

Markyate Parish Council

MINUTES OF MARKYATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 2 MARCH 2010 AT 7.30PM IN THE JONES ROOM, MARKYATE VILLAGE HALL, MARKYATE

Present: Councillor: E King, Chairman, Cllr P Bunyan, Vice Chairman, Cllr C Bennett, B/Cllr H Chapman, Cllr I Crawford, Cllr C Dullea, Cllr R Peterson, Cllr S Pilkinton, Mrs J Bissmire (Clerk)

In attendance: B/Cllr D Lloyd, PCSO James Cook, 1 member of public

346/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr S Deacon due to business commitments.

347/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

B/Cllr H Chapman declared a personal interest in item 363/10 fly tipping, item 364/10 Yellow Lines in King Street and item 365/10 hedges, as these fall within his portfolio.

The chairman proposed Agenda Item 364/10 be moved forward after item 351/10

348/10 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9 February 2010, as circulated, were a correct record and was signed by the Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr C Dullea and seconded by Cllr S Pilkinton.

349/10 MINUTES OF THE HALLS COMMITTEE MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Halls Committee meeting held on 17 November 2010 as circulated, be received and adopted.

350/10 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 68

It was **RESOLVED** that Standing Orders be suspended in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 68 so that members of the public might speak.

The member of public referred to the email sent to the Parish Council concerning the unacceptable and dangerous parking that occurs every evening in King Street and at the junction where this road joins the High Street to the south of Markyate. It was pointed out the top section has double yellow line; the middle section does not because when the work was carried out parked cars prohibited the lines being continuous. The Parking Shop authorities visited twice a week for a short time and issued tickets.

The solution is to fill the pot holes, paint yellow lines the full length, and then enforce it. Concern was expressed for residents of Sursham Court who can not walk on the pavement due to parked cars and have to walk in the middle of the road. The member of public said the yellow lines in the High Street should also be enforced to allow motorists coming down to have good visibility. We must make roads safe and avoid motor accidents.

B/Cllr Chapman said yellow lines can be 10/15 metres on corners for safety issues. There have never been double yellow lines in that area towards the bottom and middle of King Street.

At present DBC are looking at this and a consultation will have to be held for residents in George Street and Sursham Court and surrounding area. Between yellow lines the police enforce, yellow lines DBC are responsible. No yellow lines and obstruction, the police are responsible. Parking tickets are issued on an adhoc basis by the police and DBC.

It was **agreed** an article will be included in Markyate Monthly asking drivers to be more considerate.

It was also pointed out the Care Bus has difficulty in manoeuvring corners due to inconsiderate parking and it was suggested this could be pursued through the Watling Neighbourhood Action group in the form of leafletting houses in the village.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

B/Cllr D Lloyd arrived at 7.45pm.

351/10 POLICE REPORT

In absentia PC M Coregan, PCSO James Cook introduced himself as the new Police Community Support Officer for the Safer Neighbourhood Team who commenced duties in November 2009. During the past four month, he has made himself known to the youth in the village; PCSO Cook said although he can not issue parking tickets, he does note vehicle registration numbers if they cause obstruction and his presence is known in the village.

He said the mobile police station at the fire station has become more of a drop in service, if his car is on the forecourt then the office is open. He also reported on the Farmers Rural Watch meeting. 50 invitations were sent out but only 8 farmers accepted, it is hoped this will be built up, they are encouraging farmers to join the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and be vigilant and always report crime. Farmers have been particularly vulnerable with equipment continually stolen. It was noted crime reports are not always accurate when published.

The boarding at Richmond House is down again and PCSO Cook noted this. He said his shift is 8am to 5pm and 2pm to 11pm. He was asked to patrol Peggy's Field
PCSO Cook left the meeting at 7.55pm

364/10 MOTORIST SAFETY IN KING STREET (moved forward)

Following discussion in Public Speaking, the Parish Council agreed the following:-

1. To contact the relevant authority asking why we do not have double yellow lines for the length of King Street
2. The existing yellow lines are faded
3. King Street, George Street, William Street, Albert Street and Wesley Road, to ask for all yellow lines and pot holes to be assessed.
4. Pot holes to be assessed first, then enforcement of parking restrictions

The parking of vans which are left outside houses was questioned but the response was who would want to park their vehicle miles from their home?

It was confirmed the police have a duty to issue and enforce where there is obstruction, pot holes are the responsibility of Hertfordshire Highways and yellow lines are enforcement DBC.

