



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 08/04/19 at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, 87 Kensington Drive, Great Holm MK8 9AY

An election poll was called for Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council for 02/05/19. Therefore, the meeting and reports were presented by the Parish Clerk.

Councillors present: Councillors Todd (Chair), Nolan (Vice-Chair), Dransfield, Dyer, Ballantyne, Howe, Gray, Boland and Jones (left early).

Staff present: Bev Field (Parish Clerk), Gemma Brooks (Premises Assistant)

Members of the public present: 84

Apologies were received from Councillor Sargent.

APM01/19 Welcome: Residents from Loughton and Great Holm were welcomed by Councillor Todd, the Chair of Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council, for the annual community meeting.

APM02/19 Great Holm Community Centre. This building was transferred to the Parish Council in June 2018, and a significant refurbishment was undertaken during August, with improvements continuing to be made during the school holidays. Current groups were able to continue to use the hall, and new bookings are now open. The Parish Council aimed to make the Centre a pleasant environment suitable for all residents who would like to use the Centre. The meeting was held in the Centre to show residents the changes.

APM03/19 Community Groups: presentations were made by groups who use the Community Centre including Open Circle who explained they have social and spiritual activities, like using crystals for readings, and the value of the supportive friendships made in the group. New members are always welcome. Sivapatha Natyalya dance group are part of the Tamil-speaking community and presented several dances that the members work on. First Crownhill Brownies and the Pre School were unable to attend. They provide good quality care and education to pre-schoolers and older children and would be pleased to hear from anyone wishing to join or attend.

APM04/19 Use of the Community Centre: The Community Centre now has a weekend team to help with bookings and make improvements to the Centre. Gemma Brooks was introduced as the new Premises Assistant. Contact details are on the Parish Council website and enquiries can be made to Gemma Brooks on 0789 559 6398 or e-mail to gemma.brooks@loughtonandgreatholm-pc.gov.uk Gemma will be pleased to help with viewings and arranging bookings.

APM05/19 Sports Pavilion in Loughton: The management company of the Sports and Social Club notified the Parish Council that they would be declaring voluntary insolvency in August 2018. The Parish Council has worked hard to consult residents on how they would like the Pavilion to be used in the future, and to seek business proposals for managing the Pavilion. Football has continued during this time with Tattenhoe Youth Football Club and football will increase next season. The Parish Council has continued to fund the free sessions with Milton Keynes Play Association and MK Dons football. The Pavilion is about to undergo a refurbishment from ceiling to floor to bring it to a reasonable standard, starting on 23/04/19.

APM06/19 Future use of the Sports Pavilion: Barry Ashley from The Grumpy Cook Café explained the plans for a café at the Pavilion. He will be providing a light snacks menu with cakes and a range of drinks opening 8.00am-6.00pm 7 days a week. Community groups will be welcome to use the space in the Pavilion for activities and meetings, and the café will work with the sports teams to provide refreshments for players and spectators. The café aims to open in July 2019 and everyone is welcome.

A short break took place. Councillor Jones left at 9.06pm

APM07/19 Minutes: The draft minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 16/04/18 were approved and signed as an accurate record.

APM08/19 Report for 2018/19: The Parish Clerk updated the meeting on the delivery of the Parish Council business plan for 2018/19.

APM09/19 Q&A: The Chair invited all the members of the Parish Council present to join him in taking questions and comments from residents as follows:

Q. Can you introduce yourselves?

A. Each Councillor introduced themselves.

Q. Why did you cut down the 2 beautiful trees in the football field?

A. The Parish Council was advised by Serco that they were not in good condition and they blocked the view of spectators. However, the roots were left and are unsightly, this is being rectified this year and the area re-grassed (Cllr Todd).

Q. There are some dead horse-chestnut trees in the Parish, who will remove them?

A. There is a disease called 'bleeding canker' causing a problem. Milton Keynes Council (MKC) are undertaking a tree survey this year. The Parish Council is paying to take out 2 dead trees in The Green, Loughton this year. To report a dangerous tree to MKC you can log a request on the MKC website (Cllr Todd).

A. Originally horse-chestnuts were planted by the Development Corporation and passed to MKC. There was funding for maintenance, so the trees should be replaced (Cllr Dransfield).

A. The Parish is doing a lot more to improve the landscaping now, because MKC are doing much less, and suggestions from residents are welcome (Cllr Dyer).

