

MARSTON MORETEYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held at Marston Moreteyne Sports Pavilion on Tuesday 1st December 2009, commencing 7.15pm.

Present: Cllr M. Petty (Chairman)
Cllr F. Keep (Vice Chairman), B. Mead, Miss E. Johnstone, P. Neale, T. Hyde, G. Spriggs & C. Banks.
Central Bedfordshire Councillor M. Gibson

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr Mrs. E. Houghton.
2. **Public Participation:** No members of the public were present at the meeting.
3. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office:** Chris Banks; duly being co-opted to the Parish Council completed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Banks to the Parish Council.
4. There were no **declarations of interest** made in respect of any items on the agenda.
5. **Central Bedfordshire Councillor M. Gibson:** The Chairman advised that an email had been received on 26th November indicating that Central Bedfordshire's Development Strategy Task Force was considering a possible Gypsy & Traveller Site in numerous wards including Marston Moreteyne. Two locations in Marston Moreteyne had been identified at land adjacent to Charity Farm, Beancroft Road, and land between Woburn Road and the A421 (by Howes Drive). Following site visits this Friday, a meeting will be held on Monday 7th December to draw up a short list of sites. The Chairman asked Cllr Gibson to try to attend the site visits on Friday and to attend the meeting on Monday and speak on behalf of the Parish Council against a site in the village. This, he agreed to do.
Cllr Gibson reported that there is no official opinion from Central Bedfordshire Council on Covanta.
Two Tier Education System: Letters are going out to Head Teachers regarding this subject. A copy will be sent to the Clerk.
Cllr M. Gibson leaves the PC meeting to attend Lidlington PC's meeting.
6. **To confirm and agree the Minutes of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held on Tuesday 17th November 2009**
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record, and were duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr F. Keep, seconded Cllr G. Spriggs.
7. **Matters arising from the minutes of Tuesday 17th November 2009.**
 - 7.1 **Bedfordshire Councils Planning Consortium:** A letter requesting a copy of the accounts has been sent.
 - 7.2 **CCTV at Sports Pavilion:** The Clerk will respond to the Playing Field Committee in time for their next meeting.
 - 7.3 **Play Area Draft License:** The License will be forwarded to the Playing Field Committee in time for their next meeting in order that it can be signed.
 - 7.4 **A421 Land Compensation:** No further information available.
 - 7.5 **Document Storage:** The Clerk will undertake this when time allows.
 - 7.6 **Holme Close issues:** To be raised with J. Chandler at Amey.
 - 7.7 **Tax Penalty:** No further information received.
 - 7.8 **Cemetery Provision:** The Clerk should have further information available at the January meeting.
 - 7.9 **Mower:** The Chairman advised that the Parish Council could get around £2,000 for the mower. Agreed that the Chairman continues to pursue.
 - 7.10 **Litter Picking:** The Chairman advised that Mr. Beddoe would be willing to empty the bins at the play area and allotments should ones be installed at an extra half an hour per week, however he could not do the bin at the play area in Lower Shelton Road. The Chairman asked if this bin could be emptied by the Councillors who inspect the play areas. Cllr Neale stated that he was not prepared to undertake this task.
 - 7.11 **Extension to Sports Pavilion:** Sue Norman has been invited to attend the next Working Group meeting on 8th December to give guidance on where grants can be obtained from. Cllrs Mrs. E. Houghton & Miss E. Johnstone have printed out the WREN application. The next deadline for applications is March 2010, with a decision date of 1st July 2010.

Basic figures are available for Phases 2 & 3 now from the Quantity Surveyor. The Parish Council has not yet received any information relating to the Quantity Surveyor's employment terms, and thus has not officially appointed the QS. These matters need to be approved by full Council. The Chairman duly asked both EH & EJ what information is available. Budget costs are needed from the Working Group for this project.

