

MARSTON MORETEYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held at Marston Shelton Methodist Church on Tuesday 18th March 2008, commencing 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor M. Petty (Chairman)
Councillors B. Mead, Mrs. S. Hall, P. Hall, Miss E. Johnstone, B. Chandi,
Mrs. J. Allen, F. Keep, T. Hyde
County Councillor B. King
District Cllr D. Tysoe
2 members of public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received and accepted from Cllr G. Spriggs & District Cllr M. Gibson.
2. **Report from EB Security**
The Chairman reported that Bryan Bignall is currently on holiday and Aprille has left EB Security. Bryan and the Managing Director will be invited to attend next months' meeting to answer any questions regarding their contract. The clerk is currently awaiting a new three year contract to be drawn up.
3. There were no declarations of interest made in respect of agenda items.
4. **Update of information from County Councillor B. King**
Prior to the outcome of the judicial review, the County Council has agreed to work with Bedford Borough and Mid & South Beds District Councils in relation to the unitary authority. Parish Partnership money has been increased this year. BK agreed to check up on the current situation regarding signage for Arundel Road. A letter regarding the BEAR project (Energy from waste facility) has been delivered to residents of Marston. BK stated that no agreement has been received from Bedford Borough Council yet stating that they support an efw in Bedfordshire. This could either delay the project or even jeopardize it.
5. **The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19th February 2008** were submitted for approval. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record, and were duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr B. Chandi seconded by Cllr T. Hyde.
6. **The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4th March 2008** were submitted for approval. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record, and were duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Miss E. Johnstone seconded by Cllr P. Hall.
7. **Matters arising from the minutes of Tuesday 15th January and Tuesday 5th February 2008.**
 - 7.1 **Holme Close** - Holme Close is to be resurfaced by 30th June 2008.
 - 7.2 **A421 Improvements** - The Public Inquiry was adjourned twice in order to examine traffic forecasts in more detail. The Inquiry closed on 13th February. The Highways Agency expects an announcement from the Secretaries of State in the summer, based on the evidence presented. Depending upon the decision, the scheme is on programme for construction to start in January 2009. However, this is still subject to the statutory process.
 - 7.3 **S106 Traffic Calming for Station Road** - Both Cllr P Neale and the Clerk met with Debbie Poynton from the Transportation Team at Station Road. A copy of the speed data information gathered for the Parish Council in 2005 will be sent to DP as requested. DP has met with Jon Shortland (Watchman-In-Chief) and the Casualty Reduction Team to see if speed camera signs can be put up along the road. A decision from the outcome of this meeting is awaited.
 - 7.4 **CCTV – Confident Communities Fund** - No further information has been forthcoming from Beds CC.
 - 7.5 **The Green** - Hedging – the clerk to chase.
 - 7.6 **Village Diary** - Owing to the fact that not all rounds were covered last month, the Parish Council has a reduction in this months' delivery costs.

- 7.7 **Shelton Lower School** –Some neighbours are opposed to the zebra crossing proposals put forward by the school.
- 7.8 **Energy from Waste Plant** – It is hoped to arrange a further meeting with surrounding Parish Councils April/May time.
- 7.9 **Highway Draft 5 Year Plan** – Jon Shortland has agreed to re-assess the Bedford Road footpath and possibly resurface it in stages, perhaps using the Parish Partnership money this year. With regard to Station Road, he cannot bring the resurfacing forward but has committed himself to reassessing the road before they review the programme for 2009/10 to see if it can be given more of a priority.
- 7.45 Cllr Mrs. E. Houghton arrives at the meeting.
8. **Update of information from District Councillor D. Tysoe**
Following the Unitary decision, there will be unitary elections next year. There will be no changes for the next 12 months. It is likely that Marston Moreteyne will be represented by two Councillors. Cllr Tysoe advised that he will not be standing as a candidate next year. Cllr Miss E Johnstone spoke with DT regarding the problems with CPM at Howes Drive. The Chairman thanked DT for his hard work.
9. **Public Participation**
Steven Mullins who lives near Mark Deacon spoke in relation to application 08/00270/FULL which is to be discussed later in the meeting. He gave his concerns relating to the application citing noise levels as his prime concern. Mark Deacon – the applicant, spoke stating that it was his intention to withdraw the application and resubmit it with certain restrictions, which he outlined to the Council.
The Chairman thanked both parties for attending the meeting and stated that the Parish Council would discuss the matter further during Planning and determine their comments on the application before them.
10. **Brief update of information on the following committees:**
- 10.1 Community Safety Group – Cllr F. Keep
Cllr Keep circulated a brief report to all Councillors giving an update on the previous month's activities. Leigh – PCSO will be returning to her duties following maternity leave, albeit part time. Other matters reported were of a window being smashed in Manor Road, and of a card being cloned at the cash point at the CoOp.
- 10.2 Mid Beds Planning Consortium – Cllr F. Keep
Cllr Keep advised that there is nothing to report.
- 10.3 Landfill Liaison – Cllrs Mrs. E. Houghton/Mrs. J. Allen
Cllr Mrs. E. Houghton advised that there is nothing to report.
- 10.4 Playing Field Committee – Cllr P. Hall
Cllr Hall advised that the matters concerning the Committee had been covered in the Trustees report given during the Annual Parish Meeting.
- 10.5 Village Hall Committee – Cllr B. Mead
Cllr Mead reported that the committee is looking into repainting the woodwork at the front of the village hall, having the stage re-carpeted and the floor re-sanded and sealed. BM agreed to ask for a response from the Committee regarding work for the probationers'.
- 10.6 Church End Lower School – Cllr P. Neale
Cllr Neale advised that the school should have a new swimming pool after the Easter holidays.
- 10.7 Shelton Lower School
The travel plan has been submitted but acceptance of it is doubtful before June. The school asked if the grant could be put toward the redevelopment, refurbishing and replanting of their wildlife garden should the Council not be able to wait for the outcome of the travel plan application.

