

Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council

Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th November 2013 7:30 pm at the Loughton Memorial Hall, Bradwell Road, Loughton Milton Keynes

Present: Cllrs Peter Todd (Chair), Peter Ballantyne, Andy Dransfield (until 10:22pm), Hilary Dyer, Ray Harrison, Don Hoyle (until 10:24pm), Andy Lovett Zoe Nolan

In attendance: Brian Barton (Parish Clerk)

Also in attendance: Six (6) members of the public

FC 132/13 Apologies:

Received from Cllrs Barry Barrington and Andy Sargent

NOTED

FC 133/13 Declarations of interest:

Cllrs Peter Ballantyne and Zoe Nolan declared a Pecuniary interest in 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 Peter Todd declared a personal interest in agenda item FC 141/13 in relation to the Loughton Sports & Social Club.

Cllrs Hilary Dyer and Peter Todd declared a personal interest in agenda item FC 143/13 (b) All Saints Church

NOTED

FC 134/13 Minutes of previous meetings:

Minutes of the meeting of Full Council held on Monday 21st October 2013:

FC 103/13 Ward Items:

At the end of page 2 a) to add after Cllr Andy Sargent "Cllr Peter Ballantyne"

FC 124/13 To report on external meetings:

a) Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group
To delete "walked" and replace with "Driven"

With those amendments the Chair signed the minutes as a true and correct record.

AGREED

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 4th November 2013 were
NOTED

The minutes of the Finance & Staff Committee held on Monday 28th October 2013 were

NOTED

FC 135/13 Matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda:

FC 112/13 Questions from Members of the Public:

The Parish Clerk wrote to Milton Keynes Council's Highways Department and to the School to raise the concerns of nearby residents regarding problems of parking at the School on Great Holm. No response received yet.

Cllrs Peter Ballantyne and Zoe Nolan left the meeting and sat in the public gallery when discussions took place regarding 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 informed the meeting that she will be attending the site visit at the Stratfield Leisure Centre, 53, Gatcombe, Great Holm site on Monday 2nd December December 2013.

Cllr Andy Sargent in a written submission sent on behalf of the Planning Committee said that the area should have traffic calming measures installed, Cllr Ray Harrison preferred that the whole of Gatcombe had traffic calming measures in place, the Chairman suggested that Cllr Harrison makes his own submission to this effect, Cllr Don Hoyle felt that more examination was needed as to the viability of any such scheme proposed.

NOTED

Cllrs Peter Ballantyne and Zoe Nolan then returned back to the meeting.

FC 136/13 Questions from Members of the Public:

A member of the public was concerned that Loughton First School was bidding for land for sale by the Community Foundation, and would like to see the landscaping kept, as it serves as a buffer to keep the noise out from the nearby grid road traffic.

The Chairman responded that any proposed use for the land would be subject to a planning application, the Community Foundation had written to the Parish Council informing them that the land is available for community grant purposes.

Also could the Parish Council lobby for mini roundabouts as once the new Sainsburys is built at Shenley Church End it will be difficult for residents to get out by car on to the grid road from Loughton.

The Chairman replied that Planning permission has now been granted and so traffic movements would have been considered in the process. Cllr Dransfield said it was most unlikely there would be any change to the permission at this time but matters could be reviewed once in operation.

Lastly concern was expressed about trading on the highways and would like to see a trading restriction throughout the Loughton area.

The Chairman said that he would ask the Clerk to investigate with Milton Keynes Council to see if this was possible.

Another member of the public requested that all supporting papers were uploaded onto the website to read, and why the minutes were not put on to the website straight away.

The Chairman explained that the Parish Council had previously discussed this issue and determined minutes were uploaded onto the website once they had been approved by the meeting.

Cllr Andy Dransfield was unhappy with this and would like it to be discussed at the next meeting of Council, as he felt there was no reason why draft minutes could not be put on the website. This would be added to the agenda.

The Parish Clerk said that in future that he would upload the supporting papers onto the website.

A member of the public said that he runs a football team that plays on the Loughton Sports Ground, and where there any plans to look at the fees charged once the Parish Council takes on the lease?

The Chairman said that once the lease was transferred to the Parish Council the intention was that the premises would be leased to LSSC Ltd so this was a matter for LSSC not for the Parish Council.

