

Markyate Parish Council

MINUTES OF MARKYATE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 7 JULY 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 J Gower, Cllr R Peterson, Cllr S Pilkinton, Mrs J Bissmire (Clerk)

In attendance: PCSO M Taylor, PCSO R Coyle and 2 members of public

74/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

PCSO Marie Taylor introduced her Tring colleague PCSO Ryan Coyle who is shadowing her and reported on crimes in Markyate and Flamstead which consisted mainly of thefts from outbuildings, garden sheds and garages. PCSO Taylor said people should be aware and ensure security is enforced. Members of public were asked to report any suspicious behaviour to the police immediately. Contact numbers are available on www.herts.police.uk and as follows:-
PC 1353 Maurice Coregan Tel: 01707 354192 PCSO 6596 Marie Taylor Tel: 01707 354192
It was reported a Watling Neighbourhood Fire Safety Workshop is being held which should be publicised.
It was noted there is a visible presence of the police in Markyate and Hemel Hempstead which is encouraging.
PCSO Taylor and PCSO Coyle were thanked for attending the meeting and left at 7.40pm.

75/09 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr S Pilkinton declared a prejudicial interest in item 77/09 Business in High Street due to family connections.

Cllr J Gower declared a personal interest in item 82/09.2 Planning application 4/00918/09/ADV due to living in close proximity.

Cllr E King declared a personal interest in item 91/09, overgrown trees in Peggy's Field due to living in close proximity.

Cllr E King declared a personal interest in item 96/09 sewage overflow due to the writer of the letter being friends.

76/09 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr R Peterson and

RESOLVED

That under Section 1 of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded during the item 77/09 of the agenda for this meeting, because it was likely that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business or for other special reasons arising from the nature of the business or proceedings.

The chairman proposed although this is a closed session, the minutes would be placed within the public domain, a vote was taken and this was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Pilkinton who declared a prejudicial interest in this item, two members of public and the Clerk left the meeting at 7.40pm.

77/09 COMPLAINT AGAINST PARISH CLERK

The Chairman recommended all members note this matter was discussed in minute 43/09 of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 June 2009.

- The Parish Council noted the content of the letter from the complainant and the reply
- That a letter of reply is sent signed by the chairman stating the PC will not be taking any action against the Parish Clerk as there is no evidence that she has done anything wrong.
- To note the complainant has been advised of his rights to complain to the Standards Committee of DBC regarding a complaint against a Parish Councillor.
- To conclude that the Parish Council regards the matter as closed and will not enter into any further correspondence regarding this issue.
- If the complainant should continue to correspond with the Parish Council in connection with this matter the Parish Clerk is instructed that no acknowledgement is sent but any further correspondence is filed.
- If further correspondence is received this will be referred to the Police under the Protection from Harassment Act 1997.
- The Parish Council in line with the recommendations from the Society of Local Council Clerks gave assurance it will fulfil its responsibilities to ensure it does not fail in its duty of care to all staff.

It was agreed unanimously and

RESOLVED

To accept the above recommendations.

Action: EK

Two members of public, Cllr Pilkinton and the Clerk returned to the meeting at 8.05pm

The Chairman informed the Clerk full support was given by all councillors.

78/09 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 2 June 2009, as circulated, were a correct record and was signed by the Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr I Crawford and seconded by Cllr S Pilkinton.

79/09 MINUTES OF THE BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting held on 23 June 2009, as circulated, were a correct record and was signed by the Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr R Peterson and seconded by Cllr S Pilkinton that these minutes be received and adopted.

80/09 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 68

A member of public read the Parish Council's disclaimer and asked for clarity as to what qualifies as being available for public display and which information is withheld. There appears to be a conflict between the Freedom of Information Act and Data Protection. There is a lack of clarity with these orders.

The member of public then read out the following quote:

"Who steals my purse steals trash; 'tis something, nothing;
'Twas mine, 'tis his, and has been slave to thousands;
But he that filches from me my good name,
Robs me of that which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed."

The member of public thanked the Parish Council for listening and awaited a response in due course.

Action: Clerk

81/09 PLANNING DECISIONS

Planning Decisions received from Dacorum Borough Council

1. 4/00228/09/FHA, The White House, Valley Lane, rear extensions, internal alterations and repairs. (Amended) Refused
2. 4/00229/09/LBC, as above. Refused.
3. 4/00583/09/LDP, 18 London Road, Porch. Refused
4. 4/00575/09/FHA, 1 The Ridings, Two storey front/Rear extensions and internal alterations. Refused.

82/09 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

1. 4/00895/09/FHA, Hollybush Lodge, Roe End Lane, Two storey side extension.

For information, no comment.

2. 4/00918/09/ADV, 66-68 High Street, fascia and illuminated sign.

