

Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council

Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18th April 2016, 7:30pm at the National Badminton Centre, Bradwell Road, Loughton Lodge

Present: Cllrs Peter Todd (Chair), Peter Ballantyne, Hilary Dyer, John Howe, Claire Jones, Zoe Nolan

Also present:

Brian Barton (Parish Clerk)

In attendance:

Mr Roger Blackburn (Clerk to the Hugh Parke Charity Trust),
Mr Bijoy Matthews (Manager of the Approved Premises on Great Holm),
Mrs Pamela Tarshish (Chair of the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group),
Mr Ken Vaughan (Site Representative of the Greenhill Close, Loughton, Allotments),
PCSO Maria Tomiolo (Thames Valley Police).

Also in attendance:

Twenty-five (25) members of the public

FC 160/16 Hustings event concerning the local council elections to be held on Thursday 5th May 2016, and for representatives from the Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrats to set out their programme if their party were to form the administration on Milton Keynes Council:

The Chair Cllr Peter Todd explained about the format of the meeting, and invited Mrs Pamela Tarshish to Chair the meeting for this agenda item only.

The Chair tossed a coin and Cllr Zoe Nolan was the first to speak.

Cllr Nolan the Labour Party Candidate spoke on her achievements as Ward Councillor, and her involvement in the community, and why she would like to be re-elected for another term.

Cllr John Howe the Conservative Party candidate introduced himself and gave a background to his involvement in the community and why he would like to be elected as a Ward Councillor.

There then followed questions by members of the public.

Topics covered were mainly relating to the land gifted by Milton Keynes Council to the National Badminton Centre, to which residents sought assurances that both candidates would oppose any proposals for a housing development, and were in agreement that they would listen to residents' concerns and oppose such a development.

Other questions centred on the closure of the Great Holm Fire Station and as candidates whether they would oppose their party's line on any matters that they disagreed with.

The Chair thanked Cllrs Howe and Nolan for their statements and members of the public for their questions.

Cllr Peter Todd then took the Chair for the rest of the meeting and thanked Mrs Tarshish.

NOTED

FC 161/16 To receive reports from the following local community organisations:

(a) Mr Bijoy Mathew – Operations Manager of the Approved Premises on Great Holm

Mr Matthew spoke about the management of the Approved Premises on Great Holm, and took pride that since they have been based in the community for over thirty (30) years, they have had very little in the way of complaints and that not many residents were aware of the approved premises, which showed how well it had been managed.

There then followed questions.

The Chair thanked Mr Matthew for his presentation.

(b) Mr Kenneth Vaughan – Site Manager of the Greenhill Close Allotments on Loughton

Mr Vaughan highlighted the issues that need to be dealt with on the allotment site, which are that the allotment waiting list is still too large and stands currently at twenty-four (24).

The trees on the western boundary are producing too much shade for plots in the immediate vicinity; Cllr Zoe Nolan is tackling the problem with Milton Keynes Council.

Achievements so far Mr Vaughan said were that the water supply is turned off over the winter period to avoid problems due to frost.

Mr Vaughan has visited two (2) allotment sites in Milton Keynes (Stony Stratford and Bletchley) to see if any tips were available for running the allotment site better.

A Skip has been hired and junk from the site removed.

Four (4) new allotment holders have taken over plots this current year.

Approximately thirty (30) tonnes of compost and ten (10) tonnes of manure delivered to the allotment site over the year.

All annual rents have been collected in reasonable time.

After a small spend by the Parish Council for repairs there have since been no major problems with the allotment gates.

A site audit has been conducted with the Parish Clerk and has highlighted no major problems with the plots.

The Chair thanked Mr Vaughan for his presentation.

(c) Mrs Pamela Tarshish – Chair of the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group

Mrs Tarshish explained to the meeting the functions of a Neighbourhood Action Group.

Activities undertaken by the Neighbourhood Action Group include annual public consultations, where residents were asked what they enjoy and don't enjoy about living in Loughton & Great Holm. Last year this took place outside the Coop store in Great Holm, and at the scarecrow trail in Loughton.

This year the L&GH NAG joined in the Keep Britain Tidy 'Clean for the Queen Campaign' and L&GH NAG members, volunteers, and the PCSO team, with the support of SERCO, Ringway and Turners Nurseries, spent two (2) hours walking the Redways and open spaces around some of the Parish area and in two (2) hours collected over fifty (50) sacks of litter, and cleaned many of the street signs at the ends of roads, drives, closes and courts.

The L&GH NAG has launched a volunteer Local Litter Warden scheme. Residents volunteer to keep a small part of their area litter free it can be the route of their regular walk, commute or dog walk, or their street. Volunteers are provided with industrial litter pickers; sacks; gloves; L&GH NAG-branded hi viz vests and of course Health and Safety training.

L&GH NAG will also be organising monthly 'deep cleans' of areas with persistent litter problems (the underpasses and play areas) and Milton Keynes Council will join in removing graffiti at the same time.

L&GH NAG are also helping Milton Keynes Council to promote their recycle and reward scheme.

