

# MARSTON MORETEYNE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held at Marston Moreteyne Sports Pavilion on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2010, commencing 7.40pm.

**Present:** Cllr M. Petty (Chairman)  
Cllr F. Keep, B. King, T. Hyde, G. Spriggs, B. Chandi, Mrs. C. Yates, Mrs. E. Houghton, R. Morris, Miss E. Johnstone (left at 8.30pm), P. Neale & C. Banks (left at 8.50pm)  
Central Bedfordshire Cllrs R. Bakers & M. Gibson  
3 members of public

1. There were no **apologies for absence**
2. **Public Participation**

Cllr Baker advised that his daughter collected a large amount of litter around the sports field. Cranfield Parish Council organises a voluntary litter pick around the village twice a year. The Chairman explained that the Parish Council employs a litter picker around the village and will contact him with regard to this area.
3. **Declaration of Acceptance of Office from newly co-opted members.**

Cllrs B. King, R. Morris & Mrs. C. Yates duly completed their declaration of acceptance of office forms and passed them to the clerk.
4. **Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda:** Cllrs C. Banks & P. Neale declared an interest in agenda item 15.1
5. **To confirm and agree the Minutes of the meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

Cllr M. Gibson advised that he had passed his apologies through Cllr R. Baker but owing to Cllr Baker's absence at the meeting through illness these had not been passed on.  
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record, and were duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr C. Banks, seconded Cllr Mrs. E. Houghton.
6. **To confirm and agree the Minutes of the meeting of Marston Moreteyne Finance Committee held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010**

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 Mrs. E. Houghton.
7. **Update of information from Central Bedfordshire Councillors**

Central Bedfordshire Council has been setting its budget for the forthcoming financial year and has agreed a 2.9% increase.  
The gypsy & traveller sites have been settled. MG thanked the Chairman for his participation. Central Bedfordshire Council is opposed to the Covanta proposal. MG attended the IPC meeting at the Forest Centre. Covanta has a primary and secondary area for taking waste. Owing to covenants at Rookery Pit, Covanta has been delayed. Therefore Buckinghamshire County Council has opened up for bidding again enabling WRG to resubmit.  
BeAR Project: From the briefing held on 25<sup>th</sup> March is it clear that other waste treatments are being looked at and it is not fixed that incineration is the answer.
9. **Brief update of information on the following committees:**
  - 9.1 Community Safety Group – Cllr F. Keep

Cllr Keep circulated a report. Two serious burglaries have taken place in the past few weeks. A report was also given on the recent public meeting held in the village. Car crime is on the increase.
  - 9.2 Bedfordshire Councils Planning Consortium – Cllrs P. Neale/B. Chandi

Nothing to report.
  - 9.3 Landfill Liaison – Cllr Mrs. E. Houghton/Miss E. Johnstone

There have been drainage issues behind the A421 – a brook has been removed.  
Discussions on vehicle movements into Stewartby by Covanta were discussed.
  - 9.4 Village Hall Committee – Cllr C. Banks

Representatives will be coming along to next month's meeting to discuss future plans for the hall.
  - 9.5 Church End Lower School – Cllr P. Neale

The school is moving towards being a trust school and hope to get the go ahead soon.

- 9.6 Shelton Lower School – Cllr M. Petty  
The same applies to Shelton Lower as regards trust status. J. Smart retires Easter 2011. The governors are looking to fill the vacancy and are currently exploring options open to them.

#### 10. **Matters arising from the minutes of Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February & Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2010**

