

Markyate Parish Council

MINUTES OF MARKYATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2009 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 Chapman, Cllr I Crawford, Cllr S Deacon, Cllr R Peterson, Cllr S Pilkinton, Mrs J Bissmire (Clerk)

In attendance: 11 member of public

The chairman proposed moving item 225/09 on the agenda after item 213/09 as members of the public were in attendance regarding this item.

206/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr C Dullea due to sickness and Cllr J Gower due to business commitments.

The chairman welcomed all those present and commented on how nice it was to see so many people and thanked them for their time.

207/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

B/Cllr Chapman declared a personal interest in item 209/09 and 210/09, car parking, as this is his portfolio.
Cllr E King declared a personal interest in item 220/09 Ash trees in Peggy's Field due to living in close proximity
Cllr P Bunyan declared a personal interest in item 231/09. Proposed merger of the Primary Care Trusts consultation due to working for the NHS.

208/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6 October 2009, as circulated, were a correct record and was signed by the Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr S Pilkinton and seconded by Cllr I Crawford.

209/09 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.

A resident of the High Street said she had lived in the village for six years and in the past two years has experienced damage to her property totalling approximately £4,500.00. Cars travelling at high speed in the High Street, mounting the pavement, disregarding road markings and parking restrictions not being obeyed and also noise generally by speeding vehicles. Cars park on yellow lines and driveways are blocked. Leaflets had been delivered to 200 homes in the village asking for opinions with a 10% response which indicates something needs to be done. Speed humps, width restrictions, weight restrictions of vehicle or one way systems should be considered and asked the Parish Council what they can do before there is a fatality.

The Parish Council said they had contacted DBC and Highways on previous occasions without success.

B/Cllr Chapman reported DBC are responsible for enforcing yellow lines, tickets were issued on Friday and Saturday last week but they do ticket on an ad hoc basis.

The roads are the responsibility of Herts CC, parked cars do slow traffic down. Markyate has narrow streets, the only possibility is a one way system but trunk roads can not be used as part of a one way system.

A member of public said he felt the poster produced for this campaign and should have shown a photograph of the problem, he felt parked vehicles is the problem, not dangerous driving. He had on occasion been pushed in to the gutter by cars. Drivers must realise this is a road and not use it as a car park. He did not accept it was a problem created by aggressive drivers.

The chairman said we have had two different points of view presented.

After further discussion it was agreed to pursue the following:--

1. To publish an article in our newsletter asking parishioners to be more considerate
2. Creating a safe access onto the A5 at its junction with London Road to stop traffic wishing to travel South using the High Street to access the A5 safely at the lights.
3. More barriers on the pavement

Cllr Deacon commented a traffic wardens had advised him they are told not to ticket cars parked on the pavement Buses are told not to give way.

B/Cllr Chapman said he would clarify this matter. Yellow lines are for DBC to enforce. Blocked access is the

responsibility of the police and HertsCC. If any entrance is obstructed the police must be informed.

It was noted no police were present at the meeting, although they had been invited.

In conclusion the chairman said we would contact Herts Highways and Carillion to arrange a meeting to walk the streets in the village and discuss what has to be done.

Agenda item for December meeting

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Action: Clerk

6 members of the public left the meeting.

210/09 POLICY FOR ROADS

A draft Policy Document for Roads in Markyate and Risk Assessment schedule was circulated to all members. The document outlined the draft policy to be discussed, modified and adopted on how roads should be managed in the parish of Markyate. This is to be worked in conjunction with Hertfordshire Highways, the Emergency Services, DBC and the Parish Council. The recommendations are based on evidence gathered over the last six months by members of the parish.

The following points were noted:-

1. Traffic has increased overall in the borough
2. Large cars dominate the roads
3. Drivers in village should obey the Highway Code

Recommendations:-

1. The Policy must be structured to help people, to halt the growth of speeding, bad driving and noise in the village.
2. The Policy should be structured so it can be used to initiate action and to measure the success of any action in line with the overall goal.
3. The policy should be used proactively to tackle current issues (for example reduces damage to property) and highlight the need to work to reduce the probability of a fatality.
4. We need facts and a way forward, (A plan of action)
5. A committee should be chaired by a Parish Councillor to include non Parish Councillor members, to report to full Council.
6. Actions with a limited scope that are within the powers of the Parish Council should be implemented as soon as possible.