Q. The bushes near the school along Ashpole Furlong are full of weeds and should be kept tidy.

A. This is the responsibility of MKC. The Parish Council does top-up work but where plants are needing to be replaced MKC are not renewing them (Cllr Todd).

A. Thank you to the Loughton Environmental Group (LEG) who planted spring bulbs this year, and to the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) who do litter-picking and plant bulbs. The Parks Trust volunteers also do great work around Lodge Lake. (Cllr Nolan).

A. The Parish is grateful that residents contribute, and this makes a huge difference (Cllr Dyer).

A. The NAG welcomes and needs new volunteers, the group meets monthly and wants to get things done around the Parish (Cllr Ballantyne).

Q. Thanks to Jan who is the Chair of the NAG (applause). If something is dirty, clean it. If there is no money, we should all take responsibility to clean our own streets.

Q. Lorries are driving over the verges and causing damage outside the shop and off Linceslade Grove. We need yellow lines or to put rocks down to stop them. People will observe yellow lines.

A. Grass-crete can be used successfully, it is a problem as the bins need collecting and enforcement is an issue. Serco say it is difficult for them to get around parked cars (Cllr Nolan).

A. Cavendish Court had grass-crete put in. The grass does grow through, but then the lorries are not a problem to the grass. That was a success (Cllr Ballantyne).

A. As Chair of governors at Loughton School for many years, I found that inconsiderate drivers will park on the lines anyways. We tried notices, the police, talks and letters, but sometimes the drivers were rude (Cllr Dransfield).

Q. What can you do? There is a house having work on the corner of Ashpole Furlong with vehicles and a crane parked on the verge and it is all churned up. A further question was asked concerning this type of situation, which was occurring by Grove School.

A. We tried enforcement stickers and flyers on the car windows, and they were completely ignored. Haddon is so busy. (Cllr Gray)

A. It needs addressing at the planning stage. Insist that rectifying such damage is a planning condition. As neighbours, you can watch the works and contact the planning enforcement team if they don't do it. The Parish Council can support you and the Chair of the Planning Committee (Councillor Sargent) will go along

and make representations. It will need proof. I think that Grove School had this as a planning condition and the Committee could take it up with MKC (Cllr Dransfield).

Q. What about a change in the law?

A. The Planning Committee doesn't make the decisions but is entitled to comment to MKC (Cllr Dyer).

Q. Congratulations to the Parish Council on the Pavilion development (applause). Is there a budget for it?

A. The previous tenant paid around £2,500 per year rent but the new rent is agreed at £15,000.00 per year. The building needed investment as it was dilapidated and had not been invested in as a facility for 35 years. The refurbishment will cost around £40,000.00 and will ensure it is a long-term asset for the community. (Cllr Todd).

Q. I heard there is a waiting list of 21 people for an allotment. What's the point of going on it? What happened to all the people on the list?

A. For the new Data Protection Regulations, the waiting list was reviewed last year, and consent was sought to keep people's details on a list. Despite several contacts, quite a few people did not respond, therefore the list was reduced dramatically from 29 to 11 people. Currently, there is a waiting list of 7 people. Please consider going on the list, so that you can have the opportunity of a plot if you want one on the future. You can e-mail or ring me tomorrow and I can send you an application form (Parish Clerk).

Q. Could the spare land near to Loughton Manor School be used for parking?

A. I monitored the parking one morning. It seemed quite reasonable up until a point, and then there was 10 minutes of mayhem. The drivers are stressed, and it can be dangerous. The police have been called but it is a perennial problem. The land is owned by MK Community Foundation and will be sold at market value (£160,000 at the last enquiry) and they must approve that the use will be for the public benefit (Cllr Todd).

A. I have been a governor there and the schools in our area were not built with parking in mind. They shouldn't have been built there, and the schools do try to manage the problem. The manager of the Talbot said that people using the car park were abusive to staff and they need to manage the use of their car park for their customers (Cllr Howe).

A. The community drop-in is described in the business plan as for the elderly. It has changed a lot and many of us who go are not elderly. It is for the whole community and you are welcome to come on the first Tuesday of every month from 10.00am. Please come. (Cllr Dyer)

In conclusion, Councillor Todd said that the Parish Meeting is for the residents. The Parish Council is so pleased that so many people came this evening and could hear about the work the Parish is doing to refurbish and make nice premises. Parish Council meetings are always open to the public and you can attend them. Thank you to the Parish Clerk for organising the evening.

The meeting close at 9.56pm

Signed

Date: