

Markyate Parish Council

MINUTES OF MARKYATE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2007 AT THE JONES ROOM, MARKYATE VILLAGE HALL, MARKYATE

Present: Councillors: E King, Chairman, P Bunyan, Vice Chairman, I Crawford, S Deacon, J Gower, J Patel, R Peterson Mrs J Bissmire (Clerk)
In attendance: Chief Inspector Newell and two members of public

287/07 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To accept apologies from B/Cllr H Chapman, due to business commitments and Cllr S Pilkinton due to personal commitments.

288 GUEST SPEAKER CHIEF INISPECTOR NEWELL FROM HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE

CI Newell informed the meeting that Inspector Claire Smith was not present as she had attended a Parish Council Meeting, which was clarified as an Area Working meeting and not a Parish Council Meeting. CI Newell informed the Parish Council that Markyate was combined with Flamstead on the Watling Ward. Violent crime, assaults, harassment and serious wounding had gone down in this area. In Markyate there have been no reports of serious assaults, harassment also comes under violent crime. There is a very active neighbourhood watch in Markyate trying to advise vulnerable groups to be aware of bogus callers. Great concern at present is the stealing of car keys from houses in order to take cars parked on drives; the advice in this unfortunate situation is not to be a hero. Garden Sheds are another target for burglary. Statistics for criminal damage are showing a decline for the first year, down 20%, it was pointed out this is not any particular group. CI Newell did not consider drugs to be a concern in Markyate. The main concern in Markyate and across Dacorum is car theft, theft from motor vehicles, breaking of car windows for fun or to fund a drug habit. Sat Navs are taken out of cars but the mark left on the windscreen indicates the Sat Nav is probably in the vehicle, the advice is to remove the holder itself and also lap tops are left cars. Overall crime here has gone down by 2.5%, overall in Dacorum 9% which is good news. Burglary and criminal damage impact on everyone and actual fear of crime are issues to be dealt with. Antisocial behaviour has risen by 13.66%. It is essential the Parish Council work with Pc M Coregan and PCSO Dawson.

CI Newell reported the increase of 1% in burglaries includes garden sheds.

Cllr Gower mentioned there were 3 burglaries in the High Street within the last month and there has been no feedback, CI Newell said he will speak with PC Coregan to give feedback on this.

Cllr Deacon stated car insurance is higher in Markyate than Hemel Hempstead due to more vehicle crime in Markyate. CI Newell reiterated the percentage is lower in Markyate.

The Chairman mentioned the vandalism at the Y2K where 3 windows were broken this month and as a result of the continual vandalism are now considering CCTV and asked if any funding or advice is available. CI Newell said he would speak to Dave Mahon and ask him to contact the Parish Council. The Chairman then asked if CCTV is permissible as evidence, CI Newell stated yes in some cases if it is clear and added CCTV is a fantastic tool which is used a lot by the police. It is possible to have this temporarily installed as an interim measure, this is based on whose need is greater.

Speeding was also mentioned in particular Luton Road, again this should be discussed with Pc Coregan. The speed limit in the High Street is 30mph when in fact this is quite fast for this area.

In conclusion CI Newell said we must work together, youth workers, police and Parish Councils to find out from people what they want without imposing, getting PC Coregan to know who offenders are, looking at parental control, we do have powers to take alcohol from under aged drinkers, some places have introduced a device called mosquito, which emits a very high pitched noise that can only be heard by young people. Antisocial parking on pavements is a big nuisance, CI Newell stated all parking is being decriminalised and handed over to Dacorum Borough Council. It is an offence to park on footpaths. If this is an issue PC Coregan and PCSO Dawson will blitz. CI Newell reiterated all statistics are down apart from vehicle crime and reminded the Parish Council that he is happy to attend meetings if so wished.

CI Newell left the meeting at 8.10pm

Two members of the public left the meeting at 8.10pm

289/07 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 293/07.2.2	R Peterson	Planning Application 4/01801/07/FUL	colleague
Item 293/07.2.1	E King	Planning Application 4/01855/07/FHA	acquaintance
Item 293/07.2.4	I Crawford	Planning Application 4/01842/07/FHA	Neighbour
Item 297/07	R Peterson	War Memorial	Contractor colleague

290/07 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 7 August 2007 were a correct record and were signed by the Chairman. This was proposed by I Crawford and seconded J Patel.