Cllr Andy Dransfield felt that an economic rent should be charged and should not subsidise any groups and that this needs to be looked at in the future.

RESOLVED

- 1. That The Clerk to investigate with Milton Keynes Council to see if it is possible to have a trading restriction on the highways throughout the Loughton area.**
- 2. To discuss at the next meeting of Council as to whether draft minutes should be uploaded on to the website or to wait until they have been approved at a meeting of Council.**
- 3. That The Parish Clerk to upload the supporting papers onto the website.**

FC 137/13 Report from PCSO Christine Capstick of Thames Valley Police:

In the absence of PCSO Capstick the Parish Clerk read out the crime figures supplied by PC Albert Bernard for the month of October.

There were thirty-five (35) crimes within the ward for the month.

In Great Holm there were thirteen (13) offences of which three (3) were priority crimes, they consisted of two (2) assaults and a theft from a motor vehicle on Rangers Croft, the assaults were by known offenders.

In Loughton there were twenty (20) offences of which eight (8) were priority crimes, they consisted of two (2) auto crimes one in Redland Drive and in another location in Loughton that was not identified by the victim, two (2) burglaries and four (4) assaults by known offenders three (3) of the crimes related to the same incident.

In Knowlhill there was one (1) offence which was not a priority crime.
At the Bowl there was one (1) offence which was a priority crime that related to a theft from a motor vehicle during a car boot sale.

NOTED

The Financial report for the month ending October 2013 was reviewed.

Cllr Hilary Dyer was concerned regarding the costs of the dog bin emptying and cleaning. The Chairman replied that the savings with the new contractor had not been as much as hoped but had reduced the overall cost by about £1,000 per annum approx.

NOTED

FC 139/13 To report on external meetings:

a) Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group

Cllr Hilary Dyer reported that the last meeting of the action group was held at the City Discovery Centre on Bradwell Abbey.

Sixteen (16) bird boxes have been made, which will be placed around the Parish, Cllr Barry Barrington has helped on this project.

The Milton Keynes Parks Trust reported on their recent activities.

The trees will be planted on Lakeview Green Great Holm on Wednesday 4th December 2013.

NOTED

b) Planning meeting regarding 13/02275/PRELAR Housing Development National Badminton Centre with the Case Officer Ms Debbie Kirk on Monday 18th November 2013

Cllr Zoe Nolan informed the meeting that all pre planning application meetings with Milton Keynes Council are confidential, and can only say that all points raised by the Parish Council were put to the meeting.

The meeting with Milton Keynes Council Officers confirmed that developers had been appointed, and that it is planned that they will be invited to a meeting of Council to make a presentation.

The Badminton Centre had withdrawn their offer of donating the Loughton Lodge Farmhouse to the Parish Council as the Parish had not supported the application.

NOTED

Cllr Hilary Dyer reported that a meeting was held with the Manager of the approved premises Great Holm on Friday 4th October 2013.

The Ministry of Justice will be making changes which were felt to be positive; this will not affect the category of residents and will be implemented by a new body called the Thames Valley Probation Trust.

The Manager runs a tight ship and deals with issues when they arise, recently there had been reports of antisocial behaviour near to the premises, but on closer investigation it appeared not to involve any of the residents.

NOTED

Cllr Zoe Nolan attended a public meeting at the Trinity Centre, Fishermead on Monday 11th November 2013 with the Police and Crime Commissioner Mr Anthony Stansfield.

There is a scheme now in place concentrating on areas of repeat burglaries involving the public in helping the Police with intelligence to reduce further incidences.

Another scheme involves ensuring vulnerable young people have a safe night when out in the evening at Central Milton Keynes, to ensure they get home safely.

NOTED

FC 140/13 Lakeview Green, Great Holm:

Cllr Peter Ballantyne reported that there will be a hearing on the application for Village Green status, by the Milton Keynes Councils Regulatory Committee on Friday 29th November 2013 at the Badminton Centre.

Cllr Ballantyne was concerned that the process would not be held in a fair way, as Milton Keynes Council are the land owners and objectors and registering authority, and would be represented by a legal team at the hearing.