- 7.12 Covanta: Hertfordshire County Council is looking to develop an energy from waste facility. However, Covanta have not been included on the six bidder shortlist.
- 7.13 Lower Shelton Play Area: The Clerk to obtain costs for repairs to the chain link fence and brick circle.
- 7.14 Application Form for potential Councillors: A draft copy to be available by the January meeting. The Parish Clerk confirmed that both unsuccessful candidates from the last co-option process wish to be put forward again to the forthcoming one.

8. Finance

8.1 To approve invoices for payment and be notified of any income since the last meeting

Pier One Solutions	Web Site Hosting	£ 40.25 SO
SLCC	Membership renewal	£ 168.00
Royal British Legion	Remembrance Wreath	£ 100.00
Mr. C. West	Locum Clerk duties for Oct mtg	£ 70.00
Mr. S. Long	EERA/Covanta flyers – re Action Grp	£ 224.25
Mrs. H. Trustam	Phone/Broadband expenses	£ 289.52
FJ Beddoe	Litter Picking	£ 136.00
Mr. D. Cray	Churchyard grass cutting	£ 250.00
Mr. S.J. Franklin	Fee for land rental valuation at Wood End	£ 115.00
Mrs D. Wright	Refund for allotment key (plot 22)	£ 5.00
3CD Group	Diary delivery (Dec)	£ 276.00

Resolved that the invoices for payment should be agreed. Proposed Cllr T. Hyde, seconded Cllr Miss E. Johnstone

8.2 To discuss rent for land at Wood End 2010/11

The Chairman advised that for legal reasons the rental for Wood End cannot be raised until Sept 2010. Landscape's report for valuation purposes has recommended a rental level of between £40 to £50 per acre for genuine agricultural purposes. He would consider a rental of £45.00/acre to be acceptable for the land at Wood End. Following discussions it was resolved to retain the level of £50/acre as agreed at last month's meeting, with the rise in rental to become effective September 2010. It was agreed to review the rental for allotments and the land at Wood End each June with any rises in rentals becoming effective the following year in September.

The Chairman advised that a formal tenancy agreement is being drawn up for Parish Council approval by Palmers Solicitors.

8.3 Finance correspondence

(a) An informal agreement has been reached on the level of \$137 cash limit for the forthcoming financial year. Due to a drop in the RPI over the year to Sept 2009, the level is unchanged at £6.15 per elector. In accordance with LGA 2003 there cannot be a decrease. Formal notification of this will follow.

8.4 To finalise the precept figures for 2010/11

The Clerk incorporated the agreed figures from last month's meeting into the precept figures.

Further discussions ensued on:

- (a) Allotment Provision: It was resolved to input a figure of £2,700.00 for the forthcoming financial year.
- (b) Contingency Budget: Given current important matters such as Covanta and the Gypsy & Traveller Sites, the Council considered the possibility of having to look to outside consultancy agents for advice and also support for local groups. Cllr Neale proposed to set the amount at £1,000.00. This was seconded by Cllr T. Hyde. Resolved to input a figure of £1,000.00 for the forthcoming financial year.

The Clerk duly advised that this now completed the budget, giving a final figure of £89,065.00.

It was resolved to set the precept for 2010/11 at £89,065.00. Proposed Cllr P. Neale, seconded Cllr B. Mead.

9. **Planning Matters**

9.1 To receive any planning correspondence

Application BC/CM/2000/8. Applicant: O&H Properties Ltd. Proposal: Scheme of conditions for the working and low level restoration of Rookery Pit.

Location: Rookery Pit, Green Lane, Stewartby.

Central Bedfordshire Council advises of the submission of further information received in response to comments made on the consultations which were undertaken earlier this year on the above proposals. The further information will shortly be available to view on Central Bedfordshire Council's website.

The Chairman advised that before clay was extracted from Rookery Pit the land was agricultural. Once extraction has finished the owner of the land must start to restore the land.

10. **Allotment Update**

The Chairman advised that he felt that no vehicles should now be allowed onto the allotments. The land is very wet and vehicles could either get stuck or make ruts in the roadways. There was a health and safety issue to be considered. It was resolved that no vehicles be allowed on the allotments until further notice. Agreed that the Clerk put up signs advising of this decision and write to all tenants as well re-iterating that they can park in the Working Men's Club.

