

# MARSTON MORETEYNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held at Marston Moreteyne Sports Pavilion on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2009, commencing 7.15pm.

**Present:** Councillor M. Petty (Chairman)  
Councillors F. Keep (Vice Chairman), T. Hyde, G. Spriggs, P. Hall, B. Mead.  
County Councillor B. King  
1 member of public  
B. Bignall & R. Ludlow – Representatives from EB Security.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Councillors P. Neale, Mrs. E. Houghton & Mrs. S.Hall.
2. **Public Participation:** No matters were raised.
3. There were no **declarations of interest** made in respect of any items on the agenda.
4. **Report from EB Security:**

A written report for the period of December 2008 and January 2009 was circulated to all Councillors. RL confirmed that he would have copies of the reports requested by the Parish Clerk available by the end of the month.

BB reported that there had been reports of distraction burglaries at the shops in Station Road recently. CCTV images have been viewed.

7.18pm. Cllr Miss E. Johnstone arrives at the meeting.

Problems had arisen over what was thought to be clinical waste being left for collection by the NHS at the rear of the surgery. It is believed that this waste did not include needles, but could possibly be bandages etc. As a result of problems, the surgery is now leaving the container in the foyer for collection.

As a result of the hedge adjacent to the youth shelter being lowered, youths are now congregating at the end of Lower Shelton Road (main village side), by the top of the underpass. Complaints of loud music being played have been received from residents. A further area for congregation is at the rear of the village hall where a container has been placed.

A large number of Beds on Sunday newspapers had been discarded close to the underpass last month, and some had been set alight actually in the underpass. These have now been cleared; however a significant number still remain in the small copse close by despite numerous calls to the BOS office by the Clerk and Vice Chairman. Resolved, that the Clerk report the matter again and request that they be removed.

7.35pm District Cllr M. Gibson arrives at the meeting.

5. **To confirm and agree the Minutes of the Marston Moreteyne Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record, and were duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr T. Hyde, seconded Cllr G. Spriggs.

6. **Update of information from County Councillor B. King:** The Chairman duly welcomed back Cllr King following his illness. Cllr King reminded the Council that the County Council will cease to exist from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Having liaised with the Clerk, Cllr King has a list of work which is outstanding on roads. Should this work not be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March, then it will be handed over to Central Bedfordshire. Cllr King indicated that he will give a closing report at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Cllr King leaves the meeting.

7. **Update of information from District Councillor M. Gibson:** Cllr Gibson stated that although O&H Properties has withdrawn from the Eco Town development, they still intend to development though planning schemes. Therefore he believes that it is still imperative that the Parish Council lodge their objections to the proposals with the government. Cllr Roger Baker has been chosen as a candidate to replace Cllr King.

Cllr Gibson leaves the meeting.

8. **Brief update of information on the following committees:**

8.1 Community Safety Group – Cllr F. Keep

Cllr Keep circulated a short report. He added that most items had already been addressed earlier in the meeting. Cllr Keep stated that he had spoken to Mrs Burgess regarding the CCTV at Station Road shops. At present it is the lighting that lets the CCTV down. Mrs. Burgess stated that she intends to contact the Co-op to see if their electricity supply can be used to supply lighting for the area.

8.2 Mid Beds Planning Consortium – Cllr P. Hall

At a consortium meeting, it emerged that only two of the eco town bids actually fit the criteria. EERA are looking at housing needs for the next 20 years. Bedfordshire are the least favourable area owing to lack of infrastructure.

The Clerk stated that all Councillors had been sent a copy of MMETAG's report regarding the Eco Town to the Parish Council updating them on the current position and future thoughts. It was resolved that the Clerk send a thank you letter to MMETAG in connection with their work regarding the Eco Town proposals.

8.3 Landfill Liaison – Cllrs Mrs. E. Houghton/Mrs. J. Allen

Owing to the absence of both Councillors, no report was available.

8.4 Playing Field Committee – Cllr G. Spriggs

The scheduled meeting had unfortunately been cancelled. A new date will be set shortly. Resolved that the Clerk check to see that the S106 grant money is still secure for the pavilion extension.

8.5 Village Hall Committee – Cllr B. Mead

Discussions continue regarding the refurbishment of the hall, together with a new front section and toilets. The Committee had agreed that R. Garner draw up costs involved. The Committee intend to fund the work through grants.

8.6 Church End Lower School – Cllr P. Neale

Nothing to report.

8.7 Shelton Lower School – Cllr M. Petty

Nothing to report.

9. **Matters arising from the minutes of Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2009.**

9.1 Churchyard Grass cutting Contract 2009: The Clerk has received the amended fuel card from Total UK. She now awaits the PIN number. The Chairman to arrange a meeting with the contractor prior to the commencement of the contract. It was reported that the mower had not been collected for its service. The Chairman agreed to chase the matter.

