

Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 17th November 2014 7:30pm at Holmwood School, Kensington Drive, Great Holm

Present: Cllrs Peter Todd (Chair), Barry Barrington (Vice-Chair), Peter Ballantyne (until 9:16pm), Sandra Boland, Andy Dransfield (until 10:00pm), Hilary Dyer, Don Hoyle (until 10:00pm), Zoe Nolan

In attendance: Brian Barton (Parish Clerk)

Also in attendance: PC Tony Deeble (Thames Valley Police) and three (3) members of the public.

FC 75/14 Apologies:

Received from Cllr Andy Sargent

NOTED

FC 76/14 Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

FC 77/14 Minutes of previous meetings:

Minutes of the last meeting of council held on Monday 20th October 2014

FC 67/14 To report on Members attending external meetings:

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

Paragraph two (2) delete "lower" and replace with "lowering"

Paragraph four (4) delete "concern" and replace with "concerned"

FC 72/14 Parish Youth programme:

To delete "and seconded by Cllr Hilary Dyer"

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

AGREED

Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Monday 3rd November 2014 were

NOTED

FC 78/14 Matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda:

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):

Cllr Peter Ballantyne suggested that the Scouts could deliver the newsletter, as he had seen them delivering the All Saints Church leaflet, Cllr Ballantyne has spoken to the Scout Leader who will be contacting him shortly to discuss the matter further.

Cllr Ballantyne said that The Kensington Pub will submit an advert in the newsletter for £100.

Cllr Todd has now received an article from the Badminton England Chief Executive Officer, the deadline for articles is the end of November.

FC 69/14 To authorise the execution of the lease of the Loughton Sports ground, pavilion and car park in the terms of the draft:

Cllr Andy Dransfield has yet to find his copy of the constitution, although according to the copy as supplied by Cllr Todd it seemed to indicate on the last page that the constitution could be amended by the Members but with approval of the Parish Council. Cllr Dransfield was concerned that any amendments proposed by the Management Committee should be presented to a meeting of Council for approval and no-one could recollect this had happened.

Cllr Todd informed the meeting that so far he has not had a request from the LSSC to approve any alteration the constitution, but agreed to query this with LSSC and agreed that on the face of it any changes should be approved at a meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr Todd also said that at the next meeting of the liaison committee he will ask the Management Committee members if any changes have been made to the Constitution which would require approval by the Parish Council.

Cllr Hilary Dyer enquired about the nomination process to the Management Committee and the amount of members on the committee, along with the membership process, and asked if the lease has been signed.

Cllr Todd replied that he is still awaiting a response from Milton Keynes Council on a couple of matters before signing it.

FC 73/14 Ward Matters:

a) To update members on issues regarding Horseshoe Walk in Great Holm – **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

Cllr Dyer has now sent all the information to the appropriate Officer at Milton Keynes Council and will chase the matter up.

RESOLVED

That Cllr Peter Todd at the next meeting of the Loughton sports ground committee will ask the Management Committee members of the Loughton Sports & Social Club if any changes have been made to the Constitution which would require approval of the Parish Council.

FC 79/14 Questions from Members of the Public:

A member of the public asked if the rose bushes on the grass verges on Great Holm will be maintained, and that the money would be better spent on the elderly, such as coffee mornings or a drop in session.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne replied that the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group had consulted with the Milton Keynes Parks Trust who own the grass verges, before planting the rose bushes, and they said that they will maintain them and that they will be a permanent feature.

Cllr Hilary Dyer agreed that there needs to be more activities for the elderly in the area and fully supports the idea of a drop in/coffee morning.

Cllr Todd thanked the member of the public for her question and agreed as well that it was an excellent suggestion of a social drop in session for older persons in Great Holm at the Community Centre or locally and the Parish Council should look at this.

Cllr Don Hoyle suggested that the Milton Keynes Parks Trust is written too requesting that the landscape maintenance is improved, especially in areas such as Haddon on Great Holm.

Another member of the public asked about the progress as regards the Parish Council taking over the landscape maintenance?

There is a hedge and path where the member of the public lives on Loughton and residents have been maintaining their part of the hedge, but another resident has cut theirs back quite severely, and what can she do to stop this happening again?

She is also having difficulties trying to find out who owns the hedge, and has contacted Milton Keynes Council and has had no response.

Cllr Dransfield suggested supplying the Parish Council with an area map so that ownership can be ascertained.

Cllr Todd suggested to liaise with the Parish Clerk on this matter.

