

Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council

Full Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st September 2015, 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, John Howe, Claire Jones, Andy Sargent

Also present: Brian Barton (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: One (1) member of the public

Also in attendance: PCSO Christine Capstick (Thames Valley Police), Calum Bell Service Delivery Manager (Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service), Station Commander Graham Freer (Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service)

FC 52/15 Apologies:

There were no apologies received

NOTED

FC 53/15 Declarations of interest:

Cllr Andy Dransfield declared a personal interest and took no part in the discussion thereof in agenda item FC 58/15, as he is the Vice-Chairman of the Fire Authority.

NOTED

FC 54/15 Minutes of previous meetings:

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 20th July 2015 as true and correct record.

AGREED

The minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 7th September 2015 were **NOTED**

FC 55/15 Matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda:

FC 49/15 To update the Parish Council on the progress of the Parish Youth Programme Development Service:

Cllr John Howe was concerned that after receiving a copy of the budget from the Parish Clerk, there was only one heading relating to the costs associated for the provision of the Parish Youth Programme Development Service.

Cllr Howe felt that there should be additional headings shown as regards salary and other on costs.

The Chair replied that his comments were noted and this matter would be looked into when considering next year's budget.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne asked if there was any progress regarding the devolvement from Milton Keynes Council regarding the landscaping service.

The Chair replied that Milton Keynes Council have not yet produced a Devolution Management Agreement.

RESOLVED

To discuss at a future meeting progress relating to a Devolution Management Agreement from Milton Keynes Council regarding the landscaping service

FC 56/15 Questions from Members of the Public:

A member of the public asked if Julianne Hanson had been thanked by the Parish Council for her hard work in organising the recent scarecrow trail in Loughton.

Cllr Andy Sargent replied that £4,000 had been raised towards repairs to All Saints Church; the next scarecrow trail is planned for June 2017.

A member of the public also asked if there could be an item in the next newsletter asking residents not to put inappropriate items into the sewerage system, as there have been reported blockages in Redland Drive, Loughton.

The Chair said that he would bear this request in mind, if space permitted in the next newsletter.

NOTED

FC 57/15 To receive a Crime Statistics Report from Thames Valley Police:

PCSO Christine Capstick presented the crime statistics for the August 2015 period which were as follows:

Loughton

Assault without Injury	One (1)
Burglary in a Dwelling	One (1)
Burglary other than in a Dwelling	One (1)
Criminal Damage to Dwellings	One (1)
Criminal Damage to a Vehicle	One (1)
Theft of a Vehicle	One (1)
Total crime August 2015	Six (6)
Total crime August 2014	Thirteen (13)

Great Holm

Criminal Damage to Dwellings	One (1)
Public order offences	One (1)
Theft of a Vehicle	One (1)
Theft from a Person	One (1)
Total crime August 2015	Four (4)
Total crime August 2014	Sixteen (16)

Knowlhill

Burglary other than in a Dwelling	One (1)
Theft from a Vehicle	One (1)
Theft from a Person	One (1)
Total crime August 2015	Three (3)
Total crime August 2014	Five (5)

Members than asked various questions relating to the report.

Cllr Andy Dransfield asked that the heading in the report is changed from the Furzton Bowl to the National Bowl.

The Parish Clerk was asked to write to Milton Keynes Council about enforcing parking restricting when bowl events are on, as Cllr Howe highlighted problems on London Road, Loughton.

The Parish Clerk was asked to obtain a copy of a leaflet produced by Shenley Church End Parish Council that can be used to be put on car windscreens, highlighting the correct and safe way to park, Cllr John Howe highlighted particular problems on Linceslade Grove, Loughton with cars blocking the pavement.

Cllr John Howe inquired if there was any process of the removal of the encampment on Redland Drive, Loughton.

Cllr Zoe Nolan replied that she had followed the matter up and was informed that the area should be cleared up by the end of the month, Milton Keynes Council after seeking legal advice were instructed that there have to store personal belongings for up to twenty one (21) days in case they are claimed, a contractor has been appointed by Highways England to undertake the work, Cllr Nolan has met with Pete Roberts from Safer MK, who informed Cllr Nolan that they will be setting up procedures to deal with any future incidents much more quickly.