11. Finance

11.1 To approve invoices for payment and be notified of any income since the last Meeting

Calverton Factors Ltd	Security Patrols (February)	£ 1223.88
LSN Media	Diary delivery	£ 41.24
Mrs. H. Trustam	Clerks wages	£ 1039.86
Shelton Methodist Church	Hall Hire 19.2.08 & 4.3.08	£ 26.00
Copykatz	Diary printing (March)	£ 170.00
Marston Playing Field Comm	Secretary/Treasurer grant Jan-Mar	£ 192.60
Pier One Solutions	Web Site Hosting	£ 41.13 SO
Mid Beds Citizen Advice B.	Grant award	£ 100.00
Post Office Ltd	Tax & NI Contributions Jan-Mar	£ 1397.92
TOD Accountancy	Payroll Admin Jan-Mar	£ 30.00
FJ Beddoe	Litter Picking	£ 126.00

Resolved that the invoices for payment should be agreed. Proposed Cllr Mrs. S. Hall, seconded Cllr F.Keep.

11.2 EB Security Contract

Costs for the 3 year contract have been revised since our precept meeting in November. EB Security has lowered the hourly costs over the 3 years which will give a saving of around £561.00 in the first year.

11.3 To receive any correspondence relating to finance matters

(a) A tender for churchyard, war memorial and path in church field was received from A. Bunker for 2008/9 grass cutting season of £2050.00. The Parish Council duly resolved to accept the tender. Action: The Clerk to advise Mr. Bunker of the decision.

(b) The Clerk advised that BDO Stoy Hayward LLP has been appointed as external auditor to Marston Moreteyne Parish Council covering the accounts for 2007/8 to 2011/12.

12. Planning Matters

12.1 To discuss and formulate a response to the following planning applications received since the last meeting:

(a) Application No. 08/00270/FULL

Full: Change of use from agricultural land to quad bike track
(Retrospective)

Site: Land at Sun Valley Works, Wood End, Marston Moreteyne

The Chairman read out a letter from Mark Howe outlining his thoughts on the application. The Parish Council resolved that the following comments be sent: no objection to the proposal subject to the following recommended conditions being included in any planning permission granted:

- Restriction to use of track a maximum of 12 times/year (once a month at a weekend). No other events such as parties etc to be allowed in addition to this. This will safe guard residents peace and quality of life at weekends.
- Operating times be restricted to between 10am and 4pm. No vehicles on the track before or after the designated times.
- A maximum of 25 bikes on the track at any given time.
- Noise restriction of bikes limited to 94 decibels and no more
- Increase in sound bund to a height of no less than 6 metres plus tree planting
- Sign erected at the entrance to Sun Valley Works advising of the next scheduled meeting to ensure that local residents have plenty of notice.
- Environment Impact Study to be submitted and accepted by the MBDC Planning Dept.

▪ Site visit by Development Control Committee before any permission granted. The Parish Council heard that the application had been requested to be put before the Development Control Committee.

- (b) Application No. 08/00279/OUT
Demolition of existing garage to create access route. Erection of two dwellings each with integral garage on the land to the rear of 28 Upper Shelton Road

Site: 28 Upper Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne.

The Chairman read out objection letters from numerous residents of Upper Shelton. It was resolved to object to the application based that the development is not infill and is deemed backland development, there will be an adverse impact on the amenity of adjoining dwellings together with the character of the area. The development is also overdeveloped, overbearing to existing residents whose rear gardens would back onto the development and obtrusive. Residents would also see a loss of privacy and light. The proposed dwellings are also not in keeping with existing homes in the surrounding rural area

- (c) Application No. 08/00322/OUT
Outline: Erection of three detached houses with garages and new access road.
Site: Land rear of 28 Upper Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne.
Comments: As per application 08/00279/OUT

The Parish Council were advised that Applications 00279 & 00322 have been requested to be put before the Development Control Committee.

- (d) Application No. 08/00346/FULL
Full: Increase in existing canopy roof height
Site: Filling Station, Beancroft Road, Marston Moreteyne.
Comments: No objections.

- (e) Application No. 08/00208/FULL
Erection of two storey side and front extension including porch.
Site: 189 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne
Comments: No objections, neighbours.

