

MARSTON MORETEYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held at Marston Moreteyne Sports Pavilion on Tuesday 17th March 2009, commencing 7.30pm.

Present: Councillor M. Petty (Chairman)
Councillors F. Keep (Vice Chairman), B. Mead, G. Spriggs, B. Chandi, T. Hyde,
Mrs S. Hall, P. Hall, P. Neale, Mrs J. Allen, Miss E. Johnstone, Mrs E. Houghton
2 members of public
B. Bignall & R. Ludlow – Representatives from EB Security.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from District Councillor M. Gibson.
2. **Public Participation:** 2 members of public raised concern regarding the lack of visibility when exiting their properties at certain times of the day as a result of the glass in bus shelter in Upper Shelton Road. They stated that the glass restricts visibility mainly during the months of November to April owing to the glass either freezing or being wet early in the morning. It was reported that they have had numerous near misses when trying to enter onto the highway. They were also concerned for the safety of the children waiting at the bus stop for school buses and their close proximity to the road.

The Parish Council agreed to find out

- if there will be any changes to the bus routes once the A421 improvements have been made
- ask Bedfordshire County Council about re-siting the stop and associated costs
- find out if the glass can be removed together with the metal bar at the bottom and if this will alter the structure at all by doing this.

Both residents were happy with these measures and left the meeting.

3. There were no **declarations of interest** made in respect of any items on the agenda.
6. **Report from EB Security:**

A written report for was circulated to all Councillors. RL gave the Clerk copies of the parish patrols from July 2008 to middle of March 2009. He stated that the patrol information for April – June 2008 are being obtained and that BB would supply the Clerk with a weekly report from now on.

BB stated that there have been problems surrounding the overgrown copse area close to the underpass. The Chairman advised that this would be cut back as part of the A421 improvements and that the tarmac path will also be repaired. The Council heard that both external lights at the Doctors Surgery are working now and that costs associated with protecting those lights are being obtained.

RL advised that his area of responsibility has been changed, and that his Area Supervisor will be taking over his role and will attend the monthly Parish Council meetings.

4. **Mr. David Empson – Three Counties' Gardening Council (of NSALG) to discuss allotment provision.**

Following an introduction from the Chairman Mr. Empson provided the Parish Council with a brief outline of his role and knowledge of allotment provision. DE stated that there is only one entrance to the allotment land in Station Road. He suggested that the open side of the field is fenced off to prevent people from jumping the ditch to gain entry. The suggestion made was for metal fencing with sharp points painted with a non drying paint.

Pitch size: There is no routine plot size. The usual size is a 5 pole plot (50ft x 30ft) which he suggested that the Council offer to each plot holder.

Parking: DE recommended that the PC provide parking on site and use hoggin as a ground cover. The Council might look into possibly utilising the Working Men's Club car park with permission.

Lease: The Parish Council would need to prepare leases for all allotment holders. Draft ones are available for modification. Rules on additional costs (if any) for water provision, permission for sheds and associated sizes etc, could be included if required.

It is usual for the plot holder to be liable for their own equipment and associated insurance.

Water Supply: It was noted that there is no water supply on the land and so a spur would need to be taken from the mains supply. Anglian Water would need to be contacted about this and provide costs.

DE stated that the plot holders should be encouraged to form their own committee and to liaise with the Parish Council.

Routine inspections on the land and adherence to rules should be carried out by two Parish Councillors and two Committee members monthly during the summer and 1-2 times during winter. When a plot holder vacates his plot he can take any sheds etc with him and should leave the plot in a good order.

DE would not recommend allowing livestock on the land as it can encourage rats and foxes.

DE agreed that he would attend another Parish Council meeting prior to the summer break to give further assistance and also attend a site meeting to give further guidance.

The Chairman duly thanked Mr. Empson for attending the meeting.

5. Update report from Highways Agency/Balfour Beatty regarding the Jtn 13, A421 improvements: Mr. Roy Brunsten (Project Leader), Mr. Phil Clifton (Project Manager) & Mrs Jan Bath (Liaison Officer).

The Chairman duly introduced the above representatives. RB gave an introduction which included the fact that traffic management during the improvements to the A421 is very critical for safety. To assist with this a Traffic Management Forum has been set up comprising of experts from Bedfordshire Police, Carillion, Highways Agency & Bedfordshire County Council. A 40mph speed limit has been imposed from the A6 to Jtn13. Discussions are currently taking place as to how to enforce this.

RB advised that shortly all A421 traffic will be travelling on the west bound carriageway through Marston Moreteyne to allow work to continue on the improvements. This means that the current dual carriageway will become single lines of traffic. This causes a safety problem at the junction of Lower Shelton Road. RB outlined two possible solutions which have been discussed by the Traffic Management Forum and the safety implications of the least favoured option.

