

Markyate Parish Council

MINUTES OF MARKYATE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 4 MARCH 2008 AT 7.30PM IN THE JONES ROOM, MARKYATE VILLAGE HALL, MARKYATE

Present: Councillors: E King, Chairman, P Bunyan, Vice Chairman, B/Cllr H Chapman, Cllrs I Crawford, S Deacon, C Dullea, R Peterson, S Pilkinton, Mrs J Bissmire (Clerk)
In attendance: B/Cllr D Lloyd and 2 members of public

430/07-08 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Gower due to business commitments and Cllr Patel due to sickness

431/07-08 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr I Crawford declared a personal interest in Planning Application 4/03058/07/RET due to living in close proximity of this application.

Cllr E King and Cllr C Dullea both declared a personal interest in Item 454/07-08 due to living in close proximity.

Cllr S Pilkinton declared a personal interest in Item 447/07-08 due to living in close proximity.

432/07-08 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 February 2008 were a correct record and were signed by the Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr Crawford and seconded by Cllr Dullea.

433/07-08 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 12 February 2008 were a correct record and were signed by the Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr Pilkinton and seconded by Cllr Peterson.

434/07-08 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 68

A copy of an email dated 14 February 2008 from a member of public had been circulated to the Parish Council. This expressed concern regarding the footpath which runs between No. 14 and No. 10 Pickford Road.

The Chairman said she had spoken with PCSO Dawson regarding this area of concern. PCSO Dawson had requested the police to do more surveillance in this area and suggested a diary of events is kept in order to build a picture of the time and days of incidents. This will enable the police to see what can be done.

The member of public related to other incidents within this area and the fear of what could happen if this is not dealt with now.

The following actions were **agreed**:

- PCSO Dawson to be asked for further advice
- Hertfordshire Highways to be contacted to ask advice on the installation of lights
- The possibility of police placing a mobile CCTV camera on this property
- A diary of incidents to be kept by member of public
- Julie Still, Anti-Social Department at DBC to be informed and asked for advice.

Cllr Deacon arrived at 7.45pm

435/07-08 REPORT ON LUTON AIRPORT

A consultative process has just begun looking into plans by the National Air Traffic Service, which if implemented would affect Markyate. It was reported the new proposals are for the flight path to be changed to use the old Britannia/Monarch swaith flight of 500m. National Air Traffic proposal for 2009 is to reduce planes by 20% in residential areas. The flight path now will be between the top of Markyate and Kensworth. The swaith would be 500m on board, navigation equipment allows them to do this. The consultation period is from 21 February to 22 May 2008. The new proposals are available for viewing in libraries and on the www.nat.co.uk website.

436/07-08 PLANNING DECISIONS

Planning Decisions received from Dacorum Borough Council

1 4/03127/07/LDP, 23 Blacksmiths Row, Loft Conversion. The proposed extension falls within the limits set out in Schedule 2, Part 1, Class B of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995. The proposed development does not therefore require planning permission.

2 4/03035/07/RET, 22 Bartholomew Green, Two Satellite Dishes on side elevation, granted.

3 4/02703/07/FHA, Old Beechwood, Cheverells Green, Conversion and alterations to existing outbuilding

- 4 to provide ancillary domestic accommodation, withdrawn
 4/03085/07/FHA, 21 Long Meadow, Single Storey rear Extension, granted
 5 4/03060/07/RET, 39 Pickford Road, Satellite Dish, granted.

437/07-08 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Parish Council considered the planning applications which had been referred by Dacorum Borough Council for observation. The Parish Council requested the Local Planning Authority to take the following comments in to consideration when determining the under mentioned applications.

- 1 4/00181/08/FHA, Detached Garage, Gooseacre, Buckwood Road
 No objection
 2 4/03058/07/RET, Satellite Dish, 19 Bartholomew Green
 No objection
 3 4/00320/08/FHA, Carport, 22 Long Meadow
 No objection
 4 4/00281/08/FUL, Alterations to existing outbuilding for use ancillary to dwelling. Provision of workshop, double garage and study/playroom, Land at Old Beechwood, Cheverells Green
 Objection for the following reasons:-
 a) Concern expressed within a short period of time this will be a separate dwelling
 b) This could promote further building in Cheverells Green
 c) The Open Space Study Stakeholder Consultation Draft issued in September 2007 states: 'Markyate has a shortage of open space'
 d) Not appropriate in this area
 e) Derelict building which has not been used
 f) This has only been owned for the last 5 years.

Clerk

438/07-08 CLERKS REPORT

- 1 It was reported the Financial Officer appointed on 29 November 2008 had left this post as the trial period was extended due to the level of sick leave taken by this Officer.
 2 The Village Warden is to return to duties on 10 March 2008 after long term sick leave.
 Village Garden Services, the temporary Village Warden, will no longer provide this service from Friday 7 March 2008.

