

Markyate Parish Council

MINUTES OF MARKYATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER 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: Pc M Coregan, 3 members of public

238/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr C Dullea due to personal commitments.

239/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr E King expressed a personal interest in item 269/09 play area in Peggy's Field due to living in close proximity.

Cllr H Chapman declared a personal interest in item 243/09 as this is his portfolio.

Cllr E King expressed a personal interest in item 271/09.9. Peggy's Field due to living in close proximity.

240/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3 November 2009, as circulated, were a correct record and was signed by the Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr P Bunyan and seconded by Cllr S Pilkinton

241/09 MINUTES OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING/HALLS COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting of the Council held on 20 October 2009 and the Halls Committee held on 8 September 2009 as circulated, be received and adopted.

242/09 MINUTES OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting of the Council held on 12 November September 2009, as circulated, be received.

243/09 DRAFT ROADS POLICY

Copies of the draft Roads Policy was circulated prior to the meeting in order to discuss the following:-

1. Structure this policy
2. Discuss basic issues
3. Decide if specific vehicles cause problems
4. What can be done to resolve these
5. To add observations and consider if these are being addressed
6. Agree a practical way if possible to ensure all drivers obey the Highway Code.

The following was suggested to be included in Observations:-

1. Luton Road excessive speeding
2. Additional column headed '*alternative means of transport*'
3. Additional column '*legal parking/planning issues*'

The following was suggested within Conclusions:-

1. Problems at fire station
2. More lighting in High Street (has to be specified)
3. Aggressive drivers
4. Stop driving on footpath
5. Talk to Hertfordshire Highways to see what meets their criteria.
6. Bollards on narrow pavement

This item was closed with all in agreement that this is a very diverse problem requiring expert assistance.

It was agreed a meeting should be held with Mr Workman, Hertfordshire Highways, in the meantime, any notes to be forwarded to Cllr Bennett.

Action: ALL/Clerk

A member of public arrived at 7.45pm

244/09 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 those members of the public might speak.

A resident said there had been a lot of support for the concerns raised regarding traffic in the village.

A member of public had prepared a report on a Proposed One Way Traffic System through Markyate which was

distributed at the meeting. The Parish Council said this would be incorporated where possible in the Roads Policy. It was agreed this will be discussed with Mr Workman, Hertfordshire Highways.

Pc Coregan presented a crime report to the Parish Council which is attached to these minutes. He advised the Hemel Hempstead custody suite is closing and he now has to use the suite at Watford or Hatfield therefore it is not possible to be on beat duty 80% of the time. Pc Coregan advised he is doing his best but it is difficult. The PCSO returns this week from long term sick leave but will be on light duties only. He was asked, when released, how alleged offenders get home, he said they are lenient if not guilty and offer assistance home.

The Parish Council agreed a letter should be sent to Inspector Edwards pointing out the Policing Pledge which pledges Officers will be on ward beat for 80% of their time and the difficulty in distance to a custody suite which makes this impossible.

Pc Coregan pointed out the advantages of 'Smart Water' which enables items to be marked for identification in the event of burglary.

He also confirmed a surgery is held in Markyate by the fire station but they have a Duty of Care for everyone, if cover is required in Hemel Hempstead this has to be dealt with.

Pc Coregan was thanked for his attendance and left the meeting at 8.25pm

245/09 NEW CEMETERY IN MARKYATE

This item was deferred until further information is received from HAPTC and DBC. Agenda item 12 January 2009 meeting.

Action: Clerk

246/09 DISPOSAL OF WASTE IN CEMETERY IN MARKYATE

This item also deferred pending information on domestic/commercial waste.

Action: Clerk

247/09 BENCH OUTSIDE THE FIRE STATION

A member of public had raised concerns regarding antisocial behaviour within the area of the bench by the fire station. The Parish Council confirmed any form of antisocial behaviour should be reported to the police immediately. No **action**

248/09 PARKING PROBLEMS IN MARKYATE

This item related to concerns expressed by a parishioner. It was agreed this can be embraced in the Road Policy. It was confirmed the police are responsible for everything other than yellow lines, which is DBC, and traffic wardens do ticket on a ad hoc basis.

