

Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council

The Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 16th June 2014 9:38pm at Holmwood School, Kensington Drive, Great Holm, Milton Keynes

Present: Cllrs Peter Todd (Chair), Barry Barrington (Vice-Chair), Peter Ballantyne, Andy Dransfield (until 10:03pm), Hilary Dyer, Don Hoyle (until 10:03pm), Zoe Nolan, Isobel Procter (until 10:03pm), Andy Sargent

Also present: Brian Barton (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: Five (5) members of the public

Also in attendance: Cllr Matt Clifton (Loughton & Shenley Ward – Milton Keynes Council), Sandra Reed (Secretary of the Patients Participation Forum – Hilltops Surgery, Great Holm), Julie Foster (Great Holm resident), Simon Kirkman (Loughton Sports & Social Club & Sports Ground Management Committee).

FC 17/14 Apologies:

Received from Cllr Sandra Boland

NOTED

FC 18/14 Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

NOTED

FC 19/14 Minutes of the previous meeting:

Held on Monday 23rd April 2014

To delete under Present: “Procter” and replace with “Procter”

Agenda item: FC 235/14 Date and time of Next Meeting:

To add “That the meeting agreed not to meet on Monday 12th May 2014, but to hold the next meeting for Monday 16th June 2014” to delete “Holmwood School, Kensington Drive, Great Holm, Milton Keynes” as the venue was not discussed and agreed to at this meeting.

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

AGREED

FC 20/14 Matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda:

There were no matters arising.

NOTED

FC 21/14 Questions from Members of the Public:

There were no questions from members of the public.

NOTED

FC 22/14 To receive a Crime Statistics Report from Thames Valley Police:

The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that PC Albert Bernard had written to say, that due to an upgrade to the Thames Valley Police computer system, it was now not possible for him to produce monthly crime statistic reports.

However PC Bernard did say that he did not recall any significant crimes.

Cllr Zoe Nolan said that she was aware of a robbery that took place on Saturday 28th May 2014 at the Londis Store, Great Holm, in the evening; it seems to be linked with robberies at other Londis stores.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk writes to the Thames Valley Police Area Commander expressing disappointment, that monthly crime statistic reports cannot now be given due to the new computer system, and would hope that this problem can be rectified for the future.

FC 23/14 To report on external meetings:

Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group – Cllr Hilary Dyer

The Action Group would like to use some of the Parish Council grant monies towards more turf to repair the grass verges on Great Holm, and for materials to make bird boxes.

On Kensington Drive, Great Holm where there is an s bend on the corner of Goodwood, damage is occurring to the grass verges by heavy goods vehicles, and the action group would like the Parish Council's support in getting the repairs done by Milton Keynes Council.

The Annual General Meeting took place on Thursday 5th June 2014 and Cllr Peter Ballantyne was re-elected as the Chairman, voluntary secretarial support is needed to write out the agendas and minutes.

Milton Keynes Council Ward Members Report

Cllr Don Hoyle reported that he has made enquiries with Milton Keynes Council as to whether the housing voids report will be implemented, as previous reports tend to go to committees with a list of recommendations but do not get acted upon, but this report should be brought back in six (6) months' time to a meeting of Milton Keynes Council.

Cllr Hoyle has managed to get two (2) grit bins one (1) in Great Holm and one (1) in Shenley Church End; they have not yet been installed.

The sale of land in Newport Pagnall for housing has been called in, the surplus made would have been reinvested to fund a training ground for the MKDons.

Cllr Andy Dransfield reported that there is now a new administration running Milton Keynes Council, members asked questions concerning the progress of the Badminton Centre site planning application which permission has been granted for,

Milton Keynes Council has proposed to the Milton Keynes Parks Trust to exchange their piece of land for the lease of Emberton Park, talks are ongoing.

Cllr Zoe Nolan informed that meeting that she is a member of the Children and Young Persons, Housing and Corporate Parents Scrutiny Committees.

Cllr Barry Barrington reported on the recent Parishes Forum meeting that he had attended, which discussed maintenance on street signs, grass cutting, and the landscaping contract which has been awarded to Serco.

Cllr Peter Todd with the Parish Clerk had recently attended a Management Committee meeting of the Loughton Sports and Social Club and Sports Ground.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group is permitted to spend on projects and or items from the grant by the Parish Council for which it is intended for, without the need to seek the approval of a meeting of Council (as long as invoices and receipts are produced for accounting purposes).**
- 2. That the Parish Clerk writes to Milton Keynes Council to ask that repairs are undertaken on damage to the grass verges by heavy goods vehicles on Kensington Drive, Great Holm at the s bend on the corner of Goodwood.**

Cllr Isabel Proctor informed the meeting that due to the time, (standing orders indicate that meetings should finish by 10:30pm), that all remaining business should be held over until the next meeting.

Cllr Peter Todd moved that the meeting should continue for another thirty (30) minutes to ensure all agenda items are dealt with.

When put to the vote it was **AGREED** to continue with the meeting for another thirty (30) minutes to ensure all the remaining business on the agenda is dealt with.

Cllr Andy Dransfield requested that his vote is recorded against, and his protest of continuing with the meeting at such a late hour.

Cllrs Andy Dransfield, Don Hoyle and Isabell Proctor then left the meeting at 10:03pm.

FC 24/14 To discuss the Devolved Landscaping Service from Milton Keynes Council to the Parish Council:

The Chairman informed the meeting that he and the Parish Clerk had met with Andy Hudson and John Pryor at Milton Keynes Council, the Chairman put a more detailed account of the meeting, which members can read on the blog which is on the Parish Council website.

