

## GREAT LINFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council, held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2006 at the Parish Office.

**PRESENT.** Cllr Brian Morsley (Chair), Cllr David Stabler (Vice-Chair), Cllr Charles Allum, Cllr George Byfield, Cllr John Figg, Cllr Rod Markley, Cllr John Perrott, Cllr Alan Pugh, Cllr Sue Williams, Cllr Michael Williamson.

**IN ATTENDANCE.** Police Sergeant 1360 Geen

**VISITOR.** Mrs Joan Pickhaver (potential new councillor).

1. **APOLOGIES.** Cllr Colin Tripp, Cllr Alan Williams, Cllr Alan Wright
2. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTERESTS.** There were no declarations.
3. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.** It was proposed by Cllr Allum and seconded by Cllr Stabler, that the minutes of the Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006, be accepted as a true record. Agreed unanimously.
4. **MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA.** (*vide* item 7 on the agenda of 17.1.2006) Cllr Trip had sent a report on the seminar/workshop on the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Copies were distributed to Councillors.
5. (a) **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** Cllr Morsley had nothing to report in addition to Agenda items.
  - (b) **POLICE.** Sgt Geen introduced the new Police DVD "Neighbourhood Management - It works!" which was shown using the council's laptop with a borrowed projector. Following successful pilot schemes at Olney and the Lakes Estate, Community Clusters/Neighbourhood Action Groups will be established throughout Milton Keynes commencing April 2006 and due for full implementation within 12 months. Within Great Linford Parish the first Cluster will be Conniburrow - Neath Hill - Downs Barn for which the establishment will be two Police Officers plus two Police Community Support Officers. Parish representation is sought for the Neighbourhood Board, which will appoint a Neighbourhood Manager. Sgt Geen endorsed the valuable contribution that Street Dreams had made to the Lakes Estate pilot project. In discussion Councillors confirmed Parish support for the new methodology and offered use of the Council Offices for Board meetings, it was hoped that full cooperation with the Streetcare system would be established.

Average crime figures showed a modest reduction for the Parish area as a whole for the period April 2005 to January 2006, although significant increases (mostly for criminal damage) had occurred for Pennyland, Tongwell and Willen Park. In compensation substantial decreased figures were logged for Blakelands and Downs Barn. Sgt Geen will send a précis of the figures for circulation.

There have been arrests in connection with offences at the Neath Hill shops, but the detainees have been bailed owing to inadequate evidence for conviction. The Pilgrims Bottle has had its licence restored on appeal, but with 19 restrictive conditions imposed. Sgt Geen confirmed that except where obstruction had been caused police no longer had any jurisdiction for parking problems, which are now the concern of Milton Keynes Council.

## 6. FINANCE.

- (a) **IT Equipment:** Cllr Stabler reported that purchase of the new laser printer now left a surplus of £45.34 from the approved budget of £1700 + VAT. It is anticipated that there will be substantial savings in running costs compared with approximately £300 spent on ink-jet refills last year.
- (b) **Street Dreams Survey:** The FGP Committee recommended acceptance of the quotation of £4,500.00 + VAT for preparation of a quantitative report on youth problems within the Parish with monthly progress reports to be given to Council. Cllr Pugh proposed and Cllr Markley seconded the proposal that the report should be commissioned. Agreed unanimously.
- (c) **Admin Assistant overtime:** Because of the continuing absence of the Parish Manager on sick leave, the Admin Assistant had worked more than his statutory hours. It was proposed by Cllr Markley and seconded by Cllr Allum that overtime payment of £54.00 should be paid. Agreed unanimously.
- (d) **Cheques and balances:** The financial situation as of the date of the meeting was tabled. Other than reimbursement of Cllr Stabler for purchases of IT equipment expenditure was normal. It was proposed by Cllr Sue Williams and seconded by Cllr Michael Williamson that the cheques as listed and the direct payments agree. Agreed unanimously.
- (e) The End of Year returns by the Responsible Financial Officer will be completed after return from sick-leave by the Parish Manager (expected 6 March 2006).

## 7. PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

- (a) **06/00117/FUL 9 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill:**  
Change of use from Video Shop (class A1) to Estate Office/Financial Services. No objections.
- (b) **06/00037/FUL Makita Corporation, Michigan Drive, Blakelands:**  
No objections to the proposed warehouse extension. Although only around another 12 people will be employed at this site, the Council considers that parking provision for 52 spaces should be a condition of approval, in case of sale of the premises at a later date and use for more labour-intensive purposes.
- (c) **ROCLA Strategic Infrastructure (roads):**  
Council noted with disappointment that despite personal representation by Cllr Stabler only 4 of the 14 suggested design code measures had been incorporated in the planning approval given on 8 February 2006. It is now anticipated that the matter will return to the Planning Committee on 25 April 2006.

## 8. REPORTS.

### (a) FGP Committee:

Issue 12 (February 2006) of the Council's newsletter "News & Views" has been printed, but distribution with MK News has been patchy. Cllr Figg said that this issue had an improved layout and good content but the unapproved headline "Penny-wise Parish ----" inevitably invited the response "Pound foolish". As well as text, sub-editor's headlines need evaluation by a second opinion to help detect a *double entendre* or other unwanted meaning.

Cllr Stabler demonstrated the new Website again using the computer/projector assembly, but this time wirelessly connected to the internet. Editorial control of web material will be the responsibility of the Council and the Communications sub-committee will put forward proposals for how this may best be achieved. Councillors endorsed the work of the Communications sub-committee and it was proposed by Cllr Allum and seconded by Cllr Morsley that a vote of thanks and congratulations be made to Cllr Stabler and his colleagues for the excellent work to date. Councillors asked that the FGP Committee should now prepare cost estimates for a video-projector with audio-output and a pull-down screen to complete the IT facilities for the Council Offices.