Having heard the two options the Parish Council resolved to support the option of closing Lower Shelton Road junction with the A421. RB confirmed that the link road for Lower Shelton Road should be finished construction around November 2008. Following the recent road closure by EDF Energy, the Parish Council asked that the following measures be addressed:

- That a turning circle is built to ensure the continuation of bus services and that no parking is allowed in this area
- That double parking along Lower Shelton Road is discouraged and any offenders dealt with swiftly by Bedfordshire Police
- That measures are put in place to force traffic to slow along Upper Shelton Road
- An update is given in the next 3 months by the Highways Agency/Balfour Beatty

RB agreed to report these measures to the next Traffic Management Forum.

The Chairman duly thanked the representatives for attending the Parish Council meeting.

7. To confirm and agree the Minutes of the Marston Moreteyne Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 17th February 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.

- 8.. **Update of information from County Councillor B. King:** Cllr King had given his report at the Annual Parish Meeting held prior to the Parish Council meeting.
9. **Update of information from District Councillors D. Tysoe & M. Gibson:** Owing to the absence of both District Councillors, no report was available.
10. **Brief update of information on the following committees:**
- 10.1 Community Safety Group – Cllr F. Keep: Cllr Keep circulated a written report to the Council. He stated that all areas had been covered during discussions with EB Security. Cllr Neale made a request that brief details of convictions for the village be printed in the village diary. The Parish Council resolved that this was a good idea.
- 10.2 Mid Beds Planning Consortium – Cllrs P. Hall/P. Neale/B. Chandj: No meeting has been held recently.
- 10.3 Landfill Liaison – Cllrs Mrs. E. Houghton/Mrs. J. Allen: No meeting has been held recently.

- 10.4 Playing Field Committee – Cllr G. Spriggs: The Chairman stated that it is believed, but not yet confirmed, that the planning application for the extension for the Sports Pavilion has been submitted in the Parish Council’s name. The Clerk reported that the timescales which Mid Beds holds the S106 money is approaching its end and a planning application would need to be submitted for the extension to completely secure it. The Parish Council resolved that it had never given permission for the application to be put in the Councils name but agreed not to request that the application be withdrawn so as not to jeopardise the S106 money.
- 10.5 Village Hall Committee – Cllr B. Mead: The Village Hall Committee has held its annual general meeting recently. There is nothing new to report. All matters are ongoing.
- 10.6 Church End Lower School – Cllr P. Neale: Nothing to report.
- 10.7 Shelton Lower School – Cllr M. Petty: Nothing to report.

11. **Matters arising from the minutes of Tuesday 17th February 2009.**

- 11.1 Abandoned Newspapers: EB Security had reported that the newspapers have not yet been removed from the copse area close to the underpass despite numerous requests to Bedfordshire On Sunday for their removal. The Chairman stated that he would contact the Highways Agency to see if there was a chance that the papers could be removed as a goodwill gesture whilst they work on the underpass.
- 11.2 Churchyard Grass-cutting: The Clerk advised that the PIN number for the Total Card is allocated to the account and not the person. Both the card and PIN number will be forwarded to Mr. J. Cray to enable the work to commence.
- 11.3 Probation Service: The contract has now been passed back to Sherrie Barlow to action following several failed attempts to contact the new person allocated to the contract. The Clerk hopes to have a date of when a team can visit the village soon.
- 11.4 Station Road shops: Despite promises the wall at the shops has not yet been repaired. It was resolved that the Clerk write to Burgess Builders requesting that the wall be repaired to improve the look of the area.
- 11.5 Energy from Waste: No further meeting dates have been arranged for another meeting at Ampt Hill Town Council offices following the meeting held there on 22.1.09. Cllrs M Petty & P Neale will visit the Mechanical Biological Treatment plant in Essex on 18th March.
- 11.6 Internal Audit & Review of Effectiveness: The Clerk is booked in on the course being run by SLCC.
- 11.7 RAVE Bus: The Clerk had contacted the Council’s insurance company to be told that owing to the fact that the bus would not be parked on land owned by the Parish Council the operators of the RAVE Bus would not need to use the Council’s public liability insurance. This is also the case for the Community Safety Group.

12. **Finance**

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

Calverton Factors Ltd	Security Patrols (February)	£ 818.89
Copykatz	Diary (March)	£ 180.00
3CD Group	Diary delivery (March)	£ 276.00
Warners of Bedford	Grasscutting (February)	£ 586.98
Pier One Solutions	Web Site Hosting	£ 40.25 SO
Bedford Borough Council	March Payroll	£ 2,051.52
AVES Security	Installation of CCTV cabinet	£ 402.50
Bedford-Bletchley Rail Users	Membership renewal	£ 3.00
FJ Beddoe	Litter Picking	£ 136.50

Income:

HM Revenue & Customs	VAT reimbursement	£2,970.73
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Resolved that the invoices for payment should be agreed. Proposed Cllr Miss E. Johnstone seconded Cllr T. Hyde.

12.2 Finance correspondence

- (a) Mid Beds Link A Ride Community Transport: A request for a grant to replace a tired and failing computer software programme to assist in the provision of a door to door service for residents in Mid Beds was received. Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under Section 137 & 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the expenditure of £100.00 without precedent, to Mid Beds Link A Ride Community Transport, which in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. Proposed Cllr F. Keep. Seconded Cllr P. Neale.
- (b) Audit 2008/9: The Parish Council resolved that they were currently reviewing the Risk Assessment document and the effectiveness of the internal audit. It was resolved to appoint Mrs. B. Cross at the internal auditor for 2008/9 accounting year.