It was **agreed** after this draft document has been looked at the ensuing discussion will be more structured.

Agenda item for December 2009 meeting.

Action: ALL

211/09 BURIAL GROUND EXTENSION

It was noted, DBC had advised the new cemetery in Markyate has now been included in the s106 agreement which has been sent to the Inspectorate as part of the paperwork for the hearing on 12 November 2009. There is an option to let the orchard be a nature conservation site should the appeal be allowed. On going.

212/09 RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEARS ENDED 31 MARCH 2005 AND 31 MARCH 2006

It was recommended the Parish Council accept the recommendations in the letter from the external auditor Lubbock Fine dated 23 September 2009 as circulated, in order to conclude this matter.

The Parish Council

RESOLVED

To accept the above recommendation, which was **agreed** unanimously.

It was **agreed** the notes circulated to all members should be attached to the minutes, with one addition, and the following was noted:-

1. Three quotations were originally applied for to replace the play area in Peggy's Field
2. The delay in accepting the quotation was due to obtaining funding from DBC and the Police Initiative Fund. Initially when this project started no funding was available, within two years approximately £23,000.00 funding had been awarded.
3. The quotation was honoured for over a year when inflation was running.
4. Due to the professional advice, the court case did not proceed in relation to the debt incurred.

The present Clerk had inherited these problems and worked with the external auditor to resolve the matter, it has been a long journey. The issue regarding closed session is debateable and can be interpreted both ways.

From all the points raised by one parishioner under the Freedom of Information Act, only one item has been upheld. The external auditors costs are believed to be substantial, auditors have to respond to residents.

213/09 ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO YEAR ENDED ACCOUNTS FOR 31 MARCH 2005 AND 2006

It was noted all the new procedures Lubbock Fine have asked for have been implemented.

The Parish Council

RESOLVED

1. To submit the above to Lubbock Fine, which was **agreed** unanimously.
2. Draft Notice to be approved by Lubbock Fine for publishing in the Hemel Hempstead Gazette

Action: Clerk

In conclusion the Parish Council noted its disappointment as professional advice had been sought and new policies have been implemented.

A unanimous thank you was given to the Financial Officer/Halls Administrator and the Clerk, who, it was stated, could have walked away at any time and the Parish Council gave their appreciation that they chose to say.

The professionalism and integrity shown was exemplary.

225/09 LUNCHEON CLUB

DBC had confirmed in their letter dated 22 October 2009, a decision was made by Cabinet in June that the service will cease to be operated by DBC and will instead be provided by Herts CC within a time scale of 3/6 months. Their letter confirmed that Cabinet on the 20 October 2009 confirmed the transfer to HertsCC will take place from 1 April 2009.

The Parish Council expressed their deep sadness at this decision.

The chairman reported a meeting has been arranged with Help the Aged Dacorum in order to discuss possible projects for the future.

The question was asked if the £10,000 allocated to County Councillors could be used to continue this service but this was rejected as this budget is split between three parishes.

Agenda item for December 2009 meeting.

Action: Clerk

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.

Mrs Tobin suggested Age Concern is contacted as a large number of residents from Markyate attend day centres in Dacorum.

The chairman **agreed** and thanked Mrs Tobin

Standing Orders were reinstated

Two members of public left the meeting at 8.35pm

214/09 PLANNING DECISIONS

1. 4/01354/09/FUL, Hillside, 1 The Ridings, Replacement Dwelling. Granted.
2. 4/01403/09/FHA, 1 Park View Drive. Two storey side and first floor extension with dormer window to existing garage. Withdrawn.

215/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. 4/01619/09/LDP, 9 London Road, Loft Conversion with rear dormer
The Parish Council object to this application as they consider this overpowering and out of keeping with the surrounding area.

The following two planning applications were received after publication of the agenda.