Cllr Todd further replied that SERCO has now taken on the contact since the 4th November, the Parish Council has been considering taking on the landscape maintenance as it could be more responsive and sympathetic to residents requirements, and is awaiting on Milton Keynes Council to progress this matter.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Parish Clerk writes to the Milton Keynes Parks Trust requesting that the landscaping maintenance is improved to a better standard.**
- 2. That the Parish Clerk to liaise with the resident concerned about the ownership of a hedge next to her property on Loughton.**

FC 80/14 To receive a Crime Statistics Report from Thames Valley Police:

PC Tony Deeble introduced himself as this was his first meeting with the Parish Council in his new role, the role itself has not changed since taking over from PC Albert Bernard who has recently retired.

PC Deeble lives in the area and has lived in Milton Keynes since the 1970's.

PC Deeble plans to meet soon with as many groups as possible including the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group, however he had recently with PCSO Christine Capstick visited Loughton Manor First School and met with the Headteacher, to see the parking issues for themselves leaflets have been printed that can be given out to residents about parking responsibly.

Cllr Todd said that he will send an invitation to PC Deeble to the next Inter Agency meeting on parking and will include PCSO Christine Capstick.

PC Deeble then produced the crime figures for October with a comparison with the October figures for last year, which are now in a new format and just covers the Parish Council area:

Great Holm

Assault occasioning ABH/GBH	One (1)
Assault without injury	One (1)
Burglary in a Dwelling	One (1)
Burglary other than in a Dwelling	One (1)
Shoplifting	One (1)
Vehicle Interference	One (1)
Other Crime	One (1)
Total October 2014	Seven (7)
Total October 2013	Twelve (12)

Loughton

Assault occasioning ABH/GBH	One (1)
Assault without injury	One (1)
Criminal Damage to a Vehicle	One (1)
Racial Public aggravated Order Offences	One (1)
Theft from a Vehicle	One (1)
Vehicle Interference	One (1)
Other Crime	Three (3)
Total October 2014	Nine (9)
Total October 2013	Sixteen (16)

Cllr Andy Dransfield suggested a running total in the year would be helpful PC Deeble said that he will make sure this happens for future reports.

The Parish Clerk was asked to email PC Deeble for an electronic copy of the crime figures report.

Cllr Hoyle requested that future reports are updated with the crimes resolved, PC Deeble said he will look into this to see if this could be done.

There then followed questions by members.

Cllr Todd thanked PC Deeble for his attendance and presenting his report.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk to email PC Deeble for an electronic copy of the crime figures report

FC 81/14 To report on Members attending external meetings:

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

Cllr Peter Ballantyne reported to the meeting that the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group had undertaken a traffic survey as requested by the Parish Council, which noted the cars arriving and departing to the car park area on Kensington Drive on Great Holm.

In the morning there were forty two (42) vehicles with twenty – four (24) children, thirty – five (35) were pupils which averaged 1.5 child per car, with a stay of 9.75 minutes per car, the survey commenced at 8:30am and there were five (5) cars already in the area.

On Porchester Close, Great Holm the vast majority of cars were parked on the pavement.

In the afternoon there were forty two (42) vehicles with 1.46 pupils per car collected, with a stay of seventeen (17) minutes per vehicle, Porchester Close was full of parked cars, on Petworth, Great Holm there was also a lot of parking and a near collision was witnessed with a vehicle trying to get through.

There were four (4) cars parked all day outside the Surgery, between 9:30am – 12:00pm there were cars parked outside the surgery, with twelve (12) cars parked there all morning.

At 3:30pm there were twelve (12) cars parked eleven (11) cars parked all day in the car park, forty – three (43) cars in total all day.

Cllr Todd thanked the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group for undertaking the parking survey.

It was proposed to hold another Inter Agency meeting when all the actions had been completed from the previous meeting.

Cllr Hilary Dyer informed the meeting that that there were four (4) new members, and six (6) bulb planting sessions had taken place, with two (2) sessions in Loughton and four (4) in Great Holm, in three (3) locations in Loughton and six (6) in Great Holm, in total there had been twenty six (26) volunteers and fifty one (51) sessions, with one hundred and ten (110) volunteer hours spent and three thousand five hundred (3,500) bulbs planted, there were twelve (12) Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group volunteers with six (6) Parish Councillors, two (2) ward Councillors and four (4) that were in both categories.

Cllr Peter Todd also thanked the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group for undertaking this work.

NOTED

Cllr Peter Ballantyne left the meeting at 9:16PM.

