



Minutes of the Meeting of Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council held at the Community Centre in Great Holm on Monday 21 June 2021 at 7.30pm

Councillors present: Councillors Nayee (in the Chair), Altieri-Douglas, Howe, Hoyle (from 9:10pm), Nolan, Todd.

Staff : Philip Compton (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public present: 3

FC31/20 Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bailey, Dyer, Feeney, Sargent and Hoyle (for lateness). Cllrs Sargent and Dyer wished to attend as members of the public, via zoom technology, and a link had been set up. They were logged in over zoom, the Chair was reminded Council members could only participate if present in person, and the terminal was muted in order for the meeting to proceed smoothly.

FC32/20 Declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest for matters discussed at the meeting.

FC33/20 Public participation: Members of the public were invited to speak on agenda items they considered pertinent to their particular interests. In order to facilitate public participation agenda item FC33/21 was taken first. The Head of Environment at The Parks Trust was present to speak, with questions invited from Councillors and members of the public afterwards. The presentation and questions afterwards covered the following:

- Members of the public were concerned at the amount of use of weed-killer, glyphosate
- Members of the public were concerned at the length of grass being cut in the Borough, considering it was too short and therefore not good for biodiversity.
- The Parks Trust representative informed those present that there were 738 ha of grassland owned by The Parks Trust, about 20% of which was cut short.
- There was a process of scaling-down use of glyphosate, particularly when contractors' contracts came up for renewal. This happened approximately every six years, per contractor. However moving to hand-weeding was an extremely expensive alternative.
- The Parks Trust had been exploring an alternative weed-killer called 'hot-foam', which kills through extreme heat. This however needed significant amount of new equipment, a hose and container, and re-training of staff members, all of which was costly.
- Having some grass cut short was in fact an element of retaining a rich biodiversity, as grass cut short, for example, was the favoured habitat of crane flies, a favoured food source for starlings.
- Upon concern raised over litter on Parks Trust land, it was explained the Parks Trust was considering moving towards directly-managed in-house teams for litter

collection. The Parks Trust was also running campaigns across the Borough to broaden awareness over the negative effects of littering.

- Upon a query raised over the good management of land within the equestrian centre, The Parks Trust representative informed those present that the land was under long-lease to the equestrian centre, which contained provision of good management practices.
- Upon a question raised over the accessibility of Elfield Park, The Head of Environment confirmed he would look into the provision of visits by residents to this nature park which was within the Parish.
- A member of the public raised the possibility of community weeding schemes which was happening elsewhere and this was met with favourably by the Parks Trust representative.

The Head of Environment at The Parks Trust was thanked for attending and presenting to the Parish Council, and left the meeting at this point (8:15pm).

FC34/21 Minutes: Minutes of the last meeting, held on 18 May 2021, and the confidential annex, were approved as accurate records of the proceedings of that meeting and were signed by the Chair, subject to one minor amendment to include 'council officers' under item FC22/21.

FC35/21 Biodiversity in the Parish on Parks Trust land: item FC33/21 refers.

FC36/21 Great Holm Landscape review:

Action: Items 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 were approved for the current year, and the Clerk would instruct Serco accordingly. Items 3 and 7 were not approved.

FC37/21 Loughton Landscape Review:

Action: Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, and 25 were approved for the current year and the Clerk would instruct Serco accordingly. Items 4, 18 and 26 were not approved.

FC38/21 Committee meetings: to note meetings and resolutions of the Committees and Working Parties held since the last FC meeting. All draft minutes had been uploaded to the website.

- a) Planning Working Party meeting on 07 June 2021

Action: The minutes were noted.

FC39/21 Planning applications: To consider any representations to be made to Milton Keynes Council on the following planning applications:

- a) Application no: 21/01536/FUL Proposal: Conversion and extension to the side of the conservatory with a flat roof which provides an outdoor space for associated first floor bedroom and bi-folding doors out to the lower level garden area. New single storey outbuilding forming habitable space proposed in the south east corner of the site (re-submission of 20/01832/FUL) At: 6 Lucy Lane Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8EP

Action: the Council resolved to object to this application, along the lines as compiled in the draft objection letter written by the Clerk and Cllr Sargent.