2. 4/01602/09/LBC, Restoration House, Pipers Lane, Loft Conversion
No objection.
3. 4/01678/09/FUL, Land adj 2 The Coppins, Detached Dwelling
The Parish Council object to this application for the following reasons:-
 - Out of keeping with other properties
 - Existing properties losing parking space
 - Problems with cars entering and turning in Close
 - Less proposed parking facility
 - Overdevelopment of site

Action: Clerk

216/09 CLERKS REPORT

It was reported the AGM for the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust is being held on 27 November 2009, as the Parish Council subscribe to this trust, members were asked if they would like to attend. Venue details to be forwarded to Cllr R Peterson.

Action: Clerk

217/09 CRICKET CLUB

It was confirmed we are in contact with the cricket club and the solicitors are dealing with this. On going.

Action: HC

218/09 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

To approve the schedule for payment as attached.

It was proposed by Cllr S Pilkinton and seconded by Cllr R Peterson 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 | £ 2,406.61 |
| MPC Savings | £ 28,177.78 |
| MPC Investment | £ 50,028.51 |
| Petty Cash | £ 14.56 |
| Luncheon Club | £ 531.76 |
| TOTAL | £ 81,159.22 |

It was noted cheque No. 103190 was not signed due to the total not including VAT.

Action: FO

219/09 REPORT ON TREES IN PEGGY'S FIELD

It was reported following further inspection, one large and one small Ash tree should be removed, together with some overhanging branches from another tree in Peggy's Field.

For this reason it was agreed further quotations were requested from specialist but only one was received.

The Parish Council

RESOLVED

To accept the quotation from G M Frazer Tree Surgery

For the sum of £450.00

Action: Clerk

220/09 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

The Chairman mentioned the Borough Liaison Meeting is being held on 19 November 2009 if any members wished to attend with her.

Action: ALL

221/09 LOCATION OF NEW BINS THROUGH THE COUNTY COUNCIL LOCALITY BUDGET

The Parish Council agreed to ask for new bins with lids at the following locations to replace existing bins-

1. Fire Station
2. Footpath in Cavendish Road
3. Red Lion Public House
4. Peggy's Field
5. Village Hall/Y2K Hall

It was noted the bin in Buckwood Road, in the lay-by between the fire station, had disappeared and should be replaced free of charge.

The Parish Council

RESOLVED

To accept the above recommendation.

B/Cllr Chapman pointed out these will be Dacorum bins as there is no other outlet, therefore, they will carry the DBC logo, not the Parish Council logo.

The cost of each bin is dependent on the footings, if this is to replace a bin, and then there will be less cost involved.

If a new bin is to be installed, footings will have to be included in the cost.

The bin in Peggy's Field will be emptied by the Village Warden.

Action : HC

222/09 NEWSLETTER

It was **agreed** after some adjustments the new draft will be sent to each member individually for approval in order for this to be published as soon as possible.

Action: ALL

223/09 CHRISTINA OF MARKYATE MOSAIC PLAQUE

As the plaque has to be in accordance with the policy issued by the Diocese of St Albans, it was **agreed** the thickness should be confirmed.

On going.

Action: EK/RP

224/09 LOCATION OF TWO INTERPRETATIONS BOARDS AND ONE GRP BOARD

The original location of the two Interpretations Boards was considered and in view of the addition of the GRP Board which had to be placed on a wall,
The Parish Council

RESOLVED

To position the Boards as follows:

1. 1 x Outside the Fire Station
2. 1 x Hicks Road car park
3. 1 x GRP Board to be placed on the wall of the Village Hall.

The Clerk was requested to obtain permission from DBC to install one board in Hicks Road and on the wall of the Village Hall. The Fire Station had given their approval. Quotations for the installation at these locations for presentation at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

225/09 LUNCHEON CLUB

Moved forward

226/09 TRING SPORTS FORUM

It was reported Flamstead Parish Council do not wish to participate in a Watling Sports Forum; therefore no funding will be available for this project from DBC. Gt Gaddesden Parish Council have not responded. It was proposed the Parish Council facilitates a meeting for all sports clubs in Markyate.