249/09 PLANNING DECISIONS

1. 4/00100/08/LDE, Lower Farm End, Luton Road, Use of Building as an office. Refused

250/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No planning applications presented at this meeting.

251/09 CLERKS REPORT

The following was reported:-

1. An email has been received today from Cllr James Gower tendering his resignation as a Parish Councillor, due to business commitments. This will be an agenda item for the 12 January 2010 meeting.
2. We have received notification today from BDO LLP that the audit for the year ended 31 March 2008 and 31 March 2009 has now been completed. This will be an agenda item for the January 2010 meeting.
3. Salt Bins can not be placed in Cowper Rise or Buckwood Road (minute 335/09) due to bins already situated in Cavendish Road and Buckwood Road is gritted by Hertfordshire Highways
4. Mrs J Kent has invited the Parish Council to attend the Christmas Lunch Club being held on Wednesday 9 December 2009. Cllrs King and Pilkinton to attend.
5. Due to the Christmas period, Standing Orders for all staff salaries will be paid on the 16 December 2009, one week earlier.
6. As the next full Council meeting is not until the 12 January 2010, some cheques and staff top up cheques will be signed outside a meeting.
7. The office will be closed for the Christmas period from 2.30pm Tuesday 22 December and reopen on Tuesday 29 December 2009.
8. Planning Application 4/01365/09/FUL, Baptist Church, Buckwood Road, Front extension, new entrance with lift. Granted.
9. Hertfordshire Highways have confirmed all signs in the village were cleaned in August this year.
10. Luton Airport Anti Terrorism Strategy, information distributed

252/09 CRICKET CLUB

The solicitors are dealing with this and we await their report. On going.

Action: HC

253/09 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	£ 472.17
MPC Savings	£ 23,177.78
MPC Investment	£ 50,028.51
Petty Cash	£ 53.76
Luncheon Club	£ 301.94
TOTAL	£ 74,034.16

254/09 DRAFT ESTIMATE OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR 2010/11

At the Budget & Finance Meeting held on 12 November 2009 a draft budget was prepared and presented to the Parish Council for approval in its draft form. Adjustments will have to be made when the final invoice is received from Lubbock Fine for audit fees and the placing of Public Notices in a local paper.

The following will be requested under extraordinary items:-

- £5000 for improvement to the steps in Wesley Road
- £1000 for 2 bins, locations to be confirmed

It was **RESOLVED**

To recommend to the Parish Council on the 12 January 2010 that the above budget for 2010/2011 be submitted to DBC.

Action: Clerk/FO

255/09 SPECIAL ITEMS REQUESTED IN 2008/2009 BUDGET

A letter dated 20 October 2009 from DBC was circulated to all members prior to the meeting, advising assistance is not available for Village Hall Business rates, nor funding for plants and picnic benches or audit fees as requested in the 2008/2009 budget was received and noted. The tree cutting in Peggy's Field and the cemetery will be looked in to. It was confirmed a letter had been sent to DBC on 17 November 2009 regarding tree cutting in Peggy's Field but no response had been received.

Action: Clerk

256/09 HERTFORDSHIRE CC WASTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENTS

The Parish Council considered the document entitled Waste Core Strategy and Development Policies – preferred Option 2. Comments on the consultation were invited by 18.12.09.

The consultation sought views on Hertfordshire being responsible for its own waste and some of the waste from London. The County will need new waste sites for all different types of waste. The nearest proposed sites to Markyate are Maylands Industrial area and Swallowdale industrial site in Hemel Hempstead, as these sites are considered conveniently placed in order to keep movement of waste to a minimum, e.g. near main roads or trains or water.

The following response was recommended:-

The Parish Council do not think Hertfordshire with its high population should have to take some of the waste from London, especially as the population in Hertfordshire will increase over the next few years with the housing growth which will produce more waste.