If the Parish Council were minded to take on this service, then a grant would be given of £58,000 (pre rata) from November, the present contractor Serco could still be taken on or another contractor by a tendering process.

Cllr Hilary Dyer felt that if the Parish Council is minded to take on this devolved service, then the Parish Council should demand that all landscaping and open spaces are up to an acceptable standard before being handed over.

NOTED

FC 25/13 Planning Applications:

There were no planning applications to consider.

NOTED

FC 26/14 Ward Matters:

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

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

RESOLVED

- 1. To undertake consultation with nearby residents**
- 2. To seek agreement from the landowner**
- 3. To put an online survey on the website and an article in the newsletter regarding the residents consultation**

b) To discuss the arrangements for the Britain in Bloom judging in the Loughton & Great Holm Parish area – **Cllr Peter Ballantyne**

The judges will be visiting the Lakeview Village Green on Thursday 17th July 2014 at 12:16pm, followed by a visit to the Millennium Meadow on Loughton at 12:55pm.

NOTED

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**

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk writes to Milton Keynes Council to request a blanket Tree Preservation Order (TPO) on all of the trees on Horseshoe Walk, Great Holm

d) To discuss a response to Milton Keynes Councils Development Control Directorate on the lack of time for the Parish Council to be able to respond, discuss and determine on local planning applications – **Cllr Hilary Dyer**

Cllr Dyer requested that this item is withdrawn.

NOTED

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

RESOLVED

- 1. To publicise on the Parish Council website the closure of Dansteed Way grid road and the nearby Redway by Great Holm due to the upgrading of the sewerage system.**

2. To put the closure of Dansteed Way grid road and the nearby Redway on the agenda of the planned Inter Agency Meeting.
3. That the Parish Clerk writes to Milton Keynes Council asking if a consultation exercise will be undertaken informing residents of Kensington Drive, Great Holm regarding the closure of Dansteed Way grid road and the nearby Redway, and to ask why the closure will be taking place for so long

f) To discuss the Patients Participation Group meeting at Hilltops Surgery on Great Holm – **Cllr Zoe Nolan**

The Hilltops Surgery is moving onto an internet based appointments system, but there are concerns about the number of missed appointments.

RESOLVED

To put an article on the Parish Council website publicising the new internet appointments system and the issue of missed appointments.

g) To discuss concerns raised by a resident of Great Holm regarding the Garden of Remembrance and other matters relating to Crownhill Crematorium – **Cllr Zoe Nolan**

Cllr Zoe Nolan has received an email from Julie Foster a resident of Great Holm, listing the points to be raised with Milton Keynes Council that should be included in the letter to be sent, as agreed earlier in the meeting.

RESOLVED

To include the following comments in the letter to be sent to Milton Keynes Council regarding the Garden of Remembrance and other matters relating to Crownhill Crematorium:

1. The garden appears neglected (and does not seem to receive any priority in terms of resources)
2. The maintenance of the garden needs to be more skilled than the current contract allows.
3. The pond is green from algae and completely neglected.
4. The benches are not clean for sitting on and have weeds growing between the slats.
5. There is a high cost to place a bench for example about £1000.
6. Following previous complaints there were a number of quick improvements put in place nothing has been sustained over time.
7. Memorial kerb plaques are obscured by plants/weeds.
8. Christmas decorations are still around in June.
9. Previously volunteers were offering to work with the crematorium to sensitively improve this area the offer was not been taken forward.

h) To discuss the proposed building at the Badminton Centre, Bradwell, Road, Loughton Lodge – **Cllr Zoe Nolan**

RESOLVED

That the Parish Clerk writes to the Lead Planning Officer Debbie Kirk to seek an update on the Badminton Centre site planning application.

Cllr Andy Sargent moved and Cllr Barry Barrington seconded that as it was now over 10:30pm that the meeting should continue for another thirty (30) minutes to ensure all agenda items are dealt with.

When put to the vote it was **AGREED** to continue with the meeting for another thirty (30) minutes to ensure all the remaining business on the agenda is dealt with.

FC 27/14 To consider/approve the following items relating to the maintenance/repair of the Loughton Sports Ground:

a) To consider sponsoring the 25th Anniversary event to be held over a three (3) day period for a sum of £1,000

RESOLVED

To sponsor the 25th Anniversary event for the sum of £1,000, subject to the lease being signed by the Management Committee

b) To agree to pay SGS Landscaping services £450 to form a cricket pitch along with weeding, feeding, grass cutting and strimming

RESOLVED

To pay SGS Landscaping services £450 to form a cricket pitch along with weeding, feeding, grass cutting and strimming, subject to the lease being signed by the Management Committee

c) To agree to pay SGS Landscaping Services for grass cutting of the Loughton Sports Ground in August

RESOLVED

To agree to pay SGS Landscaping Services for grass cutting of the Loughton Sports Ground in August, subject to the lease being signed by the Management Committee

d) To agree to create a committee of the Loughton Sports Ground and the Terms of Reference

RESOLVED

- 1. To agree to create a committee of the Loughton Sports Ground. And to appoint the Parish Council representatives who will be Cllrs Sandra Boland and Peter Todd**
- 2. To agree the Terms of Reference of the Loughton Sports Ground Committee.**

FC 28/14 Cheques for Payment:

All cheques as presented were authorised for payment.

AGREED

Date and time of Next Meeting:

Monday 21st July 2014 7:30pm at the Loughton Memorial Hall, Bradwell Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes

THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 11:21PM

Signed _____ Chair Date _____