L&GH NAG have planted plants and bulbs across the Parish area thanks to a generous donation from Dobbies in Watling Street. With displays of daffodils at most of the entrances to Great Holm and Loughton off the main grid roads; at the Obelisk and play areas in Great Holm, and in Leys Road and Church Lane in Loughton.

A new herbaceous bed on Lakeside Green in Great Holm, and refurbishment of the planters outside Loughton First School are projects which were started last year and due for completion by the summer.

Two (2) bee hotels have been made and are now installed in Great Holm (on the Wall on the Haddon entrance to Great Holm) and Loughton (Loughton Pavilion

Sports Club). They join the bird boxes which were installed last year around the Parish area.

L&GH NAG also conducted Environmental Visual Audits of the Parish area, where anything of concern or that needs fixing was reported to Milton Keynes Council. Over 75% of these issues have been attended to. Others, such as replacing worn Redway signs are still pending with Milton Keynes Council.

L&GH NAG also work closely with The Milton Keynes Parks Trust. Residents expressed frustration about commuter parking in car parks at the Tear Drop Lakes. The Milton Keynes Parks Trust had also received complaints and as a result there is now signage in place and the issue has considerably improved.

Last year the L&GH NAG worked closely with the Parish Council, Holmwood School, Hilltops Surgery, and Milton Keynes Council.

L&GH NAG members conducted two (2) traffic surveys and a Public Meeting, before handing the matter over to the Parish Council.

This year the L&GH NAG together with the PCSO team will be working to find ways to encourage more responsible driving and parking around the Parish.

The L&GH NAG has leaflets which are left on cars which are irresponsibly parked.

This summer will see the L&GH NAG holding a community event "Picnic on the Green" on Sunday July 3rd at Lakeside Green in Great Holm.

For most of this time, the NAG has been chaired by Cllr Peter Ballantyne, who in July last year decided to step down as did Joan Francombe, the Vice Chair. Mrs Tarshish thanked them for all that they have done and continue to do, and to everyone on the committee.

The L&GH NAG are very grateful for the support they receive from Thames Valley Police, The Milton Keynes Parks Trust, Milton Keynes Council and local businesses including: Dobbies, Sainsbury's, Ringway, SERCO and Turners Nurseries and for the support from the Parish Council.

The Chair thanked Mrs Tarshish for her presentation.

(d) Mr Roger Blackburn – Clerk to the Hugh Parke Charity Trust

Mr Blackburn informed the meeting that the Rev Hugh Parke is buried at All Saints Church and passed away over 500 years ago.

The Charity issues small grants to residents in the parish area who are in need and gave examples of how the trust had helped residents who had applied for assistance.

Mr Blackburn thanked Cllr Hilary Dyer for her years of involvement as the Parish Council's representative on the trust, and said he looked forward to working with Cllr Sandra Boland who had been appointed as her replacement.

The Chair thanked Mr Blackburn for his presentation.

NOTED

FC 162/16 Members of the public and press are invited to attend and an opportunity will be given for parishioners to speak and ask questions during this public session:

There were no questions from members of the public.

NOTED

Ordinary Meeting

FC 163/16 To receive and approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 20th April 2015:

RESOLVED

To defer the approval of the minutes of the Parish meeting to the next Parish Council meeting

FC 164/16 Apologies:

Were received from Cllrs Sandra Boland, Andy Dransfield, Thomas Gray and Andy Sargent

NOTED

FC 165/16 Declarations of interest:

There were no declarations of interest

NOTED

FC 166/16 Minutes of previous meetings:

To receive and approve as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on:

- Monday 21st March 2016

To note the minutes of the Finance & Staffing Committee held on:

- Thursday 30th March 2016

To note the minutes of the Planning Committee held on:

- Monday 4th April 2016

RESOLVED

To defer the approval and noting of the minutes as tabled, to the next Parish Council meeting

FC 167/16 Matters arising from the previous minutes not on the agenda:

FC 148/16 Questions from Members of the Public:

Cllr Hilary Dyer asked if Mr Adrian Carden Traffic and Transport Officer at Milton Keynes Council had responded to the Parish Council's request for possible traffic calming measures on Highgrove Hill, Great Holm.

The Parish Clerk responded that he had written to Mr Carden but had not received a response, but will write to him again.

FC 150/16 To report on Members attending external meetings:

Cllr Dyer asked if Mr Adrian Christy Chief Executive Officer of Badminton England will attend and speak at the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne also pointed out that it was proposed to invite Mr David Foster Chief Executive Officer of the Milton Keynes Parks Trust, to address the next Parish Council meeting.

The Chair suggested that the speakers proposed to address the next Parish Council meeting are invited either at the June or July meetings.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Parish Clerk to write again to Mr Adrian Carden Traffic and Transport Manager at Milton Keynes Council on the Parish Council's request for possible traffic calming measures on Highgrove Hill, Great Holm.**
- 2. That Mr Adrian Christy Chief Executive Officer of Badminton England and Mr David Foster Chief Executive Officer of the Milton Keynes Parks Trust be invited to the June or July Parish Council meeting.**

FC 168/16 Questions from Members of the Public:

There were no questions from members of the public.