The Parish Council objected to this application because they consider it does not fit in to a conservation area. They feel as this is fitted on a beautiful building some inspiration should be put in to a more suitable sign.

3. 4/00944/09/FHA, 28 London Road, detached double garage and parking

No objection

The following planning application was received after publication of the agenda

- 4 4/01013/09/LBC, 8A Pickford Road, replacement Window and Replacement of Dormer with Roof light.

No objection.

83/09 CLERKS REPORT

No report at this meeting.

84/09 CRICKET CLUB

It was reported the treasurer of the cricket club has a meeting scheduled but B/Cllr Chapman can not attend due to other business commitments but he will telephone the chairman to obtain a progress report.

On going

Action: HC

85/09 EXTERNAL AUDIT

On going.

86/09 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

To approve the schedule for payment as attached.

It was proposed by Cllr P Bunyan and seconded by Cllr J Gower 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	£ 1392.70
MPC Savings	£ 49174.80
MPC Investment	£ 53028.51
Petty Cash	£ 56.47
Luncheon Club	£ 513.56
TOTAL	£101,166.04

87/09 FIRST QUARTER SPEND AGAINST BUDGET

MPC	£ 10,983.00
Village Hall	£ 4932.00
Village Warden	£ 3946.00

As per schedule attached.

88/09 PARISH PLAN

It was confirmed a new invoice for the printing will be forwarded for payment due to the original being incorrect. The original price quoted for 12,000 sheets was estimated because at that time it was an unknown quantity. The final print amounted to 27,000. It was reported it was very difficult to predict the amount of printing in the initial stage, therefore, the quote was an estimate.

On going

Action: SP

89/09 COUNCILLOR ABSENCE

Due to Cllr Gower's presence at this meeting, this item is irrelevant.

90/09 MARKYATE SPORTS FORUM

Cllr Pilkinton proposed we look to encourage a Markyate sports forum or Watling sports forum as sporting activities in Markyate are not getting the support available. Concern was expressed about the lack of contact by the DSN with local clubs that are not on the DSN.

It was agreed this item to be presented at the Watling Neighbourhood Action meeting on 7 September 2009.

Action: EK/SP/Clerk

91/09 TREES IN PEGGY'S FIELD

As advice could not be obtained on the work to be carried out on the trees in Peggy's Field by DBC, quotations were obtained but no specification could be produced.

It was

RESOLVED

Cllr P Bunyan and S Deacon to receive a copy of the work involved and assess the situation.

To be presented at the next meeting. On going

Action: PB/SD/Clerk

92/09 LAND AT CHEVERELLS GREEN

It was reported concern has been expressed at properties on the strip of land going south from the top of Pickford Road who are placing kerbs at the edge of the road therefore incorporating this strip of land into their garden. It was mentioned kerbs were placed here to discourage vehicles driving over the edge of the grass. After discussion it was

RESOLVED

To write to Hertfordshire Highways advising the situation and asking for confirmation that they are happy with this situation.

Action: Clerk

93/09 LAY BY ON A5

It was reported a meeting is being arranged with Mr B Scott from DBC, a representatives from Carillion, Mike Penning MP and B/Cllr Chapman to discuss the closure of the lay-by. It was felt there are sufficient lay-bys in close proximity which should be used for through traffic to briefly stop not as an overnight stay.

On going

Action: HC

94/09 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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

95/09 MEETING WITH HERTFORDSHIRE HIGHWAYS

The following was reported from the meeting held on 24 June 2009 with Mr N Workman, Cllr King and B/Cllr Chapman:-

- Luton Road - The area engineer has an order to prune some of the trees, however this is on hold as from the meeting it is thought the field behind the trees is part of the Markyate Cell and as pointed out would form a barrier to people passing and re passing. The order was only prepared as when the request came in the owner of the field could not be determined to contact them to carry out the work. A further check is also being made on the highway boundary as the only copy available shows the footway and verge to the Slip End side of Caddington Common but the footway to the Markyate side has not been coloured in as being highway
- Cheverells Green - the resurfacing of the footway (possibly, depending on cost increasing it to 600mm width - JCB bucket width) will be considered at the same time as the signing for the speed limit which will be prepared in the next two weeks
- London Road - letters will be sent out shortly
- Sebright Road to Pickford Road - need to check if this footway is considered as part of the publicly maintainable highway, as it does not show up on Hermis, prior to making any request to street lighting.
- Pickford Road - Children sign - a WO will be prepared to move the sign
- Old Vicarage Gardens to Cavendish Road – Further investigation required
- High Street - A preliminary estimate has been carried out, without allowance for traffic management and all those initially looked at should be done and possible sites 15 and 16. Traffic management /working times with the works team and police will be discussed next week. There is no guarantee that more funding will be available next year, this would need to be put forward for consideration by the JMP on whether they wanted to fund the completion of the works.