439/07-08 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

To approve the schedule for payment as attached.
 It was proposed by Cllr P Bunyan and seconded by Cllr 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 on 5 February 2008 as follows:

MPC Current Account	£ 442.10
MPC Deposit Account	£ 5988.55
National Savings Account	£ 48845.82
Village Hall Current Account	£ 12133.75
Warden Account	£ - 723.97
Luncheon Club	£ 767.43

It was reported due to the transition period from the old to new accounts system the transfer on the Wardens Account does not show as an overdrawn item on the new accounts.

440/07-08 REVIEW OF THIRD QUARTER SPEND TO DATE AGAINST 2007/08 BUDGET.

2007/08 budget figures were distributed to all councillors.

Third quarter total spend for 2007/08 is £50,887.37 against annual budget of £54,793.00

441/07-08 SIGNING OF NEW BUSINESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT MANDATE

The Clerk presented the new mandate for the Business Savings Account with HSBC which was duly signed. This account will hold the precept and transfers will be made as and when required. This to be forwarded to HSBC.

B/Cllr D Lloyd arrived at 8.20pm

442/07-08 EXTERNAL AUDIT

It was reported Lubbock Fine are satisfied with all the documents relating to Kidde Fire Protection for services carried out in the Village and Y2K Halls. A concern remains regarding the refurbishment of the play area in Peggy's Field and the inclusion of the quotation from Wicksteed in the minutes. This was

Clerk

Clerk

HC

included in the minutes on acceptance of the quote in November 2003 and in the minutes giving a full costing on 22 February 2005 but not in the minutes of the January 2005 meeting when the layout plan was agreed. On going.

RP/Clerk

443/07-08 INTREPRETATION BOARDS

It was reported a meeting was held with Parish Paths Partnerships (P3) regarding the content of the final draft. P3 having considered the draft map, were concerned Rights of Way are not included, and suggested they produce a new map with the required layout.

It was **agreed** the draft already prepared depicting the village would be laminated and placed on the notice board by the fire station. This could then be renewed and updated periodically.

It was also **agreed** one Interpretation Board would be placed by the Village Hall and one by Peggy's Field.

The specialist where the boards were ordered to be informed. On going.

It was further reported a meeting is to be held on 6 March 2008 with P3 in order to visit the sites of the signs which require attention under the 2007/08 funding scheme. On going.

444/07-08 WALKING MAPS

EK/RP

It was confirmed a meeting had been held on 28 February 2008 to finalise the four new maps. A provisional launch date for 28 April 2008 has been set. On going

445/07-08 CEMETERY IN MARKYATE

SD/SP

It was reported an expert has been asked to look at the hedge and report back on the possibility of restoring the part which was taken out. It had been suggested Hornbeam or Beach is planted to restore this section and provide a screen for visitors to the cemetery. Blackthorn originally provided a screen. Ruth Chapman or Claire Covington to be contacted at DBC to agree a date for a meeting. On going.

446/07-08 NEWSLETTER

It was **agreed** the following items to be included in the Spring/Summer Newsletter:-

- Security at the Halls, support from Hertfordshire Police and Dacorum Community
- New Sets in the High Street
- Airport changes
- Chairman's Report presented at the Annual Gathering
- Annual Accounts
- Walking Maps
- Welcome Signs
- Parish Plan
- Date for Special Freighter in Hicks Road
- Findings from the Local History Group/Bomb Scare/Property Prices in Markyate

EK/Clerk
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JG

447/07-08 TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON A5

It was reported a meeting had been held with Mr Bristo from Carillion to discuss the traffic lights on the A5. No promises made but there was an understanding of the problem. Carillion were challenged on the need to buy land but it was agreed that the sort of filter needed does not require this. The impact of Manor Farm was discussed because this junction was stretched by the current flow from the cul-de-sac. It is believed a filter is not likely due to the delay to A5 traffic being restricted, road markings are being considered. Mr Bristo agreed to drive down to the junction from Dunstable direction and look at the misleading elements discussed. In conclusion it was noted the light sequence has now changed. A letter to be sent to Mr Bristo thanking him for attending the meeting and noting the areas of concern.

Clerk

448/07-08 ANNUAL GATHERING 22 APRIL 2008

It was **agreed** the following items should be considered for the Annual Gathering:-

- A presentation of the new plans for the doctors surgery
- Mr Ted Alford to give a presentation on new proposals for Luton Airport
- A show case for the Village Plan

The Clerk to contact the above in the first instance. On going.