It was agreed a letter should be sent to Hertfordshire Highways to ask for a report on the progress regarding parking in King Street and to repair pot holes where necessary.

Action: Clerk

The member of public left the meeting at 8.05pm

352/10 DISPOSAL OF WASTE AT CEMETERY

It was reported a 240 litre grey wheeled bin will be delivered to the cemetery for disposal of waste. A green bin can not be provided due to possible contamination. The grey bin will be wheeled to cul de sac fortnightly for collection by DBC. B/Cllr Chapman was thanked for making the necessary arrangements. Complete.

353/10 PLANNING DECISIONS FROM DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

1. 4/00568/09/FUL, Buckwood House, Buckwood Road. Demolition of building and construction of new dwelling. Withdrawn.

354/10 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. 4/00151/10/ADV. 66-68 High Street. Replacement Fascia and sign and Overhead Trough Lighting
No objection

The following Planning Application was received after publication of the agenda

2. 4/00333/10/TCA. 58 High Street, Works to Trees

It was noted as this application was received on the date of the meeting, no details were available. The Parish Council agreed if the trees are being removed for health and safety reasons, they would have no objection.

Action: Clerk

355/10 CLERKS REPORT

The following report was circulated at the meeting:-

1. Staff Training was carried out on 3 February 2010; the following documents were given to each member of staff on completion of training:-
 - New Contracts of Employment
 - Job Descriptions,
 - H&S guidance on the risks of lone working
 - Holiday Entitlement form
 - Review and update for confidential emergency contact details
 - Staff Training Sheet to be signed
2. Updated insurance Policy, as per minute 342/10. New Policy now received and circulated at meeting. Following a full review with effect from 24 February 2010, a cheque for £126.47 has been received which is due to a mid term adjustment.
3. Launch of Hertfordshire's Policing Plan 2010/13 being held on Monday 29 March 2010 at 11am in Hatfield.

356/10 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

To approve the schedule for payment as attached.

It was proposed by Cllr P Bunyan and seconded by Cllr I Crawford and **agreed** unanimously to approve the schedule for payment.

RESOLVED: that the schedule of payment be signed as circulated

The schedule of accounts listed the balances of the Parish Councils accounts as at today's date as follows:

MPC Current Account	£ 4,830,36
MPC Savings	£ 4,487.77

MPC Investment	£ 40,460.78
Petty Cash	£ 68.24
Luncheon Club	£ 624.85
TOTAL	£ 50,472.00

357/10 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Clerk circulated the list of general correspondence which was duly noted.

358/10

It was reported the meeting held at the school to discuss providing meals for the Luncheon Club was cancelled; contact will be made as soon as a new meeting has taken place.

It was confirmed funding is being sought for the re-launch of the club, it is hoped this will include social events, such as cards, board games, etc. A rota will be set for volunteers. On going

Action: Clerk

359/10 FUTURE PROJECT FOR VILLAGE

Following previous discussion (agenda item 332/10), members were asked to give further consideration to a project for the village to follow on from the loan from DBC paid through the precept, which is now reaching conclusion.

Input from the Parish Plan shows swimming as a popular sport, therefore the suggestion for an indoor swimming pool was put forward but the general consensus was after the expenditure of a pool, the upkeep would be too great.

As no agreement was reached a vote was taken by show of hand as follows:-

For: 1

Against: 7

It was felt, although this is a good idea, it could not be considered at this time. The Parish Plan must be completed as a priority. Agenda item for Halls Committee

Action: SP/HA

360/10 BUSHWOOD GREEN DEVELOPMENT

A CD was circulated giving details of this proposed development and all issues raised in agenda item 334/10 were reiterated. It was confirmed a letter had been sent to Luton and S BedsC, HertsCC and DBC. It was reported DBC are aware of this proposed development.

No action.

361/10 MARKYATE MAY FAYRE PROGRAMME 2010

It was

RESOLVED

To place a half page advertisement for the hiring of the halls at a cost of £25.00 identical to that printed in Markyate Monthly.

It was noted the theme for this year is Fairy Tales.

It was **agreed** the Parish Council stall at the fair would consist of details for the police surgery, safety and parking issues and various literature.

New display boards are being sought via funding. Cllr Pilkinton asked for help with the stall from members.

Action: SP/ALL/Clerk

362/10 CCTV MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Clerk has requested three quotations from specialists which were presented to the Parish Council and it was

RESOLVED

To accept the quotation from Quantum Security

For the fixed sum of £120.00 + VAT, this consists of full office and technical support 24/7 and includes one full service visit per year.