FC40/21 to approve the terms of reference of the Planning Working Party:

Action: Terms of Reference were approved, subject to an amendment to item 3 (to deduct the first sentence in the draft document as provided).

FC41/21 Payments: monthly payment schedule and Clerk's expenditure for the month, had been included in the paperwork for the meeting).

Action: the payment schedule was approved and bank balance of £108k was noted.

FC42/21 information board quotes for the plaque on The Green in Loughton:

Action: three quotes had been provided, and it was resolved to proceed with the quote for composite boards, if the quality of the artwork did not warrant significant extra cost. If it did it would be brought back to the next meeting for approval.

FC43/21 boiler replacement at Community Centre:

Action: Three quotes were provided, but each engineer had quoted for a different make of boiler. A vote was held. Three voted in favour of the provider of the Worcester 28 cdi, one member voted in favour of the Vaillant, and one Councillor did not vote. It was resolved therefore to proceed with JM Page, who would insert a Worcester boiler, and the Clerk would enact this before the autumn term.

Cllr Hoyle arrived at this time (9:10pm).

FC44/21 Thames Valley Police:

Action: The crime statistics report was noted.

FC45/21 Tree planting, plaque and bench on corner of Leys Road, School Lane and Loughton Brook: On the agenda was a motion to plant an English Oak, with a bench nearby, and a plaque explaining that the tree was planted by the Parish Council to commemorate the life of the Duke of Edinburgh.

Action: The item was deferred. It was agreed the Clerk would provide quotes for the bench, plaque and tree and the item would be reconsidered with these quotes in mind.

FC46/21 Plaque and seat at the top of the Village Green in Great Holm, facing towards the lake accessible from the pavement in Gatcombe:

Action: The item was deferred. It was agreed the Clerk would provide quotes for the bench and the item would be reconsidered with this quote in mind.

FC47/21 Football teams rent consideration: It was on the agenda to consider reducing level of rent for 2021-2022 season by 50% noting restrictions on playing which happened the previous year.

Action: Councillors noted the other two agenda items concerning the football teams and Loughton pitches (FC48/21 and FC53/21, below), and that there were parking issues and friction over the use of the car park between footballers on Saturdays and the tenant of the Pavilion café, and agreed this should be discussed in more detail by the Premises Committee prior to any rent reduction discussion happening. All three agenda items were deferred.

FC48/21 Grant application: it was on the agenda to consider approving grant application from Tattenhoe Youth Football Club for new goalposts.

Action: Item deferred.

FC49/21 CIF (Community Infrastructure Fund) application:

Action: It was resolved to apply for funding for the new allotments project, solar panels on the roof of the Community Centre, and solar panels on the roof of the Pavilion café.

FC50/21 MK Donsset football coaching sessions: It was on the agenda to consider sponsoring up to 12 sessions (at £50/session) over the summer.

Action: Councillors resolved to approve 12 sessions, and sponsor them. Also the Clerk would contact Marie Denny at MKC and communicate that the Parish had premises available over the summer.

FC51/21 reversal of previous decision in light of new information and to re-consider wheelie bin provider:

Action: Councillors reversed the previous decision approved the reduced Serco quote.

FC52/21 Hiring out the community centre to the NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) at no cost:

Action: Resolved to agree to this, and any other time the NAG wished to use the Community Centre, providing it was not already booked out to other fee-paying hall-hirers.

FC53/21 Cricket pitch in Loughton proposal:

Action: Item deferred.

FC54/21 Review of monthly management accounts:

Action: The income and expenditure against budget management accounts were noted.

FC55/21 Reports from members: There were none.

FC56/20 Items for the next agenda. Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk and follow the rules as set out in the Parish's Standing Orders for items to be requested on the agenda for the next meeting.

Date and time of Next Meeting: Monday 19 July 2021 at 7.30pm. Discussion was held over where meetings should take place, and Cllr Todd reminded the Council that in the past there had always been meetings in Loughton, and that it should be a consideration for the future as well.

The Meeting was declared closed at 9:50pm.