The Chair thanked PCSO Capstick for presenting the crime statistics report.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Parish Clerk to write to Milton Keynes Council about enforcing parking restricting when bowl events are on**
- 2. That the Parish Clerk to obtain a copy of a leaflet produced by Shenley Church End Parish Council that can be used to be put on car windscreens, highlighting the correct and safe way to park**

FC 58/15 Presentation on the consultation from the Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority on the possible merger of the Bletchley and Great Holm Fire Stations, and the creation of a blue light hub on West Ashland:

Cllr Andy Dransfield declared a personal interest in this agenda item

The Chair introduced Mr Calum Bell Service Delivery Manager and Station Commander Mr Graham Freer of the Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, who then made their presentation to the meeting.

A successful bid was made to the Government in partnership with Thames Valley Police to relocate two (2) fire stations Bletchley and Great Holm, to one (1) blue light hub, talks are ongoing with the ambulance service to also co locate to the proposed new facility .

Risk modelling was undertaken for various site locations, with modern software that uses historic trends and intelligence to highlight any risks to all the locations that were considered.

The modelling criteria indicated that the best outcome would be to locate the blue light hub at West Ashland.

The Bletchley Fire Station is fifty (50) years old, and the Great Holm site twenty (20) years old and are now not fit for purpose.

The proposal would be better value for money and will not affect the present standard of service and response times, practise runs by drivers showed that response times average five (5) to ten (10) minutes.

The consultation by the Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service is being undertaken to find out the views of residents to the proposal, and what use the new blue light hub building can be made of by local communities and groups.

The Chair thanked Mr Calum Bell Service Delivery Manager and Station Commander Mr Graham Freer for their presentation.

The Chair then asked members if they had any questions or comments to make.

Cllr Claire Jones asked would the Bletchley and Great Holm sites to be sold off if the blue light hub proposal was successful?

Mr Freer replied that no decisions had been made as to the future use of the sites or whether they will be sold, some capital reserves will be used to make the difference up from the Government Grant for constructing the blue light hub.

It was pointed out that there will be no loss of staff or appliances if the proposal was too go ahead, the new build would be more energy efficient and less expensive to maintain and run compared to the existing two (2) Fire Stations, and the investment costs will break even in five (5) years' time.

Members were concerned about the response time to 999 calls and the loss of the fire station on Great Holm to the Parish area, and were not convinced that there would be any cost savings with this proposal.

Members were also concerned about the pressures on response times with the new Western Expansion Area nearby if Great Holm Fire Station was closed down.

Mr Bell responded that the new dwellings were less of a fire risk due to better building standards and fire resistant materials.

Cllr Howe requested that if Great Holm Fire Station were to close, then the building should be used to benefit the community, Mr Bell said that he would take note of the suggestion.

Cllr Hilary Dyer asked why had there not been a proposal to merge the Bletchley and Newport Pagnall Fire Stations, as she felt it would be better to keep the Great Holm site due to the nearby Western Expansion area.

Mr Bell replied that the risk modelling highlighted that the present proposal was more cost effective and efficient with no effect to the present level of service.

Cllr Sandra Boland and Cllr Peter Todd enquired about response times of appliances getting through traffic at events at the Stadium MK and the National Bowl.

Mr Freer responded that the crew are very experienced at negotiating through traffic, and practise runs have been undertaken when events have been on at both locations and it has not been an issue.

Cllr Todd was concerned about response times to calls from residents on Loughton and Great Holm.

Mr Freer said that often appliances respond to calls from other areas of the City, as crews from Great Holm could themselves be dealing with call outs in other parts of Milton Keynes and are very rarely on site as they are busy all the time.

Cllr Zoe Nolan said that she had very little notice as a Ward Councillor about the consultation coming up; Mr Bell said that it was unfortunate but he had been given very short notice that the bid had been successful.

Cllr Dyer was concerned to hear about a consultation event that had been held without any notice given to the Parish Council and an invitation for Parish Councillors to attend.

Mr Bell explained that an survey/marketing company had been contracted to undertake a consultation but was not aware of the criteria, on how residents were approached and where they came from, but other public meetings will take place.