Action: Clerk

363/10 FLY TIPPING IN AND AROUND THE VILLAGE

A letter received from a parishioner regarding the fly tipping in Half Moon Lane and Chad Lane was circulated to all members. It was reported Half Moon Lane has now been cleared and barriers will be installed to prevent anything as large as a van from accessing the lane. Chad Lane will be dealt with as soon as possible.

The Parish Council asked for a letter to be sent to the complainant advising of the situation and pointing out this work had been in hand for some time, to be dealt with as and when resources permitted.

Action: Clerk

364/10 PEDESTRIAN AND MOTORIST SAFTY IN KING STREET

Moved forward on the agenda

365/10 HEDGES

This item was added to the agenda to draw attention to the lost hedges in the large field beyond Peggy's Field as two sides are not hedged and as this is not being used for agriculture, they have been left as scrubby land. It was suggested hedges should be encouraged. After discussion it was **agreed** as this is the responsibility of the farmer it is his prerogative as to whether hedges are in place. No action.

366/10 STREET LIGHTING

It was reported historically High Street lights were installed on properties in order to keep footpaths clear. Hertfordshire Highways have been asked for more lighting in the High Street and it was suggested new lights are put on properties, with consent of owners, in order to keep the narrow footpaths safe. It was considered this would be very bright and in some places such as Cavendish Road and Old Vicarage Gardens, this would be impracticable. No action.

367/10 VILLAGE WARDEN RISK ASSESSMENT

The Risk Assessment for the Village Warden was circulated to all members at the meeting, and it was **RESOLVED**
To note the Risk Assessment

368/10 CRICKET CLUB

It was reported confirmation has not been received from the cricket club solicitor regarding the new lease, although most of the issues raised have now been **agreed**, inclusion of the building in the lease has yet to be finalised. They are looking at the possibility of a peppercorn rent. This is now with their solicitor for action. The cricket club will report back to B/Cllr Chapman at the end of this week. On going.

369/10 SUGGESTED AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- May Fayre
- Annual Gathering of the Parish Council (Julie Still)
- Luncheon Club
- Mosaic
- Parish Plan

Action: Clerk

370/10 ITEMS FOR MARKYATE MONTHLY

1. Parking issues
2. PCSO/Mobile Police Station
3. Annual Gathering
4. Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council

Action: CB

371/10 REPORTS

Finance Committee. No report

HAPTC. No meeting, but points to note are the information on the Post Offices and the Planning Application consultees. Regarding the situation to grit roads during extreme conditions and the role and responsibility of Parish and Town Councils to clear snow to enable safe access both in law and within the terms of insurances, the HAPTC Executive Committee is proposing submitting a motion to NALC for clarification of this situation.

School Governors. No meeting but the following was reported:-

A meeting is being held on 15 March 2010 with Bizzie Bees, the school Head teacher, the developers, Jane Rose HCC, Liz Preston, pre school learning Alliance and a member of the School Governors committee together with members of the Parish Council, to discuss the proposed new building on the school grounds which must be completed by the end of March 2011.

It was reported Cllr Crawford will be the Parish Council representative on the Steering Group

Concerns were expressed regarding access through the hedge leading to the Village Halls and parking issues

Youth Management. Cllr Bunyan confirmed the Youth Management bank account is now closed, a cheque for the remaining funds in this account of £167.43 has been forwarded to HertsCC.

Watling Neighbourhood Action. No meeting

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

The chairman declared the meeting closed and B/Cllr D Lloyd made the following report:-

1. When crimes are reported, the call is logged, but sometimes there will be discrepancies in crime figures and incidences reported.
2. Only main roads where pot holes are very difficult will have work carried out. £5m, 1% of council tax has been earmarked but we have to accept some of these things will not be granted. There is only one budget.

3. PFI bid from central government is a big programme, trying to save energy costs. It is worth considering being cost effective and to switch street lights off after 12am. We must ask are we better off because we have lots of lights?
4. Crossovers in High Street. Funding for next phase will not be until the next financial year. £10,000 was in the budget this year, £6000 of which has been spent. Markyate will have new crossovers in the second phase. The Parish Council disputed the £6000 spent this year and this will be looked in to.
5. Yellow lines, parking is DBC, safety is Hertfordshire Highways. Yellow lines are controversial, there will always be groups who do not want yellow lines and some who don't, this is a no win situation.

The Parish Council thanked B/Cllr Lloyd for his report

Next meeting: 6 April 2010

Signed: _____

Date: _____