291/07 PUBLIC QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 68.

No public questions

292/07 CORRESPONDENCE

A list of correspondence received was circulated to all Councillors.

A full list of correspondence is in the minute folder and available at the Parish Office.

The following items were discussed:-

- 1 Letter dated 10 August 2007 from member of public regarding transport links to the village
Discussion followed regarding the bus service in Markyate and it was reported a service to Harpenden was introduced approximately ten years ago but was discontinued due to insufficient use.

The following actions agreed:

- A new bus timetable to be obtained
- S Pilkinton to obtain information if possible

- 2 Letter dated 15 August 2007 from member of public requesting a tennis court/basketball court in Markyate, together with copy of the response from DBC.

The following actions agreed:

- A letter to be sent asking if the recipient of the letter would be happy to raise funds for this project
- Scouts membership is now open to both genders and this facility is available.
- Would they consider progressing this through a Youth Parish Council
- J Gower to meet with developers of Manor Farm to propose funding for this project

- 3 Letter dated 8 August 2007 from Mr G Bottrill tendering his resignation as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect. The Parish Council expressed regret but asked for a formal letter to be sent accepting his resignation.

The Clerk confirmed appropriate steps to advertise the vacancy by co-option have been taken.

293/07 PLANNING

1 Planning Decisions received from Dacorum Borough Council

- 1.1 **4/01426/07/FHA**, 6 Farrer Top, Single storey front and rear extension, **Granted**

2 Planning Applications Decisions from Markyate Parish Council

- 2.1 **4/01855/07/FHA**, 82 Pickford Road, Single storey rear extension, **No objection**

P Bunyan arrived at 8.35pm

- 2.2 **4/01801/07/FUL**, 17 Cheverells Close, Detached Bungalow and parking, **No objection**

- 2.3 **4/01507/07/FUL** (Amended Plan), Land r/o 45-47 High Street, Dwelling with Associated Parking
Objection, the Parish Council does not feel the previous objections have been addressed.

- 2.4 **4/01842/07/FHA**, 25 Bartholomew Green, Satellite Dish, **No objection**

- 2.5 **4/01764/07**, Land opposite School House Farm, Old Watling Street
Demolition of existing sheds/barns, erection of 4 bedroom bungalow with 2 car garage

Objection due to concern this may be the start of a new major development

- 2.6 **4/01814/07/LDP**, London Road, Rear Dormer, **No objection**

294/07 CLERK'S REPORT

- 1 Chilterns AONB Draft Management of Road. Confirmed response submitted by S Pilkinton on 4.09.07

- 2 Right to Apply Consultation. Confirmed response submitted by S Pilkinton on 31.08.07

- 3 Letter dated 3 September 2007 from Tates Coaches confirming their interest in sponsoring the Welcome Signs in Markyate and asking the Parish Council the amount of money they are seeking. Agreed the total price to be forwarded and advising any contribution would be gratefully received. On going.

- 4 Letter dated 29 August from Pauline Bennett-Mills and 1 September 2007 from Mathew Putterill expressing their interest in joining the Parish Council. **Agreed** co option and ballot papers to be prepared for next meeting.

- 5 5th Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference, confirmed agenda sent to S Pilkinton

- 6 June/July 2007 edition of Shape Your Future produced by Luton/South Bedfordshire Council regarding growth in South Bedfordshire (potentially at Caddington/Slip End). Confirmed the response from the Parish Council submitted on 04.09.07.

No exhibition to be held in Markyate at this stage.

- 7 It was reported due to the broken windows in Y2K Hall, fragments of glass were cleaned up to the best ability of staff; however, a hirer reported a small piece of glass was found. For this reason Garden Services Temporary Warden Services were asked to clear this area thoroughly which they did at 8.30am on 4 September 2007.

Unfortunately after this was carried, a further two incidences were reported after the Baby Clinic was held in the Y2K on 4 September 2007.

Clerk
SP

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

A notice has been placed in the hall advising hirers that whilst we have done our utmost to ensure there are no small fragments of glass, they must be aware there is a possibility small pieces may be found

8 Gates at the entrance to the Halls. The Clerk asked the Parish Council if they would consider replacing the one gate at the entrance of the hall to try and alleviate vandalism but it was **agreed** as this path was also used by the cricket club it would be difficult to retain accessibility and therefore this would not be viable.