NOTED

FC 169/16 To receive the crime statistics report and figures for March 2016 from Thames Valley Police:

The crime statistics for March 2016 were as follows:

Loughton

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Assault without injury | one (1) |
| Burglary in a Dwelling (attempt only) | one (1) |
| Theft Other | one (1) |

Great Holm

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Burglary other than in a Dwelling | two (2) |
| Public order offences | one (1) |
| Shoplifting | two (2) |

The National Bowl

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Theft of a Vehicle | one (1) |
|--------------------|---------|

Total March 2016 nine (9)

Total March 2015 Fifteenth (15)

PCSO Maria Tomiolo had been called away earlier in the meeting to attend to an incident and so could not present the crime statistics report or answer any questions.

Cllr John Howe was concerned that a representative from Thames Valley Police has not recently been able to attend, and wondered if this was due to where the item was placed in the agenda, meaning that they had to wait about too long, until they were due to speak, and wondered if there was any merit in inviting a representative from Thames Valley Police on a bi monthly basis.

Cllr Zoe Nolan informed the meeting that a robbery had taken place at a shop on Two Mile Ash, although not in the Parish area but it is used by many local residents.

The Parish Clerk was asked to contact PC Tony Deeble to ask for further details on this incident.

Cllr Nolan asked the Parish Clerk if he had received any feedback from PC Deeble on the incident of the attack to a young lady on the redway near to the Crownhill Crematorium, the Parish Clerk replied that PC Deeble had informed him that the investigation is still ongoing and has nothing further to report back on at this stage.

RESOLVED

That The Parish Clerk to contact PC Tony Deeble to ask for further details on a robbery that had taken place at a shop on Two Mile Ash.

FC 170/16 To agree the draft Protocol between the Loughton & Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group and the Parish Council:

The Chair informed the meeting that the Protocol had been discussed at the last meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee, and some alterations were made.

Cllr Peter Ballantyne said that he understood that there needs to be due diligence when spending money but was against the protocol in principle.

Cllr Hilary Dyer was concerned that the protocol could delay spending on future projects, and felt it was too heavy handed, the L&GH NAG should be accountable as to how they spend their money and spend it wisely.

Cllr John Howe suggested that the protocol is looked into again at the next Finance & Staffing Committee, and that the Chair of the L&GH NAG is invited to attend.

Cllr Dyer requested that the £300 earmarked to spend for the purchase of shrubs to be planted be approved, which the meeting agreed to.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the protocol is considered at the next meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee.**
- 2. To invite the Chair of the L&GH NAG to attend the next meeting of the Finance & Staffing Committee.**
- 3. That the expenditure of £300 for the purchase of shrubs is agreed.**

FC 171/16 To consider the Home Working Risk Assessment and to agree any items that need to be actioned:

RESOLVED

To defer this agenda item to the next Parish Council meeting

FC 172/16 To update members on the proposed refurbishment of the Petworth Park play area on Great Holm:

RESOLVED

To defer this agenda item to the next Parish Council meeting

FC 173/16 To agree a quote from Cloudbabove at £50 plus VAT a year to host the Parish Council's present website:

RESOLVED

To agree the quote from Cloudbabove at £50 plus VAT a year to host the Parish Council's present website

FC 174/16 To consider the quotes for the roof replacement of the Loughton sports pavilion/and or other action in relation to that, including expenditure:

RESOLVED

- 1. To submit a planning application to Milton Keynes Council for the replacement roof of the Loughton sports pavilion, with either a natural or composite tile material**
- 2. To defer consideration of the submitted quotes to the next Parish Council meeting**

FC 175/16 Electric Daisy Carnival event to be held at the Milton Keynes Bowl on Saturday 9th July 2016:

Cllr John Howe suggested that that the following roads, have parking restrictions placed on them, Bradwell Road, Ashpole Furlong, London Road and Redland Drive, on Loughton and those roads leading off from them.

Members pointed out that at the previous event damage was caused at the Tear Drop Lakes area on Loughton Lodge by inconsiderate parking, and would like to see parking spaces designated for the event.

Members also suggested that a through litter pick of the area is made during and after the event.

The Parish Clerk was asked to write to Milton Keynes Council with the points raised by Members.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the following roads, have parking restrictions placed on them, Bradwell Road, Ashpole Furlong, London Road and Redland Drive, on Loughton and those roads leading off from them.**
- 2. That there are designated parking spaces at the Tear Drop Lakes area on Loughton Lodge to prevent inconsiderate parking.**
- 3. That the Parish Clerk to write to Milton Keynes Council with the points raised by Members.**

FC 176/16 Cheques for Payment:

Cllrs John Howe and Claire Jones raised their concerns about the over spend on the budget for the newsletter.

RESOLVED

To agree the items for payment as listed

FC 177/16 Date and time of Next Meeting:

Annual Meeting Monday 16th May 2016, at the Loughton Memorial Hall, Bradwell Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes

THE CHAIRMAN CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9:55PM

Signed _____ Chair Date _____