Hedging: The Chairman advised that he has secured some free hedging under the Free Tree Scheme being run by Central Bedfordshire Council.

Quotations had been received for supplying and planting hedging along Station Road side of the allotments:

E. Curtis	£617.00
BTCV	£2,400.00

Both quotations include for a mixture of hedging of 3-4ft whips, caned and rabbit guarded.

Quotations had been received for supplying and erecting a post & rail fence:

E. Curtis	£2,573.77
BTCV	£2,794.16

Resolved to award the contract to E. Curtis. Proposed Cllr T. Hyde, seconded Cllr G. Spriggs. Work to be completed by end of April 2010.

Maintenance: The Chairman advised that the ditch by the roadside will be flailed shortly. The hedge surrounding the allotments does not need cutting this year. The ditch adjacent to the Forest Centre will be flailed when weather permits.

Water Supply: If the allotment holders want open water tanks then the Parish Council are able to cover the purchase of 4 tanks plus the pipework. The Chairman has organised for the pipework to be pulled in free of charge by a local farmer. It now requires the tenants to decide where they want the tanks to be sited. For safety reasons for children the tanks should have flexible mesh inside them in. Ball valves will be included in the tanks. We are awaiting for the inspection work to be completed prior to Anglian Water's inspection. The water will then be connected and put on trickle flow until pipe work is installed. It is hoped that by end of April next year all of the work will be completed.

11. **Gypsy & Traveller Sites in Central Bedfordshire**

The main discussion on this subject was completed earlier in the meeting. Should a site be shortlisted in Marston Moreteyne, then it was resolved that Cllr M. Petty address the Development Strategy Task Force meeting on 14th December to give reasons why the site(s) should be discounted. It is anticipated that the shortlist will be made available on 8th December.

12. Correspondence

- 12.1 The Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Statement of Principles – Cllr Mrs. E. Houghton to report: Owing to the absence of Cllr Mrs. E. Houghton, the matter could not be discussed.
- 12.2 Review of Licensing Policy: Resolved to respond that there are licensed premises which are open to abuse by teenagers. There is a lack of control on distribution on alcohol. The licensing laws on these premises should be monitored.
- 8.40pm Cllrs M. Gibson & R. Baker return from attending Lidlington PC's meeting. Lidlington has one site identified. MG advises that Marston Moreteyne Parish Council are invited to attend an informal meeting with Lidlington PC on Thursday 3rd December at Lidlington Village Hall, 2pm to discuss objections to the proposed Gypsy & Traveller Sites in both villages. Resolved that a member of the Parish Council will attend.
- 12.3 Response regarding Energy Saving Trust's Green Communities
Response back advising that based on the details supplied in the questionnaire, the Energy Trust feel that they cannot offer any support at the moment.
- 12.4 Review of Local Bus Services
Information passed to Cllr Miss E. Johnstone at last month's meeting for review. Await report at next month's meeting.
- 12.5 Proposed Emergency Temporary Speed Restriction – Lower Shelton Link Road
Temporary speed restriction of 30mph until a Permanent Order is in place.
The Clerk has received an email from a resident with regard to the Link Road. It was resolved to forward these questions to Jan Bath at Balfour Beatty.
- 12.6 The Playing Field – Autumn 09 Newsletter – Information received.
- 12.7 Notification of an invitation to the Central Bedfordshire Housing Strategy Consultation Event on 15th January 2010. Anyone interested in attending to contact the Clerk.

13. Clerk's Monthly Report

The Clerk reported that she had reported street lights in Bedford Road (adjacent to the Nursing Home) and other columns in Station and Manor Roads. The one in Bedford Road will be replaced, however, column numbers are required for the others.
Repair of the old cats eyes in Bedford Road has been reported again. These continually need attention.
Installation of a storm drain in Lower Shelton Road has been requested to the Parish Council by a resident. The matter has been forwarded to Highways.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was closed at 9.02pm.