- 10.1 Enforcement of double yellow lines: A request to have these enforced was made to PC Rivers at the last council meeting.
- 10.2 Wind turbine at Forest Centre: The chairman met with T. Talbot after the last council meeting. GS expressed concern over funding from local businesses and the possibility of pressure being put on the trustees to erect additional turbines. Assurances have been given from the trustees that this will not happen. TT has stated that he will attend another meeting once the planning application has been submitted if requested to do so. Although no firm height was stated; it has been confirmed that a height of 80-100ft was mentioned during the council meeting in 2005. The Forest Centre did not have the money to have the information from the met mast collated until recently and thus therefore did not come back to the parish council with the findings. It was confirmed that the parish council had only agreed to the temporary siting of the met mast.  
The Clerk has received and emailed on copies of the ecology, noise and ornithology reports to the council.
- 10.3 Bedfordshire Councils Planning Consortium: A copy of the accounts has been received.
- 10.4 CCTV at Sports Pavilion: Nothing heard yet.
- 10.5 Holme Close issues: To be discussed with J. Chandler
- 10.6 Tax Penalty: Agreed that the clerk chase for payment
- 10.7 Cemetery Provision: Peter Brett Associates completed some investigations on behalf of O&H Properties. A copy of the report is in the possession of the parish council and Central Bedfordshire Council. The clerk has contacted CBC to ascertain if this report is sufficient to satisfy their criteria to enable negotiations to continue.
- 10.8 Churchyard mower: 3 or 4 people have shown interest in the mower. The chairman will report back once a firm offer has been made.
- 10.9 Lower Shelton Play Area: The clerk is awaiting a quotation for bins from DSD.
- 10.10 Rental Agreement for Wood End: A draft agreement has been received. The chairman and clerk to go through prior to submission to the parish council for discussion.
- 10.11 Bank Mandate: The new mandate is now in force.
- 10.12 Electricity cuts in village: The clerk is trying to source a contact to invite to a meeting.
- 10.13 BeAR Project: Planning Liaison Group meeting date to be arranged. MMAG have also been invited to join discussions.
- 10.14 Standing Orders for Local Councils (NALC): Two copies have been ordered as requested.
- 10.15 Code of conduct training: 3 councillors will be attending.

#### 8. **Report from EB Security – B. Bignall (8.30 – 8.45pm)**

BB circulated his report regarding activities over the past couple of months identifying the hot spot areas in the village. Mr. Singh was introduced to the council as the new Operations Manager for EB Security.

BB highlighted a broken gate adjacent to the play area in Bedford Road. The Chairman stated that this had been noted. Rick Thompson is hopefully going to have it removed and the area made safe as a good will gesture.

BB was reminded that we continue to require copies of time sheets for patrols in order to maintain a paper trail and ensure that invoices are correct.

BB mentioned that the lights in the underpass have been vandalised again. The chairman advised that we have been in correspondence with Balfour Beatty who are looking at installing vandal proof lights eventually and also putting anti graffiti paint on the walls.

#### 15 **Allotments:**

##### 15.5 **To consider a community shed request from the Allotment Club**

The allotment club have been offered a 6ft x 8ft shed free of charge as a communal shed for plot 50. It was resolved to grant the request as it is for communal usage and not for an individual tenant.

#### 15.4 **To consider a fencing request**

A fencing request for plot 90 was received. The council believed it to be retrospective. Resolved to grant permission for fencing as outlined in the applicant's letter. The parish council resolved that future fencing requests could be granted as long as the fence to be erected is in keeping with the area and not overbearing (ie rabbit fencing suitable, but panel fencing would not be).

#### 15.3 **To consider a greenhouse/poly-tunnel request**

A 3x2x2m poly-tunnel request was received from plot 2. It was resolved to refuse the application owing to the fact that the size requested is larger than agreed for sheds (6x4ft). Permission was granted however for a retrospective tool box at 4x4x2ft.

#### 15.2 **To consider methods of access restriction during winter period**

It was resolved to allow vehicles onto the allotment field owing to dryer weather of late. However tenants must be responsible if the weather turns exceptionally wet again. The chairman put forward an idea of a bollard to be placed into the ground inside the gate which in winter time could be raised to allow pedestrian use but not vehicular. It was resolved to move forward with this idea.

#### 15.1 **Water provision: To discuss and resolve route for pipe work and location of water tanks.**

Six further 2ft x 2ft water tanks have been ordered, making a total of 10. A map showing a proposal for water supply was shown to the council. The tanks will be self filling and should provide plenty of water for tenants. Pipe work will be pulled in around the field with two further lengths down both road ways. It is estimated that 650-750m of pipe will be required at a cost of £110.00 +VAT for 150m. Moling will be done free of charge. It was resolved to proceed as per the water proposal drawing. . Pipe work will be laid at a depth of 18" to avoid frost damage. Once installed Anglian Water will return to turn water onto full flow.