Clerk

449/07-08 STRATEGIC HOUSING LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT

A report was circulated to each member in order for discussion to take place. Cllr Pilkinton expressed her concern at every available piece of land being developed and the use of infilling (building on gardens). The need for a Parish Plan was reiterated to enable up to date information about houses, schools, etc. The response from the original appraisal was enormous and to enable the opinion of parishioners to be taken in to account this must be considered. It was stated Local Plans effectively become law and we have no say in the existing Local Plan.

450/07-08 NEW BANK ACCOUNT

It was reported the accounts held with Yorkshire Bank are now closed and all accounts are now held with HSBC as recommended by the internal auditor.

The new accounts now set up are as follows:-

1. Markyate Parish Council
2. Precept (Business Savings Account)
3. Luncheon Club

The new accounting package will be updated during March. Complete.

SP

451/07-08 VILLAGE OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

It was reported this involves groups of people working together creating a community atmosphere within the village.

It was **agreed** the area of Communications will be investigated further.

Clerk

452/07-08 MEETING DAYS, DATES AND VENUE FOR 2008/09

It was **agreed** to continue with Parish Council meetings being held on the first Tuesday of each month, public holidays permitting. The Jones Room to be the venue. A full timetable to be presented at the Annual Parish Council Meeting for approval.

453/07-08 PARISH PLAN

It was reported Localworking are preparing a pilot Parish Plan and Great Gaddesdon have created a lot of interest through producing their Local Plan.

It was proposed a sub committee is formed to take on the initial work, funding etc, to see what can be done and for this to be discussed at the Annual Gathering of the Parish Council. The 'engage' publication was passed around the table for information which demonstrated the way forward. It was suggested an independent person is employed and funding obtained, the proposed provisional budget would be around £8000 for which DBC would be approached for funding.

It was suggested Knebworth plans are taken as an example.

Discussion followed with preference to a survey of the village.

In conclusion it was **agreed** a sub committee is formed consisting in the first instance of Cllrs Bunyan, Dullea, Peterson and Pilkinton to gauge the level of interest.

Agenda item for next meeting.

PB/CD/
RP/SP

454/07-08 GOAL POST IN PEGGY'S FIELD

It was reported Claire Covington had been contacted regarding advice on a safety surface at the goal post but to date no response received. On going

HC

455/07-08 DELIVERING QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR HERTFORDSHIRE CONSULTATION – NHS PATIENT PARTICIPATION

It was felt the NHS are not picking up on public opinion as they appear to carry out things differently rather than implementing public requests.

Cllr Pilkinton reported she had attended the Patient Participation meeting in order to try and obtain a better service for the village. Concern was expressed that information is only available to people visiting the surgery in the village and perhaps a better form of promoting meetings and/or information should be considered by the surgery. On going.

SP

456/07-08 REPORTS

Finance Committee. No meeting.

Halls Committee. A meeting had been held and the following reported:-

- Hire charges are to be increased by 4% to help costs towards Business Rates
- Caretakers salaries to be increased by 2.5%
- Quotations being obtained for maintenance work to the outside of both Halls
- Stocktaking taking place on 27 March 2008 and a visual inspection to agree any works necessary
- Grills and shutters have been installed, a pole is to be purchased to open and close shutters
- CCTV being installed outside the building and in both lobbies

HAPTC. No meeting has been held but Cllr Pilkinton advised she had asked for support for village shops to be considered at the next meeting.

School Governors. It was confirmed Cllr Crawford had visited the school and met with the co-chairs of the governors and the Parish Council had confirmed his suitability as School Governor. On going.

Youth Management. No Meeting a convenient date to be confirmed.

Local Working. A meeting had been held and the minutes were circulated to all members.

- Pilot Parish Plan
- Jill Goody
- PCT NHS representative to discuss plans with Dr Sepai

457/07-08 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- To receive report and approve the use of Y2K Hall for Brownies sleep-over
- To receive report on Parish Plans
- To receive report on Care of Village
- To discuss and agree seats in Peggy's Field
- To discuss and agree display on Parish Council stall at May Fayre
- Parish Path Partnership (P3)

Clerk

458/07-08 ITEMS FOR MARKYATE MONTHLY

- Request for lighting
- New flight path
- Village Warden returning after long term sick leave
- P3 Right of Way signage repairing/replacing
- Traffic Lights
- Annual Parish Gathering
- Sets in High Street
- CCTV
- Launch of Walking Map
- Thank Village Garden Services (temporary Village Warden Services)

Clerk

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EMERGENCY ITEM

It was reported the extreme vandalism at Richmond House and the Parish Council asked for a letter to be sent to DBC with the concerns raised.
Wall by tandoori notice served after 1 February 2008

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.58on

Next meeting Tuesday 4 March 2008

Signed: _____

Date: _____