Green Belt will not be used unless there are special circumstances; it was felt Green belt should not be used at all. ANOB will be avoided.

Landfill or land raise should be the final option for treating of residual waste and will only be permitted if it will not cause unacceptable environmental or health impacts.

The existing site at Cupid Green will remain.

The existing sewerage works in Markyate is referred to in the waste Site Allocations preferred Option 2

It was

RESOLVED

To approve the above response to the consultation

Action: Clerk

257/09 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The Clerk circulated the list of general correspondence for information with particulate note of the email received on 1 December 2009 from Lubbock Fine confirming the Public Notice can now be published.

It was also confirmed the email dated 10 November 2009 from Mrs A Mead will be attached to the 3 November 2009

meeting.

258/09 NEWSLETTER

It was agreed to postpone the Autumn newsletter until the final invoice is received from the external auditor in order for this to be incorporated in a Winter newsletter.

Action: RP

259/09 PORTABLE VEHICLE ACTUATED SIGNS

The Parish Council have been asked to join in a new initiative of the Highways Joint Members Panel by nominating roads for inclusion in the portable vehicle actuated signs programme. At present Luton Road had already been listed as one location in Markyate.

The following two locations were agreed as possible locations:-

1. London Road (Luton Road end)
2. Buckwood Road

The Parish Council considered speeding can be controlled by the police with a laser gun in Pickford Road

Action: Clerk

Cllr C Bennett left the meeting at 9.15pm

260/09 CHRISTINA OF MARKYATE MOSAIC

Two quotations were requested from specialists for the brass plaque for the Christina of Markyate mosaic.

The Parish Council

RESOLVED

To accept the quotation from T C Darby at a cost of £236.50 excluding VAT.

Local Government Act 1972, s.144 applies

This quotation was selected due to being the most competitive.

Action: RP

261/09 INSTALLATION OF TWO INTERPRETATIONS BOARDS AND ONE GRP BOARD

Seven quotations were requested from specialist for the installation of two boards and one GRP board but only two responded.

The Parish Council

RESOLVED

To accept the quotation from Village Garden Services at a cost of £295.00 excluding VAT.

Local Government Act 1972, s.144 applies

This quotation was selected due to being the most competitive.

£241.00 of which is available through funding from P3 and The Don Millar Fund.

Action: Clerk

262/09 LUNCHEON CLUB

A meeting had been held with Ms Atefah Alkhan, Age Concern Dacorum to discuss the continuation of a service for the elderly in Markyate. Costings for the Luncheon Club were passed to Age Concern in order for them to give consideration to future projects. On going

263/09 WATLING SPORTS FORUM

It was confirmed an invitation has been sent to schools, sports coordinators and sports clubs and classes in the three parishes of the Watling ward to discuss better support for local sports clubs and classes, this will be held on 13 January 2010 in the Y2K Hall, Markyate. Feedback to date is very positive.

Action: SP

264/09 BOROUGH LIAISON MEETING

It was reported a meeting had been held and the following noted:-

1. Concurrent services are reported in 254/09.
2. Village Warden budget for 2010/11 unchanged. For 2011 for the next 3 years there will be a 25% deduction in the budget.
3. Minutes to be circulated when received

A member of public left the meeting at 9:00pm

265/09 PARISH PLAN

No report

266/09 P3 GRANT FOR 2009/10

The requests for funding through the P3 grant, (minute 228/09) is not within the criteria set by Countryside Management Services, therefore, the Parish Council reconsidered this and asked for footpath 13 towards the Bedfordshire border to have surfacing work carried out.

Action: Clerk

267/09 PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP/SURGERY

It was reported the meeting was deferred. On going

268/09 ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL 2010

Due to members of the Parish Council not available on the scheduled date, it was agreed the date for the Annual Gathering should be moved to the 11 May 2009 and the Halls Committee Meeting moved to the 18 May 2009.

Action: ALL

269/09 SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN PEGGY'S FIELD

The certified Inspection Report for the play area in Peggy's Field had previously been circulated to all members. It was agreed the Village Warden could carry out the majority of the issues listed with the exception of the following:-

1. Bearings to be replaced in the turnstile on tiles

The Parish Council

RESOLVED

To contact Wicksteed to replace the bearings as recommended in the report as soon as possible for Health and Safety reasons.