Resolved that the allotment club liaise with D. Money in respect of organising a mini digger and organise a working party to back fill trench when pipe work is pulled in. Resolved that the chairman organises for the timber for the water tanks to sit on and to organise for the dropped bollard to be installed.

Resolved that a sheet of netting should be placed half way down in the water tanks to minimise risk to small children.

The chairman advised that the hedging and fencing work along Station Road will commence next week.

It was noted that a track has formed between the allotments and the forest centre. Should this prove to be a problem it will be addressed.

### 11. **Finance**

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

Bedford Borough Council	March Payroll	£ 2,328.05 DD
3CD Group	Diary delivery (March)	£ 282.00
SLCC	Law on Allotment publication	£ 15.20
AVES	Annual Service contract for shop & Church CCTV system	£ 934.13
LJ,GS & DL Haynes	Front & back ditch flailing – allotment	£ 58.75
Venture Finance PLC	Security Patrols (Jan)	£ 622.66
Marston Playing Field comm.	Dec – Feb hall hire	£ 36.00
Marston Playing Field comm.	Skate park elec July 09 – Jan 10	£ 63.48
Warners of Bedford	Grass cutting (Feb)	£ 599.74
Mrs H Trustam	Petty Cash	£ 30.00
Bedford/Bletchley Rail Users	Membership renewal	£ 3.00
FJ Beddoe	Litter Picking	£ 136.50

#### **Income**

Allotment Rental	£ 25.00
Wood End Rental	£297.50

Approval of Clerk's travel expenses for period 1.11.09 to 31.3.10 £170.08

Resolved that the invoices for payment should be agreed.

11.2 **To review risk assessment document following amendments by the Finance Committee**

A copy of the risk assessment document had been attached with the agenda. The council resolved that they were unhappy with the current meeting location for varying reasons. Cllr Mrs Houghton had obtained the hourly rate for hiring Bedford Road Methodist Church. The church has recently been refurbished and has disabled access. It was resolved to hold council meetings at the church for a trial period of 6 months. It was resolved to accept all other amendments put forward by the finance committee with regard to the risk assessment document. Proposed Cllr T. Hyde, seconded Cllr G. Spriggs.

9.20pm Resolved not to hold a short break and to carry on with business.

11.3 **To review the effectiveness of internal audit following amendments by the Finance Committee**

A copy of the review had been attached with the agenda. The council were happy with the review and updates.

11.4 **To appoint an Internal Auditor for 2010/11**

Resolved to appoint Mrs. B. Cross as internal auditor for 2010/11

11.5 **Finance correspondence**

(a) The parish council received a grant application for 2010/11 from the Village Hall Management Committee. A copy of their budget for next financial year was included.

Resolved that the council in accordance with its powers under S137 & 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the council, is in the interests of the area or inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure:

Marston Village Hall Management Committee Grant £2,700.00

12. **Planning Matters**

12.1 To receive details of any approvals / refusals / withdrawals of planning applications – for information only

(a) Application No. CB/09/07007/FULL

Full: Single storey side extension to replace existing conservatory and lean-to. Raised section of roof to existing side elevation to create loft space. Rock Villa Farm, Woburn Road, Marston Moreteyne.  
REFUSED

(b) Application No. CB/10/00174/FULL

Full: Single storey rear extension. 22 Hockley Court, Marston Moreteyne  
APPROVED

12.2 There was no planning correspondence

13. **Extension to Sports Pavilion: Update from working party.**

The chairman gave a resume of the pavilion extension and section 106 for the benefit of the newly co-opted councillors.

Councillors who sit on the working party believe that there has been no movement forward since the last meeting. From their knowledge a builder has come forward who is prepared to undertake the work within budget and Balfour Beatty have offered to provide some of the building materials. It is not known if either of these has been followed up. The clerk has not received details of the quantity surveyor yet despite promises.

It was resolved to write to the playing field committee/working party advising that if details of the quantity surveyor, and updates in regard to budget and tenders were not forthcoming to the satisfaction of the parish council by the councils next meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April, then the council will reserve the right to withdraw from the project.

14 **BeAR Project/Covanta update and resolve a response to the Preliminary Environmental Report and Non-Technical Summary.**

Cllr Neale explained that this is the start of a process and the parish council does not need to respond in any detail and can reserve the right to respond to the IPC.