Cllr Ballantyne has written to Milton Keynes Council complaining that the process is biased, questions were also put as regards the panel, the witness statements and how the final decision is made.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne will be asking the Open Spaces Society for advice, and will be addressing the panel, he may also challenge the fact that the meeting has not been widely advertised, and is held during the day which will prevent some objectors from being able to attend.

It was determined with the Chairman's casting vote that the Parish Council authorises expenditure if necessary to retain a lawyer to attend the hearing to represent the applicant at a cost of up to £2,500.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council authorises expenditure on a legal adviser to attend the hearing at a cost of up to £2,500 if necessary

FC 141/13 Community Asset Transfer: Loughton sports ground, car park and pavilion to the Parish Council

Cllr Peter Todd declared a personal interest in this agenda item.

a) To authorise the execution of the transfer deed on behalf of the Parish Council for the transfer of the freehold of the Loughton sports ground, car park and pavilion to the Parish Council.

Cllr Andy Dransfield moved and Cllr Don Hoyle seconded “That the authorisation of the execution of the transfer deed on behalf of the Parish Council for the transfer of the freehold of the Loughton sports ground, car park and pavilion to the Parish Council, is deferred to a future meeting of Council, and that a business plan is produced along with a detailed look into the income, and expenditure required”

The voting was as follows: **For 4 Against 5** and therefore the motion was defeated.

It was proposed that the execution of the transfer deed be authorised.

RESOLVED

To authorise the execution of the transfer deed on behalf of the Parish Council for the transfer of the freehold of the Loughton sports ground, car park and pavilion to the Parish Council

b) To authorise the use of one of the Parish Council’s two (2) bank accounts as an account ring-fenced for this asset to receive the sum of £10,000 to be paid by Milton Keynes Council and the rent from the Loughton Sports and Social Club, pending the intended migration of the Parish Council’s bank arrangements to a new supplier shortly

RESOLVED

To authorise the use of one of the Parish Council’s two (2) bank accounts as an account ring-fenced for this asset to receive the sum of £10,000 to be paid by Milton Keynes Council and the rent from the Loughton Sports and Social Club, pending the intended migration of the Parish Council’s bank arrangements to a new supplier shortly

c) To note the structural survey of the pavilion by Kirby & Diamond and agree the action required including expenditure

RESOLVED

- 1. To note the structural survey of the pavilion by Kirby & Diamond and agree the action required including expenditure**
- 2. To discuss with LSSC the plan for repair of the dilapidations noted in the structural survey**

d) To authorise expenditure on the insurance for the property as per the quote from Zurich of £555.97p

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk is authorised to insure the premises with Zurich as per the quote but shall endeavour to arrange two further quotes for suitable insurance and to ensure the policy incepted represents best value – insuring instead with the alternative suppliers if indicated.

e) Subject to receipt of the agreed £10,000 from Milton Keynes Council following completion of the transfer, to authorise expenditure from the fund as follows:-

1. Up to £1,500 on improvements to the state of the pitch including rolling, slitting, spraying, close cylinder mowing, filling in worn areas and holes, applying top dressing, scarification, fertilising, re-seeding and other necessary repairs to the grounds.
2. Up to £1,500 on immediate necessary repairs to roofing tiles, fascia boards and guttering
3. Supply and installation of six (6) aluminium signs 400x500mm portrait on 2m post as to instructions for and terms of use of the sports ground – quote of £718 by Fast signs (alternative quote by Signs express)

Cllr Andy Dransfield moved “that items 1 and 2 are deferred for further investigation and discussion at a future meeting of Council”.

The voting on the motion was as follows: **For 3 Against 4** and therefore the motion fell.

RESOLVED

Subject to receipt of the agreed £10,000 from Milton Keynes Council following completion of the transfer, to authorise expenditure from the fund as follows:-

- 1. Up to £1,500 on improvements to the state of the pitch including rolling, slitting, spraying, close cylinder mowing, filling in worn areas and holes, applying top dressing, scarification, fertilising, re-seeding and other necessary repairs to the grounds.**
- 2. Up to £1,500 on immediate necessary repairs to roofing tiles, fascia boards and guttering**
- 3. To defer, the Supply and installation of six (6) aluminium signs 400x500mm portrait on 2m post as to instructions for and terms of use of the sports ground – quote of £718 by Fast signs (alternative quote by Signs express), and to relook into this matter and to come back to a future meeting of Council for a decision**

FC 142/13 To inform members of the present situation as regards the Specklands Allotment Site in Loughton:

Members reviewed matters relating to:

- a) The list of allotment holders and b) The up to date waiting list

Members were concerned about multiple plots being let to the same tenant.