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

Cllr Andy Dransfield informed the meeting that he had recently attended the interview for a new Chief Fire Officer who will be in post on the 12th February, another area of London Road on Loughton had been flooded but the situation has been dealt with.

Cllr Dransfield had met with an engineer who informed him that the proposed balancing lake from the nearby housing development, will not affect the brook at the back of the Petworth Play Area on Great Holm leading to Holyrood, the grating in the past has been blocked up which has caused flooding.

Cllr Zoe Nolan said that she has been working with the Westbury Arts Centre in Shenley Wood and it has been confirmed that the artists units will be liable for individual business rates.

Cllr Nolan attended an event on the minimum wage run by KPMG, it is hoped that a similar event can be run in Milton Keynes.

The Corporate Parenting Board will shortly be presenting their findings for Milton Keynes Council to work on.

Young people from the Youth Parliament attended a meeting on votes for sixteen (16) year olds.

There are still ongoing issues with Sainsbury's on Shenley Church End relating to lighting car parking and pedestrian access, Cllr Nolan is talking with the Planning Officers and meeting with the Management of Sainsbury's to progress matters, along with the issue of litter around the site.

A resident from Holyrood on Great Holm had written concerned about possible flooding (as has happened in the past) from the proposed balancing lake at the nearby housing development, Milton Keynes Council has done a detailed report on this matter.

Cllr Nolan reported that twenty five (25) per cent of eleven (11) years old cannot swim and that swimming lessons have been dropped from the curriculum and wants to see how this can be reversed.

Issues regarding Houses in Multiple Occupation (HIMO's) has recently been discussed at Milton Keynes Council.

The Taxi Licensing report has been released today by Milton Keynes Council.

Cllr Nolan has received quite a few issues of case work relating to car parking.

Matters relating to the Milton Keynes Council budget are coming up.

Cllr Nolan has met with residents along with Cllr Hilary Dyer to discuss possible improvements to the Football area on Kensington Drive, Great Holm, and would like to use her ward budget towards any improvements.

Cllr Nolan will be working with the local Schools to introduce a Poster competition on litter and its effect on the wildlife.

There then followed questions by members.

NOTED

FC 82/14 Finance:

Members received the Finance report for the month of October 2014.

AGREED

FC 83/14 Community Asset Transfer Process Stage One - Great Holm

Community Centre:

Cllr Barry Barrington and the Parish Clerk attended a meeting with Paul Davy and the other panel members at the Civic Offices on Monday 27th October 2014, to discuss the Community Asset Transfer Stage One (1) process, regarding the Great Holm Community Centre.

Since this meeting it has been confirmed that Milton Keynes Council is willing to now go to Stage Two (2).

Cllr Barrington said that there was no agenda for the meeting and so was unsure what was expected, in attendance was a legal representative, Estates Officer, and the lead officer from Milton Keynes Council along with an independent member, it was thought that there was another interested party.

The Estates Officer enquired as to what the Parish Council was bidding for as there was some dispute as to whether the playing fields would be included, this may become clearer in the Stage Two process.

The panel asked questions on the Parish Councils budget, the level of engagement from the community, whether the Parish Council had the support of the present Management Committee and users of the Community Centre.

Cllr Barrington suggested that forms could be left in the Community Centre to be filled in by residents to gauge support, with an article in the newsletter, an online survey, with the possibility of inviting the Management Committee Members to a Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Dransfield said it was important to ascertain the level of sinking funds for repairs to the building at the Stage Two (2) process.

Cllr Todd said that Cllr Barrington has agreed to lead on this matter and was requested to work in conjunction with the Parish Clerk, a business plan will need to be worked on as this will be asked for by Milton Keynes Council at the Stage Two (2) process.

NOTED

FC 84/14 Membership of Outside Bodies for the Council Year 2014/2015:

To agree the appointment of a representative for the Council Year 2014/2015 to the following outside body:

a) Shenley Leisure Trust

Cllr Andy Dransfield nominated Cllr Don Hoyle

RESOLVED

To appoint Cllr Don Hoyle as a representative of the Parish Council to the Shenley Leisure Trust, for the Council Year 2014/2015

b) Parishes Forum

RESOLVED

To appoint Cllrs Peter Ballantyne and Barry Barrington as representatives of the Parish Council to the Parishes Forum for the Council Year 2014/2015

Cllrs Andy Dransfield and Don Hoyle left the meeting at 10:00pm

Members AGREED to extend in conjunction with the Standing Orders the time of the meeting so that all Parish Council business on the agenda could be dealt with.