13. Planning Matters

- 13.1 To discuss the following planning applications received since the last meeting
 - (a) Application No. 09/00256/FULL
Full: Part two storey part single storey rear extension
Site: 67 Upper Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne
Comments: Request that neighbours comments be taken into consideration when determining the application
 - (b) Application No. 09/00296/FULL
Full: Change of use to mixed A3/A5. Screening to existing ductwork and air conditioning units.
Site: The Rose & Crown, 171 Bedford Road, Marston Moreteyne.
Comments: No objections.
 - (c) Application No. 09/00314/FULL
Full: Single storey rear extension
Site: 10 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne
Comments: Request that neighbours comments be taken into consideration when determining the application.
 - (d) Application No. 09/00358/FULL
Full: Two storey side extension
Site: Thrift House, Wood End, Marston Moreteyne
Comments: Request that neighbours comments be taken into consideration when determining the application
- 13.2 There were no details of any **approvals / refusals / withdrawals of planning applications** available.
- 13.3 **To receive any planning correspondence**
Appeal Decision: Application No. 08/00189/OUT for Land at 71 Upper Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne for construction of a single dwelling. The appeal was allowed.

14. Correspondence

- 14.1 Updating the Mid Beds Cycle Route Mapping Project (2001): Resolved that the Parish Council had no comments on the routes detailed.
- 14.2 Letter from resident regarding grass verges: A letter was received from a resident complaining of cars parking on verges around the village, especially those which have been planted with bulbs. It was resolved that the Clerk contact Highways to see what can be done about the situation.
- 14.3 Changes to Mobile & Library Link Services: Owing to the move to unitary status, changes have been made to the mobile & library link services for the village. From April the mobile library service will be undertaken by Bedford Borough and the Library Link Service by Central Bedfordshire. Following a letter of complaint from the Clerk regarding splitting the service between Unitary Authorities, it evolved that in reorganising the routes to match the new authority boundaries it was clear that there would be a problem for the mobile library service in Central Bedfordshire due to the size of the new authority. In order to overcome this problem it was agreed that Bedford Borough mobile library would spend one day/week in Central Bedfordshire area. The new days and dates will be advertised in the village diary as usual.

- 14.4 Public meeting organised by Nadine Dorries to evaluate intended development within Mid Beds: The meeting is to be held on 6th May at Woburn Safari Park at 8pm. Further information will be supplied nearer to the date. Town & Parish Councils are encouraged to send representatives.
Notification was given that MMETAG are holding a conference on Sat 18th April, 1-4pm at the Forest Centre with the intention of discussing a design vision for Marston Vale in 2050. It is hoped that as many Councillors can attend as possible. The Parish Council did express concern that individual Parish Plans for the villages in Marston Vale are taken into consideration when looking at the vision.
- 14.5 Temporary Speed Restriction notices for speed limits of 40mph in relation to the improvements to the A421 were noted.
- 14.6 Temporary footpath closure notices for footpaths 56, 58 & part of footpath 55 were noted. These were needed as a result of the improvements to the A421.
- 14.7 RAVE Bus information: The information was passed to Cllr F. Keep.
- 14.8 Bedfordshire Bugle: Copies distributed to Councillors.
- 14.9 Affordable Rural Housing – Howard Cottage Housing Association: Correspondence received offering assistance should the Parish Council be considering provision of affordable rural housing now or in the future.
- 14.10 Recorded crime incidents – Bedfordshire Police: Crime figures for the period 1st October 2008 through to 28th February 2009 are available for perusal.
- 14.11 Fieldwork publication from CPRE: Information was made available.
- 14.12 Bedfordshire Playing Fields Association Newsletter: The newsletter was passed to Cllr G. Spriggs.
- 14.13 Submission of the Core Strategy & Development Management Policies: The information of the submission is available on disc.
- 14.14 Monitoring Officer Notification to state that Mrs. B. Morris has been appointed Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic and also the Council's Monitoring Officer for Central Bedfordshire.
- 14.15 Celebrating Mid Beds District Council: The Council wish to celebrate its 35 year history by building a memory wall at Priory House. To this end the Parish Council were supplied with paper bricks to write their memories of Mid Beds on. The Parish Council decided that they did not wish to take up this offer.

15. Clerk's Monthly Report:

The Clerk advised on what matters had been reported to Bedfordshire County Highways during the month. The Clerk stated that she had provided letters of reference for Warners of Bedford to both Henlow and Toddington Parish Councils who are out to tender for grass cutting. A report was also given regarding the burst water main which affected 12,500 homes on 6th March. A copy of the Clerks report from the recent Highways Road Show had been previously circulated to all Councillors.

- 16. Closed Meeting:** Salary discussions pertaining to Parish Clerk. This item was discussed in a closed meeting.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was closed at 10.02pm.