9 It was reported in order to carry out the end of year procedure on the new accounts package purchased earlier this year, guidance should be obtained. The Clerk had requested quotations from companies as follows:

- 1) Martyn A Smith AFA
 - 2) D Rutherford
 - 3) Rosemary Evans (Verbal quotation)
- which were presented to the Parish Council.

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation from D Rutherford for the sum of £100.00.

FO

295/07 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

To approve the schedule for payment as attached.

It was proposed by S Deacon and seconded by P Bunyan 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 4 September 2007 as follows:

MPC Current Account	£ 4460.22
MPC Deposit Account	£32424.38
National Savings Account	£48845.82
Village Hall Account	£12667.18
Warden Account	£ 1425.09
Luncheon Club	£ 141.89

Clerk

296/07 CRICKET CLUB DRAFT LEASE

Confirmed a meeting with E King and H Chapman is taking place with Paul Berg and Taylor, solicitors, on 5 September 2007 to go through the draft lease. On going.

EK/HC

297/07 WAR MEMORIAL

R Peterson reported the work being carried out by John Mathers to the surrounding area has now been completed. This involved extra work, materials and labour of £85.00 making a total of £575.00 and not £490.00 at originally quoted.

It was proposed by J Gower and seconded by S Deacon to approve this payment to John Mathers.

Fairhaven of Anglesey Abbey are in the process of completing the War Memorial itself.

Agreed Fairhaven to be contacted for work to be completed. English Heritage to be advised. On going.

RP
Clerk

298/07 EXTERNAL AUDIT

It was confirmed the third letter from Lubbock Fine has been responded to, which involved 4 hours of staff time, 6 copies and £1.18 in postage. On going

HC

299/07 TRAFFIC CALMING IN CHEVERELLS GREEN AND HIGH STREET

It was **agreed** Hertfordshire Highways should be contacted in order to ask advice on traffic calming in the High Street. On going.

Clerk

300/07 NHS INVESTING IN YOUR HEALTH CONSULTATION

In absentia S Pilkinton who had **agreed** to draft a response, this will be dealt with outside a meeting.

SP

301/07 NALC NEW MODEL REVISED CONTRCT OF EMPLOYMENT

It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the new NALC Contract of Employment for the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer as circulated to all members

302/07 INTERPRETATION BOARDS

R Peterson reported a draft has been prepared of the artwork to be placed on the board and he will contact Judith Brierley to arrange a meeting to discuss this. On going.

303/07 REPORTS

1 **Finance Committee.** No report

2 **Halls Committee.**

It was reported a meeting had been held and the vandalism to the Village and Y2K Halls was discussed. It was **agreed** CCTV is the way forward in order to try and alleviate vandalism. Three quotations to be obtained and presented at the next Halls Committee Meeting to be held on 16 October 2007. Shutters and bars had been considered but **agreed** not acceptable. As security is a priority, the redecoration of the Halls will be considered should funds be available.

HA

3 **H.A.P.T.C.** No report

4 **School Governors.** No report

5 **Youth Management.** A meeting had been held and the following report made:-

- The attendance at the Youth Club is good with three full time Youth Workers.
- There are now set programmes.
- £3000 funding was obtained from the Youth Opportunity Fund which enabled a residential trip
- Concern was expressed regarding payment of rent which in the past has been met by Hertfordshire CC.
- The Youth Club will re open on 18 September

6 **Local Working.** No report

304/07 AREAS OF SPECIFIC INTEREST

1 Items for Markyate Monthly:

- Report from Chief Inspector Newell
- CCTV for halls because of increase in crime
- Broken glass as result of vandalism, we have taken every precaution for safety
- Traffic calming
- Youth club starting on 18 September report on residential trip in summer for £10.
- The Noise Project, clean up following success of clean up day, The Noise Project had 80 volunteers, done some very good work
- Condolences on the death of Terry Woolsley who was a Halls Administrator for the Parish Council.

Clerk

3 It was considered unfair that planning applications for satellites dishes in Barthlomew Green are now required but **agreed** as this is a DBC decision no action can be taken.

Clerk

4 Clarity required on 10 signatures required if ballot not to satisfaction of nominees, call election and difference between full and co option member.

Clerk

No Cold Calling in Markyate, **agreed** information to be obtained.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.15pm

Next meeting Tuesday 2 October 2007

Signed: _____

Date: _____