9.2 Precept 2009/10: Mid Beds District Council has acknowledged receipt of the precept demand from the Parish Council.

9.3 Marston Moreteyne Playing Field Committee: The Clerk has responded to the Committee with the information regarding the S106 money available for the extension to the sports pavilion. It is unknown yet whether the planning application has been submitted to Mid Beds Planning.

9.4 Probation Service: The contact person for the work agreed to be undertaken by the service last year has been changed. The Clerk is awaiting a call from the new contact to enable dates to be agreed for the commencement of the work.

9.5 CCTV: Burgess Builders intend to carry out essential repairs to the boundary wall at the shopping area in Station Road as soon as it is practical to do so. They wish to assess and monitor the situation both during the day and at night before any commitment can be made for a contribution towards the CCTV equipment.

9.6 Central Bedfordshire Prioritised Works Programme: The Parish Council's views will be taken into consideration before firm decisions are made.

9.7 Energy from Waste: A copy of the minutes from the meeting held at Ampthill Town Council offices on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 had been sent to all Councillors.

## 10. Finance

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

Calverton Factors Ltd	Security Patrols (January)	£ 1,552.09
LSN Media	Diary delivery (Dec)	£ 28.77
Copykatz	Diary (February)	£ 180.00
Warners of Bedford	Grasscutting (January)	£ 586.98
Pier One Solutions	Web Site Hosting	£ 40.25 SO
Bedford Borough Council	Feb Payroll	£ 2,557.92
AVES Security	Pavilion & Skate Park CCTV Contract	£ 914.25
AVES Security	Shop & Church Area CCTV Contract	£ 914.25
Marston Youth Club	S137 Grant	£ 500.00
Mr. Shanley	2008/9 allotment rental refund	£ 147.00
Marston Playing Field Comm	Grant	£ 2,500.00
FJ Beddoe	Litter Picking	£ 171.10

Returned Chq:	LSN Media	Diary delivery (Dec)	£ 40.27
Approval of Clerk's travel expenses & allowances			£ 154.25

Resolved that the invoices for payment should be agreed. Proposed Cllr P. Hall seconded Cllr T. Hyde.

### 10.2 Village Diary – to discuss future distribution.

The Chairman stated that 600 copies of the diary were not delivered last month owing to rounds not covered through Beds on Sunday. Since the summer, the existing delivery of the diaries has not been very reliable and BOS are unable to commit that the service will improve. With the knowledge that other local newspaper deliveries also not 100% covered, the Clerk looked into the Post Office undertaking the task. Unfortunately, the Post Office requires the diaries to be delivered to Rochester, Kent for distribution 7-18 days prior to the delivery date. With tight deadlines already, this would prove impossible. 3CD who have delivered leaflets for the Parish Council last year, would be able to undertake the diary delivery for £240.00 + VAT/month. It was noted that this would exceed the budgeted costs for the village diary, but the Parish Council felt that residents relied on the information contained in the diary and felt that production should continue on a monthly basis. Therefore it was resolved that 3CD deliver the village diary monthly for 12 months. In meantime alternative solutions will be looked into.

### 10.3 Finance correspondence

- (a) Approval of Annual Return: The Clerk advised that the deadline for approval of the Annual Return is moving forward, for the last time, to 30<sup>th</sup> June. This date is set by the Accounts & Audit (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2006. The Clerk did not for see any problems in adhering to this date.
- (b) A letter of thanks was received from Tiny Tots with regard to the grant awarded by the Parish Council recently. It stated that the money was put towards the planning application for the storage container at the rear of the Village Hall.
- (c) An invitation to attend a one day conference on 9<sup>th</sup> March being run by the Bedfordshire Branch of the SLCC and the Local Council Support Associates Ltd was received. The Conference centred around the emerging new unitary councils, with other workshops also being available. The costs relating to the Parish Council were £30.00 for the Clerk, plus £40.00 for other Council members. Unfortunately Cllr Mrs. T. Turner (Leader of the Shadow Council) has declined to attend stating that the agenda is much broader than clerking issues and unfortunately duplicates elements which will form part of their own first Town & Parish Council Conference to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> April, for which there will be no charge.  
With this information in mind, it was resolved not to send a representative to the conference.
- (d) Internal Audit & Review of Effectiveness training by BATPC on 19<sup>th</sup> March, cost £25.00. Resolved that the Clerk attend the training.

## 11. Planning Matters

- 11.2 There were no details of any approvals / refusals / withdrawals of planning applications.
- 11.3 To receive any planning correspondence
- (a) The Planning Inspectorate's decision regarding Sun Valley Works (application for quad bike track) was advised. MKM Agriculture now have 12 weeks to restore the land.