It was also reported confirmation is being sought on the ownership of trees in Luton Road at Caddington Common but it is hoped to do one cut whilst in negotiations with Cell Park.
On going.

96/09 SEWAGE OVERFLOW AT REAR OF FIRE STATION

It was reported an engineer from Thames Water visited the site to begin investigations into the cause of the ongoing blockages. His initial assessment has recommended that a closed circuit television survey of the sewer be completed, and they are in the process of arranging this. They expect the survey to be carried out over the next month and will report back.

On going

Action: Clerk

97/09 STATEMENT OF INTENT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

**It was
RESOLVED**

With two minor amendments, that the Statement of Intent Community Engagement Policy was adopted.

98/09 PROTOCOLS FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN COUNCIL MEETINGS

**It was
RESOLVED**

With three minor amendments, that the Protocols for Public Participation in Council meetings was adopted.

99/09 APPROACH TO PLANNING AND POLICY

Cllr Bennett proposed that the Parish Council should have a considered opinion about at least six topics that affect village life. The aim is to enhance the effectiveness of the Parish Council and streamline planning, in summary the proposal is as follows:

1. The PC has a documented Policy on a select number of issues, probably six, and that at least some of these are published by the next AGM (April 2010), or announced for publication in 2010;
2. The Policies would be based, but not exclusively, on the list of topics below:
 - Transport (Airport, Roads, Links)
 - Planning (developmental, conservation, emergency and policies)
 - Village Life (education, health, village societies, events and diaries)
 - Village Economy (businesses, industrial estate, viability, development)
 - Green and environmental issues (lighting, litter, upkeep, initiatives)
 - Finance and Risk (planned, committed, assessments, audits, governance)
 - The Policies are revised systematically over a period of years as events change the needs of the Village;
 - The Policies are used to judge our success throughout the year, year-on-year;
 - The PC should be prepared to publicise its achievements.

In conclusion it was agreed important topics for review is a good idea to monitor and review as necessary in order to evaluate where we are with our plan and deliver actions against it, to state what we are trying to achieve and how successful we are. It is important we are doing something dedicated and positive we then have to explain if it is good or bad. On going.

Action: CB

100/09 NEWSLETTER

It was agreed the following items are to be included in the Autumn newsletter:-

- Article on the Parish Plan
- 2008/09 Chairman's Report
- Cross overs
- Picnic Tables
- Article on Knotweed
- Accounts
- Councillor contact details

Action: RP

101/09 ACTIONS IN THE VILLAGE

- After the storm, drains are blocked (Herts Highways)
- Rail at steps in Wesley Road (Actioned)
- Entrance/exist at Sursham Court (B/Cllr Chapman to liaise with Cllr Pilkinton)
- Concern was expressed in the event of flooding, sand bags are only available from Hemel Hempstead (no action)
- Wall at the take away is progressing, as the discarded freezer is dangerous due to the wall being down a letter to be sent to the owner with B/Cllr Lloyd copied in. (Clerk)
- New bins with lids were requested (HC)
- After the storm footpath 13 needs clearing (VW)
- Fly tipping has been reported around the village (HC)

102/09 EXTENDED SCHOOLS SURVEY

It was reported a questionnaire was included in the Markyate Monthly for June 2006 which was similar to the Parish Plan but on the suggestions put forward by the Headteacher of Markyate Village School and Nursery. It was proposed to write to the Headteacher asking him to note the input to our survey and offering to pool resources. It was felt the results should compliment that the new survey achieves and support conclusions.

Action: SP

103/09 MEETINGS ON BUS SERVICES IN MARKYATE

It was reported Centrebus will be issuing and accepting Uno day tickets £4.50 adult: £2.50 child on their 34 and 46 services from 1 July 2009. A meeting is being held on 22 July 2009 and Cllr Pilkinton will represent the Parish Council.

Action: SP

104/09 REPORTS

Finance Committee. Minutes circulated and noted

HAPTC. It was reported the Annual Report has been published.

School Governors. No report

Youth Management. No report

Watling Neighbourhood Action. Minutes circulated.

105/09 AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Future of the Post Office [RP]
- Condition of Albert Street [RP]
- Environmental Forum (CD)
- Affordable warmth [SP]
- Empowerment [SP]

106/09 ITEMS FOR MARKYATE MONTHLY

- Common land at Cheverells Green
- Hicks Road
- Police Report
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107/09 SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY

Disappointment was expressed that the comments submitted were ignored. No action.

108/09 THE BIG LUNCH

It was confirmed this event being held on 19 July 2009 is supported by the Parish Council.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 10.10pm

Next meeting: 4 August 2009

Signed: _____

Date: _____