It is anticipated that English Partnerships may attend the Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2006 in order to present new proposals for the redevelopment of the Gyosei School playing fields site.

### (b) Recreation Committee:

Cllr Allum reported that it is still hoped to obtain PIR-controlled lights for the external corners of the Downs Barn building, it is also being suggested that low-level (bollard) lights might be installed. Mr Pete Cox, funded by NACROS, hopes to have the fences to the tennis courts repaired for 2007. The feasibility of arranging access for handicapped users to the first floor is still under investigation.

Regarding the ongoing dispute concerning handicapped access to the allotment sites, Council representatives had complied with the conciliation timetable, but the Discrimination Conciliation Service asserted that they had not received the response E-mail and, therefore, due legal process would follow. After further discussions the DCS have agreed to ask the complainant, Mrs Doreen Edwards, to resume conciliation arrangements.

Progress with acquisition of the Lorriner Place site is slow.

There is a need to obtain two additional estimates for re-thatching of the equipment barn at Marsh Drive.

Ambiguities and uncertainties over bookings for the cricket pitches for the 2006 season have revealed confusion and a lack of coordination between the Parish Manager and the Recreation Committee. The memo from the Manager does not provide sufficient detail or background for decisions to be made by the Chairman and/or Committee. Where apparent conflicts exist it is for the Council to resolve matters. It was agreed that in order not to delay Club cricket fixtures any further, Cllrs Allum and Stabler would

consult with the Manager and Groundsman (Mr Richard Price) and decide on appropriate action. This would be reported to the next Council meeting.

Recent difficulties with access to Council property occurred due to non-availability of keys. Recreation Committee request that copies of all keys should be held in the Council Office. Agreed unanimously.

Great Linford Football Club are proposing to organise a junior soccer festival on 20 May 2006 and would like to use the Downs Barn facilities. The club request sponsorship by the Parish Council to include referee and St John Ambulance costs and provision of award medals (estimated cost about £300). It was proposed by Cllr Stabler and seconded by Cllr Allum that the Parish should agree to sponsorship and to take advantage of the event to arrange publicity for the Council in lieu of the previously suggested Open Day, details to be arranged by the Recreation Committee. Agreed unanimously.

**(c) Great Linford Advancement in Life Charity**

Cllr Williamson reminded Councillors of this charity which can provide small sums of money to Parish residents in the age range 5 - 25 years for educational or training purposes. The latest accounts are lodged with the Parish Council for reference.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chairman had received a request from the MK Lighthouse organisation, which deals with problems of domestic violence, asking for grant aid. It was resolved that the organisation would be asked to complete the normal request for grant aid form, which would be considered by the FGP Committee. It is Council policy not to give money, but assistance in the form of equipment or other specific hardware.

MK Community Safety Partnership request the Parish Council to send a representative to a planned meeting. Since Cllr Byfield would in any case be attending he was asked to look after Parish Council interests at the same time.

**10. MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Markley had been approached by a resident whose house backs on to the High Street cricket circle regarding ownership of the newly-planted trees and the risk of damage should these trees fall in any future high winds. It was confirmed that the trees are the responsibility of the Parish Council and that these *Acer campestre* (Field Maple) small, slow-growing trees replaced the unsafe and much larger *Aesculus hippocastanum* (Horse Chestnut) trees that had originally been planted. Reported regrowth from the stumps of the latter will be dealt with.

Cllrs Perrott and Tripp (by letter) relayed a complaint about the lack of Dog Bins at the Marsh Drive recreation area. Council reiterated that dogs were not allowed on the sports ground and for that reason there were no receptacles for dog faeces within the area. Bins must be accessible to motor vehicles for emptying. There are dog bins at the car-park near Spring Cottage.

Cllrs Perrott and Pugh reported on dumped bicycles near Harper Lane. Using the Council's lap-top computer a request for their removal was sent by E-mail directly to Streetcare during the meeting.

Cllrs Byfield and S Williams reported that that they had apprehended three teenage vandals who had broken into the Conniburrow Residents Association premises and written offensive and personal graffiti on the walls. Police had arrived promptly and the offenders had received Community Service Orders that would involve landscape maintenance, including pond cleaning, in the area. Councillors offered congratulations to Cllrs Byfield and Williams on their public-spirited and brave actions.

Cllr Allum reported inadequate and defective lighting to footpaths leading from Byerly Place and requested action to remedy the situation.

Cllr Pugh reported that Cory Environmental will be carrying out a "Deep Clean" operation in the Parish area from 14 March 2006.

Cllr Allum drew attention to the fact that the Admin Assistant and newer Councillors had little knowledge of Parish facilities and suggested an orientation/conducted tour might be arranged. One way to achieve this could be to hire a coach for a day. Councillors thought this an excellent idea that should be progressed.

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.**

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday 21st March 2006.

**The Meeting closed at 9.50 pm**

#### **NEW COUNCILLORS**

##### **(a) Mrs Joan Pickhaver**

It was agreed unanimously that Mrs Pickhaver should be coopted as a Parish Councillor. She should be sent the relevant information and requested to attend the next Full Council Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2006.

##### **(b) Mrs Irene Jackson**

The Chairman reported that Mrs Jackson from Bolbeck Park was interested in applying for one of the vacancies in the Parish Council. It was agreed that she should be invited to attend the next meeting of the FGP Committee and for this committee to decide on her suitability. Depending on the outcome, she would also be requested to attend the next Full Council Meeting.