## 12. Provision of allotments

The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had budgeted £2,500 for allotment provision. He stated that to get the land into a workable condition would cost in the region of £500, to have the hedges and verges flailed, costs would be £150-£200, and to clear the ditches would cost £400-500. A gate would be required to secure the entrance to the field and all allotment holders should be awarded a key. Resolved that the Chairman go ahead with the above work.

The Clerk stated that Mr. David Empson (Secretary of the Three Counties' Gardening Council of NSALG) is prepared to attend a meeting to give the Council advice on allotments. Resolved that the Clerk invite Mr. Empson to attend their March meeting.

The Clerk stated that the Environment Agency had visited the owner of the house adjacent to the allotment land after a report to the clerk of possible sewage overspill into the ditch. It emerged that the owner's septic tank required emptying. The Clerk has been assured that the owner will arrange this asap.

## 13 Formulate a response to the Sustainability Appraisal of the Marston Vale Eco town

The Parish Council were in agreement that the comments afforded by Cllr Neale and other groups reflected the views held by the Council. Resolved that the Parish Clerk collate comments from these sources and respond accordingly.

## 14. Correspondence

### 14.1 To formulate views regarding WRG Proposals regarding an EfW at Brogborough Landfill site.

Following circulation of the above proposals, the Parish Council felt that whilst this was possibly a better location for an EfW plant, there was some concern that should this proposal be successful, the one at Rookery Pit could still be available for a second EfW plant to handle over the border waste, such as Covanta's proposals regarding Buckinghamshire. Some speculation was also made regarding access to the site. An invitation had been received from the BEaR Project team to visit a Mechanical Biological Treatment plant in Essex run by Shanks, in partnership with East London Waste Authority. Two places have been reserved for the Parish Council. Cllr Petty expressed an interest, and the Clerk advised that Cllr Neale had indicated that he would attend should both spaces not be filled. Resolved that the Clerk advise the BEaR Team that Cllrs Petty and Neale will attend on the preferred date of 18<sup>th</sup> March, following confirmation from Cllr Neale.

### 14.2 Notification of footpath closures and diversions: Temporary closures of footpaths 34 and part of footpath 33 to enable work on the A421 improvement scheme to take place. Closures expected to commence 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2009 for a period not exceeding 6 months. Diversion of footpath 48 and creation of new footpath 48 received.

Temporary closure of Lower Shelton Road extending from 140 Lower Shelton Road to 110 Lower Shelton Road, to enable cable laying by EDF. Order to come into operation on 9<sup>th</sup> February for a period of 4 months or until works have been completed.

### 14.3 Future improvements to health services for Marston Moreteyne: NHS Bedfordshire is shortly to embark upon consultation relating to opportunities to develop local health care services within the Cranfield locality. The consultation period will commence in April and will be for 12 weeks.

### 14.4 Rural Housing Trust – closure: The Trust has decided to wind down its business of developing affordable village housing and intend to hand over schemes that they have been working on to another like-minded organization.

### 14.5 Common tree – Winter 2009 magazine: Copies were distributed to those Councillors interested.

- 14.6 CPRE – Parish Council toolkit regarding litter and fly-tipping: The toolkit is intended to give Parish Councils ideas and help to combat litter and fly-tipping. The Council felt that at present they addressed the issues of litter by employing a litter picker.
- 14.7 Calor’s Village of the Year Competition: Resolved to not enter the competition.
- 14.8 BATPC – The report of a meeting of the Central Bedfordshire Shadow Local Strategic Partnership Board held at Council offices, Dunstable on 5<sup>th</sup> January, was made available. The report included items on the Local Area Agreement, Comprehensive Area Assessment, Adopting the Compact, Feedback from the Growth Sub-Committee, Sounding Board Update, Climate Change, and the Community Area Networks (CANs).
- 14.9 RAVE Bus: Cllr Keep gave a brief report about the RAVE Bus and what it can offer. He stated that through the Community Safety Group he could secure the bus to visit the village for 3 hours at a reasonable cost. However, he had been advised that in order to book the bus the CSG would need to hold public liability insurance. He asked if the Parish Council would be able to book the bus using their insurance and the CSG reimburse the PC. The Clerk stated that she would look into the matter further and advise accordingly.

**15. Clerk’s Monthly Report.**

The Clerk’s report contained details regarding Highway work which has been completed and has also been reported since the last meeting. She also reported a letter received from a resident complaining about the condition of the main roads through the village. A response has been sent indicating the proposals put forward by the Highways Dept and also the Parish Council’s success in having Station Road resurfaced in the next financial year.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was closed at 9.15pm.