The council agreed that the proposal is an overpowering structure and would generate unacceptable additional traffic. It was agreed that Cllr Neale liaise with the clerk regarding a response to Covanta.

A letter from Hugh Roberts of MMAG had been included with the agenda. The letter outlined MMAG's current position and thoughts on both the Covanta proposal and BEaR project. It was resolved that the clerk write a letter of thanks to Hugh Roberts.

#### 16 **Compulsory Purchase of Playing Field Charity Land**

The clerk advised that she had received a response from Woodfines Solicitors regarding signing the First Advance Payment Agreement. After contacting Sue Norman at BRCC, the advice from SN is for the parish council to sign the agreement on behalf of the playing field management committee but in doing so to include a covering letter to Woodfines Solicitors stating that the council will sign the documents on their advice in order that matters can proceed, but outline that the council has concerns:-

The 1961 Conveyance states that whilst the land was purchased by the Parish Council, it goes on to set up a charitable trust on the land; therefore the land is not a Parish Council asset. The Parish Council therefore maintains in reflection of this, that Marston Moreteyne Playing Field Management Committee should be mentioned in the document.

It was resolved that the Chairman and Vice Chairman sign the First Advance Payment Agreement.

In regard to funds from the Highways Agency, the clerk advised that she is currently liaising with the Charity Commission to ascertain if the Commission should hold the funds. Once this is known then a response can be sent to Woodfines Solicitors. If it emerges that the parish council will hold the funds, then it is advisable that a separate account be set up for this money.

#### 17. **Correspondence**

- 17.1 Mid Beds District Council commemorative tree. The commemorative tree has been planted on the green at the entrance to Denton Drive. Unfortunately despite consultation with residents fronting the green, one resident has complained about the siting of the tree and has asked for it to be replanted elsewhere on the green. After discussion, it was resolved to move the tree away from the frontage of the housing. Action: The clerk to contact Central Bedfordshire Council to see if they are willing to replant it.
- 17.2 Appointment of representative to Marston Vale Children's Centre Advisory Group. It was resolved that Cllr Mrs Yates be appointed as the parish council representative.
- 17.3 Temporary Footpath Closure notices for footpaths 56, 58, 34 and part of footpaths 55 and 33. These closures are in relation to the A421 improvements.
- 17.4 Invite to support Kempston Rotary Club charity event. Any councillors interested in attending to contact the clerk for further details.

10.15pm Parish Council resolves to suspend standing orders and continue with business.

- 17.5 Bedford Development Framework update for Great Denham & Kempston. These documents have been adopted and form part of the Bedford Development Framework.
- 17.6 Bedford High Street Supplementary Planning Document was received. It is intended that the document will be adopted by the council as a supplementary planning document as part of the Bedford Development Framework.
- 17.7 Bedfordshire Bugle for March was circulated.
- 17.8 Network newsletter was received
- 17.9 Notice was received explaining a temporary prohibition of traffic along Beancroft Road and Lower Shelton Link Road in April 2010.

#### 18. **Clerk's Monthly Report**

1. There have been numerous reports of streetlights out around the village over the past month. One especially which is adjacent to 8 Manor Road. CBC has been waiting over a month for EDF Energy to connect a supply to the new column. CBC is currently undertaking a structure test of all of their street lights. It is thought that they will be replacing all of the concrete ones as a priority. The review should be completed by the end of May. The parish council will be informed of the results.

2. Subject to the agreement of the Executive in April, the Parish Partnership Funding for 2010/11 is being withdrawn. This is to enable Central Bedfordshire Council to make savings and thus achieve a balanced budget. It is hoped to reinstate the funding in 2011/12 subject to economic conditions permitting.
3. Green Infrastructure – only 4 people turned up at the second GI meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March, thus Guy Lambourne decided to cancel it. He is hoping to do a drop in session at the Forest Centre on a Saturday afternoon in April (possibly 24<sup>th</sup>) which he thinks may be easier for people to come to.
4. I am currently looking at alternative quotations for insurance this year for the council to consider when the policy becomes due. It will be a good time as well for the council to review its cover.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was closed at 10.19pm.