Mr Bell highlighted that the proposal would not affect the present level of back room staff and crew, there is joint working taking place with the other emergency services to ensure that resources are effectively used, and whilst they are financial challenges, the service is fairly secure financially compared to other authorities, which has the lowest precept in the Country.

Cllr Andy Sargent requested larger copies of the maps in the presentation slides.

Mr Bell said that he could supply the maps in a larger format.

The Chair thanked Mr Bell and Mr Freer for their presentation.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Parish Clerk would draft a response to the consultation and circulate a copy to Members for agreement before sending the document off.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk to draft a response to the Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service consultation on the proposed merger of the Bletchley and Great Holm Fire Stations, and circulates a copy to Members for approval before sending the document off.

FC 59/15 To report on Members attending external meetings:

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

Cllr Ballantyne said a meeting has not been held since his last report, all the data from the 200 survey forms from residents have been inputted and will be analysed and made into a report, which will be circulated to the Parish Council.

NOTED

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

Cllr Andy Dransfield said that he has been recently dealing with various ward casework matters, at the last Full Council meeting there was a motion by the Labour and Liberal Democrat Groups regarding the latest refugee crises, that proposed to offer accommodation to twenty (20) families over a four (4) year period, the Tory Group had added an amendment which was defeated.

The planning application for the proposed extension to the Shenley Church End Leisure Centre went to the Development Control Committee, but was deferred for further information, and will now go back to the October meeting for consideration.

Cllr Zoe Nolan informed the meeting that the motion referred to by Cllr Dransfield also asked that the Director of Place along with the Chief Executive Officer undertakes a cost review and to look into the resources needed to house refugee families in Milton Keynes. Cllr Nolan has spoken with the Milton Keynes Parks Trust about signs around Loughton Lodge Lake at every entrance and that the Parish Council was not consulted on the infrastructure items that have been installed in the area.

Cllr Nolan has raised concerns about the lack of GP provision for the Western Expansion Area, Shenley Church End Parish Council has also written to Iain Stewart MP on this matter.

NOTED

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

Cllr Andy Sargent said that he had attended the recent meeting of the Parishes Forum, where Geoff Snelson Director of Strategy at Milton Keynes Council made a presentation on the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Mr David Hall the Interim Highways Manager presented his vision on how he will be tackling the underperformance of highways infrastructure works.

Mr Adrian Carden Road Safety Team Leader also spoke on a new road safety initiative.

NOTED

FC 60/15 To consider the offer by Ideal Bathrooms LTD towards the costs of materials that can be used for the Great Holm Community Centre:

RESOLVED

To defer this agenda item to the next meeting

FC 61/15 To discuss the Development Site for two (2) houses at Little Meadow, Loughton, Milton Keynes

Cllr John Howe informed the meeting that the Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP), are seeking conditional offers for this site for the construction of two (2) new houses (subject to planning). The site will be sold as a single parcel of land.

Residents of Little Meadow had approached him concerned about the proposed sale and that the landscaping which has not been recently maintained, Cllr Howe asked if there was anything that the Parish Council could do?

The Chair proposed that the Parish Clerk writes to the Chief Executive Officer of the Milton Keynes Development Partnership informing him that the landscaping is not being maintained on the Little Meadow site, and to request that the site is not developed due to the lack of access, and that it would be out of keeping with the area to build two (2) properties on the site, and would be a substantial loss of open attractive space.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk writes to the Chief Executive Officer of the Milton Keynes Development Partnership informing him that the landscaping is not being maintained on the Little Meadow site, and to request that the site is not developed due to the lack of access, and that it would be out of keeping with the area to build two (2) properties on the site, and would be a substantial loss of open attractive space.

FC 62/15 Grant aid application from the Food Bank:

RESOLVED

To defer this agenda item to the next meeting

FC 63/15 Planning Applications:

There were no planning applications submitted for consideration.

NOTED

FC 64/15 To note the update list of projects and other work:

NOTED

FC 65/15 Cheques for Payment:

All cheques presented for payment were authorised.

AGREED

Date and time of Next Meeting:

Monday 19th October 2015, 7:30pm at Holmwood School, Kensington Drive, Great Holm, Milton Keynes

THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10:25PM

Signed _____ Chair Date _____