FC 85/14 Planning Applications:

To determine representations to be made to Milton Keynes Council on any pending planning applications and any other action to be taken that need to be dealt with before the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

a) Pre-application for Milton Keynes Development Partnership Sites - Little Meadow, Loughton, Milton Keynes:

After some discussion members felt that the Parish Council should object to the Little Meadow site's inclusion in the Milton Keynes Development Partnership Business Plan, as one of the Priority Sites identified for housing.

The objections were that Little Meadow is a beautiful area of nature that helps to underpin Loughton's reputation for its green and open spaces, and that there is not a need for large houses in the area and access restrictions would make a development of larger houses difficult. The building of smaller houses would not be in keeping with the immediate surrounding area, thus making this small piece of nature challenging to develop in a way that would benefit both the immediate and wider community, and that Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council urges the Milton Keynes Development Partnership to remove the Little Meadow site from their Business Plan.

Cllr Barry Barrington was asked in conjunction with the Chair of the Planning Committee Cllr Andy Sargent to draft a letter of objection to the Milton Keynes Development Partnership, and to circulate to all members for approval before sending the letter out.

RESOLVED

That Cllr Barry Barrington in conjunction with the Chair of the Planning Committee Cllr Andy Sargent to draft a letter of objection to the Milton Keynes Development Partnership, to urge them to remove the Little Meadow Loughton site from their Business Plan and to circulate to all members for approval before sending the letter out.

b) 14/02343/FUL 25 Chawton Crescent Great Holm Milton Keynes MK8 9EG Single storey front extension to garage - **Pending Consideration**

Cllr Zoe Nolan informed the meeting that the applicant has been in contact with her and that his property backs onto hers and she declared a pecuniary interest and played no further part in the discussion.

RESOLVED

That the Planning Committee will discuss this planning application at its next meeting.

FC 86/14 Ward Matters:

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

To discuss the Milton Keynes Parks Trust on planting on the side of the grid roads – **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

Recent boundary clearance work, to give a 4 metre gap between residents' fences and the Parks Trusts landscaping, has resulted in most of the evergreen shrubbery in this area being destroyed. In the remaining strip of landscaping, which is quite narrow compared to the usual depth of grid road landscaping, there are several areas where the trees/shrubbery is very sparse or non-existent.

This area of landscaping now looks well below the Parks Trusts usual high standards and gives a very poor first impression of Great Holm.

To propose that Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council writes to Arran Newton, the Parks Trust Landscape Officer, regarding the unacceptable state of the landscaping adjoining Great Holm along the H5 Portway between its junctions with Attingham Hill and Kensington Drive, and to highlight in the letter the following points:

1. The addition of evergreen shrubs to the remaining landscaping to give screening during winter months.
2. The replanting of trees and shrubs in the remaining section where there are several large bare areas

3. The landscaping to be extended into the grass verge to give an increased depth of shrubbery

RESOLVED

That Cllr Hilary Dyer to draft a letter and circulate to the Parish Clerk to send to Arran Newton, the Milton Keynes Parks Trust Landscape Officer.

To ask the Parish Clerk to seek three (3) quotes for the cost of repainting the metal railings of the bridge over the Loughton brook in Linceslade Grove, Loughton, and to agree to seek permission from Milton Keynes Council to carry out the works – **Cllr Peter Todd**

RESOLVED

1. **That the Parish Clerk to seek three (3) quotes for the cost of repainting the metal railings of the bridge over the Loughton brook in Linceslade Grove, Loughton.**
2. **That the Parish Clerk to seek permission from Milton Keynes Council to carry out the works.**
3. **That the Parish Clerk to see if the Community Volunteers scheme could undertake the work for free.**

FC 87/14 To note the update list of projects and other work:

The Parish Clerk updated members on the outstanding items on the update list for projects and other items of work, a response has been made from the Milton Keynes Angling Association who say they will put a notice on their notice board and at their next Executive Committee meeting, ask members not to park on the grass verges, the work to the Loughton Planter will be going ahead.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne earlier requested that dates are included when projects and other works have been undertaken, in the list for the next meeting.

RESOLVED

To include dates when projects and other works have been undertaken, in the list for the next meeting.

FC 88/14 Cheques for Payment:

All cheques as presented for payment were

AGREED

Date and time of Next Meeting:

Monday 22nd December 2014 7:30pm at The Loughton Memorial Hall, Bradwell Road, Loughton Milton Keynes

THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 10:07PM

Signed _____ Chair Date _____