The following was also agreed:-

2. A letter should be sent to Wicksteed asking for clarification on the links on the seat swing
3. Prices for the recommended signs to be presented at the 12 January 2009 meeting

Action: Clerk

270/09 INSURANCE COVER

Confirmation has now been received regarding ownership of street lamps by the Parish Council. It was confirmed 32 lamps are owned by the Parish Council and 32 by Hertfordshire Highways/DBC. This will be updated on the insurance details to be approved at the Parish Council meeting on 12 January 2009, and the Asset Register. On going.

Action: Clerk

271/09 CARE OF THE VILLAGE

1. Sun Public House, cars park outside which results in obstruction and causing difficulty opening the door. [HH]
2. No disabled parking in village [HH]
3. Street lights cleaned [HH]
4. Ivy growing up lamp post opposite 17 High Street [HH]
5. Pot hole in Buckwood Road [HH]
6. Incorrect time on village clock. Letter to be sent to owner due to no access) [Clerk]
7. Request for 30mph repeater signs up and down Pickford Road
8. DBC notice board at fire station forecourt needs repairing [HC]
9. Contract van for dog bins in Peggy's Field drives across the field and is churning up the grass [DBC]

272/09 BERRYMANS LACE MAWER

The report and invoice dated 12 November 2009 from Berrymans Lace Mawer was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and it was confirmed the only element of the claim the Parish Council is responsible for is VAT which does not apply, which is contrary to advice previously given as per minute 113/09 which states an excess charge applies.

Complete

273/09 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

1. Resignation of Cllr James Gower
2. Budget A and B forms
3. Grit Bins
4. Newsletter
5. PPP

274/09 ITEMS FOR MARKYATE MONTHLY

1. Resignation of Cllr James Gower
2. Change of date for Annual Gathering to 11 May 2009
3. Date of special skip in Hicks Road
4. Date and time of Police surgery in village
5. Happy New Year to all

275/09 P3 GRANT FOR 2007/2008

Under the P3 grant for 2007/08 new signage improvements were funded in the village and £140.00 is left outstanding. The Parish Council were asked to consider new signage in Peggy's Field when this has been

registered. This has been approved by Countryside Management Services [P3] and DBC. It was agreed when registration is complete this will be concluded.

276/09 REPORT ON WORK BY HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS

It was confirmed a meeting is proposed with Mr Workman, Hertfordshire Highways, and the following was noted:-

1. Drainage
2. Intermittent speed sign at Cheverells Green
3. Uneven blocks in Wesley Road
4. Street light in the alleyway between Pickford Road/Sebright Road
5. Old Vicarage Gardens to garages

277/09 ALEY GREEN CEMETERY

It was with sad regret Cllr King reported the death of Mr Ray Smith from Caddington Parish Council. The Parish Council offered their condolences to his family and friends at this time.

The present Clerk to Aley Green has resigned after completing 27 years service.

278/09 REPORTS

Finance Committee. No report

HAPTC. Minutes to be circulated.

School Governors. A meeting was held on 30 November 2009 and the following reported:-

1. Nursery age children now have to receive 3 hours compulsory nursery education to be phased in over two terms. From January 2010 the hours will be 8:50am to 11:50pm
2. There is an optional lunch club, parents to pay.

Youth Management. It was reported an email had been received from Mr P Cain and it is now hoped to close this bank account.

Action: PB

Watling Neighbourhood Action. Minutes to be circulated.

279/09 LIGHTS IN Y2K CAR PARK

Five quotations were requested from specialist to repair three lights in the Y2K car park

The Parish Council

RESOLVED

To accept the quotation from DW Windsor Lighting at a cost of £967.93 excluding VAT.

This quotation was selected due to being the most competitive.

Action: FO/HA

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.20pm

Next meeting: 12 January 2010

Signed: _____

Date: _____