12.2 There were no details of any approvals / refusals / withdrawals of planning applications to be advised.

12.3 There was no planning correspondence to be advised..

13 **To agree a response to the Issues & Options relating to Mid Beds District Council's Site Allocations Development Plan Document.** The Parish Council agreed that Lower and Upper Shelton are identified as Small Villages in the emerging Core Strategy and any development here would be viewed as detrimental to the existing settlements and not within Mid Beds District Council's local policy. Development at Wootton Green would also not be supported and would be also viewed as detrimental to existing settlements. E09/E09a Land at Moreteyne Farm. It was felt that the proposed development for B1 & B2 employment would be of benefit and value to the village and could bring local jobs to the area for residents.

14 **Bedfordshire Highways Draft 5 Year Programme** The matters here had been covered in 7.9.

15 **To discuss the principle of confidentiality – Cllr P. Neale**
Cllr Neale was unhappy that the County Council had asked that the draft 5 year highway plan be kept as confidential for the time being and thus put the Clerk in a unsatisfactory position. He thought that members of the public should have a chance to air their views on the proposals. He added that he is aware of times when confidentiality is justifiable but on this occasion he did not agree with it. The Chairman duly noted his comments and advised that had the confidentiality request been broken, then it might have brought the Parish Council into disrepute.

9.25pm The Parish Council resolved not to break, but to continue with the meeting.

16 **Enhanced Parish Partnership Scheme 2008/9**

The Parish Council had been given £8000 in this years' Scheme. It was resolved that the Clerk find out the costs for kerbing the area along Bedford Road adjacent to Moreteyne Road, and also for work to enable the footpath to be widened between Denton Drive and the bus turning bay. This is in addition to finding out costs for Bedford Road footpaths. Once this information has been received a firm decision where the money should be spent can be made.

17 **Decision required for formally requesting Parish Council documentation from a previous Parish Councillor.**

Cllr Keep stated that many years ago the Parish Council had purchased a copy of the Domesday Book. There is to be display cabinet placed in the Church and it was thought that this book would make a nice centrepiece. The book's whereabouts are thought to be known by Mr. F. Denton but he has indicated that he will not say where it is unless asked officially. It was resolved that the Clerk in conjunction with Cllr Keep formulate a letter to Mr. Denton asking him for either the book or its whereabouts and also any other relevant Parish Council documents be returned to the Parish Council. It was agreed that an inventory of important items in the Parish Councils possession would be a good idea.

18 **Correspondence**

18.1 To be notified of proposed temporary road closures – Road closures at Banks Close, Churchill Road and Holme Close for resurfacing for one day per site during the period from 1st May to 30th June will take place.

18.2 Invitation to attend O&H Properties Eco-Town Proposal. To agree a representative – BRCC has extended an invitation for representatives from the Parish Council to attend a presentation by O&H Properties regarding their proposals for and Eco Town in the vicinity. The Chairman stated that both he and the Clerk would be attending. Any other Councillors wishing to attend should contact the Clerk direct.

18.3 Information relating to possible Post Office Closures in the Country. 288 Post Offices in the East of England region could be closed. The Post Office will release the details of those affected to Postwatch only in April. These details will not be released publically until 8th July for public consultation over the following 6 weeks. MBDC have planned a public meeting on 17th July following the release of these details. In the meantime, it was resolved that the Clerk send a letter of support for our Post Office to Mid Beds.

18.4 Details of next Warren Wood Forum (Centre Parcs) – the next Warren Wood Forum is scheduled for 8th May commencing 6pm at the Rufus Centre. A copy of the latest newsletter is available from the Clerk.

18.5 Bedfordshire Bugle – These were circulated to all Councillors

18.6 Recorded crime figures by Bedfordshire Police (1.8.07 – 31.1.08 & 1.9.07 to 29.2.08) were made available at the meeting.

18.7 Mid Beds Local Strategic Partnership meeting minutes of 6.3.08 were made available at the meeting.

18.8 To formulate a response to the proposed changes to airspace / Terminal North Control. – See enclosed leaflet. – No comments were forthcoming.

18.9 Mid Beds Open Space, Sport & Recreation Study – Stakeholder Workshop on 19th March. Anyone interested in attending to contact the Clerk.

19 **Clerk's Report.**

The Clerk gave her report on monthly activities and calls taken over the last month. The work to Lower Shelton footpath has been completed under the Parish Partnership Scheme. The Clerk advised that she had attended a training session intended for Highway Representatives and learnt that there will be a speed limit review of all villages over the next 3 years. It appeared that Marston is schedule for 2010/11.

Cllr Mrs. J. Allen proposed that the Parish Council should revert back and hold meetings in the Sports Pavilion. She advised that parking would be easier, complaints had been heard from residents regarding parking when Council meetings are held and that the current venue is not an inclusive venue. The proposal was seconded by Cllr P. Neale. Following a vote of 6 for and 1 against, the motion was carried to revert back to the Sports Pavilion following agreement by the Playing Field Committee.

There being no further business to transact the meeting was closed at 9.56pm.