NOTED

- c) To authorise expenditure on a skip by Moore Skips of £270.12p

RESOLVED

To authorise expenditure on a skip by Moore Skips of £270.12p

FC 143/13 Grant aid:

The following grant aid applications were submitted for consideration:

a) Junior Film Makers – grant requested of £2,400 to produce a film project to be undertaken in the Loughton area

RESOLVED

Not to award a grant as the amount requested is more than the allocated grant aid budget for 2013/2014. It was considered the information about justification and local benefit was inadequate.

b) All Saints Church - grant requested for £250 to repair the church clock

Cllrs Hilary Dyer and Peter Todd declared a personal interest in this agenda item

RESOLVED

To award a grant of £250 to repair the church clock at All Saints Church, Loughton

Cllrs Andy Dransfield and Don Hoyle then left the meeting.

FC144/13 Ward Items:

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

a) To consider the cost and supply of directional signs around areas of interest in the Parish area – **Cllr Zoe Nolan**

Cllrs Peter Ballantyne and Zoe Nolan had met with the Milton Keynes Parks Trust, who indicated that they have a corporate policy on signage and will put the proposal for directional signs in their budget for Lodge Lake.

Cllr Nolan suggested some directional signs around areas of interest in the Parish area.

RESOLVED

Cllr Nolan to look into this further and to report to a future meeting.

b) To discuss the granting of additional land by Milton Keynes Council for residents at the Horseshoe Walk, Kensington Drive, Great Holm - **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

Cllr Hilary Dyer informed the meeting that it appeared 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.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Parish Clerk to write to Milton Keynes Council to seek confirmation that additional land has been given to residents at the Horseshoe Walk, Kensington Drive, Great Holm site.**
- 2. To obtain an explanation from Milton Keynes Council as to why permission has been granted, and to express the Parish Council's concerns about this being allowed to happen**
- 3. To request that the appropriate Officer attends a meeting of the Full Council to discuss this matter**

FC 145/13 Planning Applications:

To determine representations to be made to Milton Keynes Council on the following pending planning application:

a) 13/02299/TCA 1 All Saints View Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8BB Notification of intention to carry out the following tree work:- reduce by a third 1 x Common Ash tree (1); coppice to near ground level a small part of the back garden hedge (2); reduce the height of 1 x Hawthorn tree within hedge and retain it as a small tree (3) – **No objection**

To note the outcome on the following planning applications as decided by Milton Keynes Council:

a) 13/02114/NMA F C C Europe Ltd Roebuck Way Knowlhill Milton Keynes MK5 8HL Non material amendment to planning permission 13/00555/FUL for a change to the car storage areas surface from Type 1 dot crushed stone to porous asphalt - **Application Permitted**

b) 13/01939/DISCON Cavendish House Cavendish Court Loughton Milton Keynes Details submitted pursuant to discharge of condition 3 attached to planning permission 13/00137/FUL - **Details approved**

c) 13/01949/DISCON Elm House School Lane Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8AT Details submitted pursuant to discharge of conditions 2 (landscaping scheme) and 3 (materials) attached to planning permission 13/00685/FUL - **Details approved**

FC 146/13 Parish Newsletter:

Cllr Peter Ballantyne suggested that copies of the recent newsletter are distributed to all properties on Knowlhill. The question of whether to publish a further newsletter was discussed.

RESOLVED

- 1. That Cllr Peter Ballantyne and the Parish Clerk distribute copies of the recent newsletter to all properties on Knowlhill.**
- 2. To produce another newsletter in the spring 2014.**

FC 147/13 Cheques for Payment:

All cheques presented for payment as tabled were authorised.

AGREED

FC 148/13 Date and time of Next Meeting:

Monday 16th December 2013 8:00pm at the Great Holm Community Centre, 87,
Kensington Drive, Great Holm, Milton Keynes

Signed _____ Chair Date _____