

MARSTON MORETEYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extra Ordinary Meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held at Marston Moreteyne Sports Pavilion on Tuesday 5th January 2010, commencing 7.20pm.

Present: Cllr F. Keep (Chairman)
Cllrs G. Spriggs, C. Banks & Miss E. Johnstone
Central Bedfordshire Councillor R. Baker

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs M. Petty, P. Neale, T. Hyde & Mrs. E. Houghton & Central Bedfordshire Councillor M. Gibson.

The Chairman advised that a letter of resignation had been received by the Clerk from Cllr Brian Mead. After contacting the Electoral Office at Central Bedfordshire, notices have been prepared in line with government guidance and will be displayed on the notice boards accordingly. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council now has three vacancies to fill. The guidance is to co-opt as soon as practically possible, and after discussing with the Electoral Office it was agreed that the Parish Council could delay the co-option process for the two vacancies for a few weeks and should an election not be called, fill all three vacancies by co-option. The Parish Council agreed with this course of action and resolved to fill all three vacancies in one go. Letters will be sent to those who have currently applied for the vacancies to explain the situation.

2. **Public Participation:** No members of public were present.
3. There were no **declarations of interest** made in respect of agenda items..
4. **To confirm and agree the Minutes of the extra ordinary meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st December 2009**

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

5. **Matters arising from the minutes of Tuesday 1st December 2009.**

- 5.1 Two Tier Education System: The Clerk has received a copy of the letter from Cllr M. Gibson which was sent to all Head Teachers. Cllr Miss E. Johnstone requested a copy. The Clerk to include a copy in with the next set of minutes.
- 5.2 Bedfordshire Councils Planning Consortium: A copy of their accounts has not been received yet.
- 5.3 CCTV at Sports Pavilion: The Playing Field Committee is looking into their CCTV situation and will respond back to the Parish Council when investigation is complete.
- 5.4 Play Area Draft License: The license has now been signed by all parties. Copies will be kept by the Parish Council, Playing Field Committee and lodged with our Solicitors. The Committee has requested that should a piece of play equipment be removed, then a replacement piece is installed within three months. The Parish Council did not think that this was an unfair request.
- 5.5 A421 Land Compensation: The Clerk is aware that part of the compensation money is forthcoming from the Highways Agency.
- 5.6 Holme Close Issues: The Clerk will arrange a meeting with J. Chandler to undertake a village walkabout and raise these issues at the same time.
- 5.7 Tax Penalty: HMRC have looked into the matter and have discharged the penalty. The Clerk has written to HMRC and requested a full refund.
- 5.8 Cemetery Provision: To be discussed at the full Council meeting in January.
- 5.9 Churchyard Mower: No further information available.
- 5.10 Litter Picking: Owing to the fact that Mr. Beddoe is unable to empty any bins placed at the play area in Lower Shelton, the Clerk suggested that she obtain a price from Clements Play Management for this service. Agreed.
- 5.11 Extension to Sports Pavilion: A copy of a revised plan showing phase 3 is being circulated around the Parish Council. At their meeting the Playing Field Committee did resolve to put in for planning permission for this phase at no cost to the Committee. The Clerk advised that the matter will be placed on the agenda for full discussion at the next full Council meeting.

- 5.12 Covanta: Cllr P. Neale attended an open meeting at Borough Hall yesterday held by Dave Hodgson – Mayor of Bedford. The Mayor is against Covanta’s proposals and will be contacting Mrs Tricia Turner – Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council to try to form a joint motion against Covanta’s proposals. He has also agreed to lobby the MP’s and will release a press statement from Bedford Borough Council on this matter. It was agreed to get a petition started but to also obtain contact details from those who signed to enable them to be contacted at a later date with a view to sending in letters of objection etc.
- 5.13 Rental Agreement for Wood End: The tenancy agreement is being drawn up by Palmers Solicitors.
- 5.14 Precept 2010/11: The Clerk has submitted the request into Central Bedfordshire Council.
- 5.15 Street Light Columns: Central Bedfordshire Council are unable to act upon the street lights that are not working unless they have column numbers. Cllr Keep is looking into the matter.

6. **Planning Matters**

- 6.1 To discuss the following planning applications received since the last meeting
 - (a) Application No. CB/09/06720/FULL
Full: Conversion of Barn to ancillary with swimming pool, single storey extension for car port. Bay window and dormer to front elevation and two storey rear extension to dwelling.
Site: Paddocks, 1 Upper Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne
Comments: No objections.
 - (b) Application No. CB/09/06893/FULL
Full: Single storey side extension
Site: 58 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne
Comments: No objections, but requested that neighbours comments are taken into consideration by the planning authority when determining the application.
 - (c) Application No. CB/09/06918/FULL
Full: Construction of surfaced footpath to the wetlands. Erection of 3 ground level bird hides, 1 tower hide with associated ramp, 3 wooden board walks across wetlands.
Site: The Marston Vale Millennium County Park, Station Road, Marston Moreteyne.
Comments: No objections.

7. **Gypsy & Traveller Proposals – Update and discussion re flyer to residents.**

The Clerk advised that Cllr M. Petty attended and addressed the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting yesterday morning together with Cllrs R. Baker & M. Gibson. The number of pitches on this site had been reduced to two.

Some of the arguments against the proposed site were that it was a long strip of land which narrowed to a point, there is a well used bridleway running through the site, there was no area of separation from residential properties, nature reserve (great crested newts), not economically viable for two pitches.

The result was that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved to withdraw the site from the short list.

Owing to the fact of the withdrawal, it was resolved that a flyer was now not necessary and that the success can be placed in the next edition of the village diary.

8. **To formulate a response to the Electoral Boundary Review of Central Bedfordshire.**

The Boundary Commission is undertaking an electoral review of Central Bedfordshire in order to try to even out the ratio of electors to Ward Councillors. The Boundary Commission has already decided on a Council size of 59, a reduction from 67. Two options have been put forward for consideration by the Parish Council. The Conservative Group’s proposals for Marston Moreteyne are to be included with Cranfield, Hulcote & Salford, Brogborough, Lidlington, Ridgmont and Millbrook. The Liberal Group’s proposal is for Marston Moreteyne & Cranfield.

It was resolved that the Parish Council’s preferred option would be the Conservative Group’s proposal. The Parish Council has had many good years of relationships with its neighbouring parishes and whilst Cranfield is similar in size, the other smaller parishes do share similar issues to Marston Moreteyne. Proposed Cllr Miss E. Johnstone, seconded Cllr C. Banks.

9. Bank Mandate:

With the resignation of Cllr P. Hall, a new cheque signatory is required. Cllr T. Hyde had indicated his willingness to undertake this task. It was resolved that Cllr T. Hyde be the new signatory and that the Bank Mandate be duly amended accordingly. Proposed Cllr G. Spriggs, seconded Cllr Miss E. Johnstone. The Clerk to arrange for the mandate to be updated.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was closed at 8.32pm.