It was

RESOLVED

To write to all sports clubs in the village to monitor the interest from these groups. Meeting planned for January/February 2010.

Action: SP

227/09 PARISH PLAN

The results for the surgery questionnaire have been collated. It was **agreed** Cllr Pilkinton to liaise with Cllr Bennett regarding the roads policy, to summarise and formulate a report.
Volunteers were requested.

Action: CB/SP

228/09 P3 GRANT FOR 2009/10

A document was circulated to all members prior to the meeting outlining the criteria for the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) funding available from Hertfordshire CC to improve existing Public Rights of Way network for local people.

The Parish Council

RESOLVED

For the following to be considered:

1. Professional advice/reports on trees in the village
2. A small bridge by the side of the ford in Windmill Lane
3. Improvement to the area at the River Ver in Hicks Road

Action: Clerk

229/09 PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP/SURGERY

It was reported a doctor has left the surgery in Hicks Road and Mr Evers has resigned from the PPG.
The next meeting is being held on 19 November 2009.

No action

230/09 EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN 2031 CONSULTATION

The Parish Council

RESOLVED

To fully support the response prepared and submitted by HAPTC which is attached to these minutes.

Action: Clerk

231/09 PROPOSAL FOR MERGER OF THE PRIMARY CARE TRUSTS CONSULTATION

The Parish Council considered the document entitled A Proposal for Merger of the Primary Care Trusts. Comments on the consultation were invited by 11 November 2009.

The consultation sought views on the two Boards of NHS East and North Hertfordshire and NHS West Hertfordshire (previously known as East and North Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire PCT) considering a merger.

They emphasise a merger will not affect the provision of health services or already **agreed** changes in those

services, neither will it mean a management reorganisation as there already exists a single, integrated management team.

The Parish Council recommended the following response:

1. It was felt there will not be any real savings but Herts budget may make slight savings
2. We do not want to lose the facility of using the L&D Hospital.

RESOLVED

To approve the above response

Action: Clerk

232/09 CHANGE OF DATE FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Due to a training session on the Code of Conduct scheduled for Tuesday 2 February 2010, the date of the February Parish Council meeting, it was proposed to change the meeting date to 9 February 2009 in order for all members to attend this very important training.

It was

RESOLVED

To approve the above recommendation.

B/Cllr gave his apologies due to business commitments.

Action: Clerk

233/09 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Chairman asked all councillors to meet outside the Fire Station at 10.30am on Sunday 8 November to process to the War Memorial for the Remembrance Service.

Action: ALL

234/09 SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN PEGGY'S FIELD

A Certified Inspection Report for the play area in Pickford Road was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. It was proposed; as all items listed are medium risk/low risk, this is on the agenda for the 1 December 2009 meeting. It was **agreed** In the interim period the Village Warden carries out all duties within his remit, in particular treating the slippery safety surface.

Action: VW/Clerk

235/09 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Play ground equipment in Pickford Road (Peggy's Field)
2. Parish Plan
3. Luncheon Club
4. Roads Policy
5. Sports Forum
6. Doctors Surgery
7. Sun Public House [door opens out on to main road]

236/09 ITEMS FOR MARKYATE MONTHLY

1. Accounts for year ended 2005,2006 and 2007 closed
2. Autumn Newsletter
3. Luncheon Club
4. New bins
5. Speak Up In Hertfordshire

237/09 REPORTS

Finance Committee. Due to business not being concluded, the meeting was adjourned, to be reconvened on 5 November 2009. Unfortunately due to not being quorate this was cancelled and rescheduled for 12 November 2009.

HAPTC.

The following was reported:-

1. The increase in subscription is very modest
2. A 'drop-in' presentation on the history of Land Registry is being held on 19.11.09

School Governors. No report.

Youth Management. Contact still not made regarding closure of this account. Cllr Gower to be contacted.

Watling Neighbourhood Action. Next meeting 9 November 2009 in Flamstead.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.03pm

Next meeting: 1 December 2009

Signed: _____

Date: _____