and Parish Partnership Fund grant.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk writes to Milton Keynes Council requesting that the proposed £15,000 of section 106 monies to be spent on community facilities in Great Holm is spent on the refurbishment of Petworth Park and that the Parish Council is responsible for administering the section 106 monies.

FC 165/13 Planning Applications:

To determine representations to be made to Milton Keynes Council on the following pending planning applications (and any others received by the date of the meeting):

- a) 13/02403/FUL Willowend 2A Bradwell Road Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8BS, Single storey rear extension – **No objection**
- b) 13/02527/FUL Manor Farm The Green Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8AW, Erection of detached dwelling and double garage – **To defer to the next meeting of the Planning Committee**

FC 166/13 Cheques for Payment:

All cheques presented for payment were

AGREED

FC 167/13 Date and time of Next Meeting:

Monday 20th January 2014 7:30pm at the Loughton Memorial Hall, Bradwell Road, Loughton

THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11:00PM

Signed _____ Chair Date _____