

MARSTON MORETEYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held at Marston Moreteyne Sports Pavilion on Tuesday 17th November 2009, commencing 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs F. Keep, Miss E. Johnstone, P. Neale, B. Mead, G. Spriggs, T. Hyde, M. Petty (arrived 7.15pm), B. Chandi (arrived 7.15pm), Mrs. E. Houghton (arrived 7.17pm)
Central Bedfordshire Cllr M. Gibson (arrived 7.25pm)
B. Bignall – EB Security
Mr. G. McCrindle – Infinis

Owing to the absence of Cllr M. Petty, Cllr F. Keep opened the meeting as Chairman until Cllr M. Petty arrived at 7.15pm.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Central Bedfordshire Cllr R. Baker. Apologies for late arrival were received from Cllrs M. Petty & Mrs. E. Houghton.
2. **Presentation from Mr. G. McCrindle of Infinis regarding proposals for STOR at Brogborough Landfill Site.**

Cllr Keep duly introduced Mr. Graeme McCrindle to the Parish Council. Mr. McCrindle circulated a copy of the consultation brief in relation to the National Grid Standby Scheme (STOR). GM explained that Infinis was formed as a company in its own right after separating away from WRG around 3 years ago. Infinis intends to submit a planning application just before Christmas to re use two dormant engines at Brogborough as a standby for the National Grid during high peak times of electricity demand. National Grid will be using more wind power for electricity in the future and therefore the constant supply will be sporadic and thus the need for back up will be greater. GM explained that the use of the engines will be limited, and that they will only be available between 7.30am and 10.30pm, and run for approx 2 hours, 3 times each week (approx 150 hours/year). Should planning permission be granted it would extend for 10 years. The engines will run on bio-diesel which is to be derived from the UK and delivered and stored in facilities on site. By using bio-diesel fuel any emissions are significantly reduced. Historically the engines were noisy but Infinis have committed themselves to make improvements and are proposing to have a noise monitoring system. There are currently two chimneys associated with the engines; GM explained that these chimneys will be raised by a further 6 meters. .

Cllr M Petty duly thanked Mr. McCrindle for attending the meeting.

3. **Public Participation:** No members of public were present.
4. There were **no declarations of interest** made with regard to agenda items.
5. **To receive letters of resignation:** Letters of resignation were received from Cllrs P. Hall & Mrs S. Hall. Resolved to send a letter of thanks to both Councillors. The Chairman advised that the Clerk had informed the Electoral Office at Central Bedfordshire Council and the required notices were now displayed on the notice boards.
6. **Report from EB Security:** B. Bignall circulated a copy of the report for the previous month to all Councillors. The use of scramble bikes down Wood End has been reported. These bikes are registered and plated. The Chairman reported that the link road for Lower Shelton Road is hoped to be open on Fri 27th November, and asked for EB Security to keep an eye on the area.
7. **To confirm and agree the Minutes of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held on Tuesday 20th October 2009**

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

8. **Update of information from Central Bedfordshire Councillor M. Gibson:**

Education: Bedford Borough Council has resolved to go to a two tier system. Central Bedfordshire has not had formal discussions regarding this matter yet but MG thought there is strong feeling against it.

Boundary sizes: The revised boundary sizes will come into force following the elections in 2011. There are several different ward options being discussed at present in relation to Marston, but nothing set. Town & Parish Councils should be consulted on the options available prior to decisions being made.

Covanta: Central Bedfordshire Council view Covanta as just another applicant, and continue to push ahead with the BEaR project as the favoured option.

9. Brief update of information on the following committees:

- 9.1 Community Safety Group – Cllr F. Keep
A car was broken into at the Doctor's Surgery during daytime hours. Unfortunately owing to the realignment of the CCTV cameras, no images were picked up. The Police managed to identify a person using a roller and paint to graffiti the pavement outside the shops via the CCTV equipment. This person has since received a visit at home from the Police. The area has now been cleaned up.
- 9.2 Bedfordshire Councils Planning Consortium – Cllrs P. Neale/B. Chandi
The Chairman read out the annual report from the Consortium. There was concern over subs being used to cover trips to London. It was resolved to request a copy of the accounts from the Planning Consortium.
- 9.3 Landfill Liaison – Cllr Mrs. E. Houghton/Miss E. Johnstone
Nothing to report.
- 9.4 Village Hall Committee – Cllr B. Mead
Nothing to report. Next meeting is on 24th Nov.
- 9.5 Church End Lower School – Cllr P. Neale
With Bedford Borough Council going to a two tier system it will have a major effect to the village.
- 9.6 Shelton Lower School – Cllr M. Petty
The school held a fireworks display earlier in the month. Exact figures raised will be available at next month's meeting.

10. Matters arising from the minutes of Tuesday 20th October 2009.

The Chairman advised that a decision needed to be made this evening whether the Parish Council wished to proceed with the Green Infrastructure project as outlined by Guy Lambourne last month. Therefore it would be added to the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

- 10.1 CCTV at Sports Pavilion: The Clerk is to respond to the questions posed by the Playing Field Committee.
- 10.2 Hedge adjacent to Shelton Lower School: The hedge has been cut back by the owner.
- 10.3 Play Area Draft License: The license has been received from the solicitors and is ready to be signed by both parties.
- 10.4 A421 Land Compensation: No further information available.
- 10.5 Document Storage: On going
- 10.6 Holme Close issues: On going
- 10.7 Tax Penalty: The Clerk sent a letter appealing against the penalty.
- 10.8 Bus Shelter: The work to remove the two panes of glass at the Upper Shelton Road shelter and replace into the one at Bedford Road will be done on 3rd December.
- 10.9 Cemetery Provision: O&H Properties have advised that the earliest date that the transfer of land could be is September 2010 owing to current agricultural tenancy arrangements. The Clerk is pursuing the matter of what contamination works would be required to be undertaken and associated costs. These will be reported to the Council when known. The Chairman advised that there is currently an existing entrance from Station Road into the field which it is hoped is within the land the Council will be offered. However, this needs to be confirmed.
- 10.10 Proposed 7.5 tonne weight restriction zones on various roads in Marston Moreteyne: The Clerk has responded to Central Bedfordshire Council with the Parish Council's views.
- 10.11 Future Site Allocations: Allocations at Marston Moreteyne were not discussed at the recent Task Force meeting.
- 10.12 Town & Parish Council Conference (4.11.09): The Chairman stated that both he and the Clerk attended the conference. One point raised at the conference was that the 3 minutes allocated for Town & Parish Council representatives to speak on planning issues was not sufficient. A request was made for the timescale to be abolished and for a two way discussion to be allowed. Cllr Mrs. T. Turner agreed to look into the issues and see what can be achieved.

11. Finance

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

Copykatz	Diary (Nov)	£ 170.00
Pier One Solutions	Web Site Hosting	£ 40.25 SO
Bedford Borough Council	October Payroll	£ 2,073.72 DD
3CD Group	Diary delivery (Oct)	£ 276.00
3CD Group	Diary delivery (Nov)	£ 184.00
Warners of Bedford	Grass cutting (Nov)	£ 586.98
Venture Finance	Security Patrols (Oct)	£ 1,314.04
Mrs. H. Trustam	Petty Cash advance	£ 30.00
Central Bedfordshire Council	Street lighting maintenance	£ 124.95
Beds Councils Planning Consortium	Annual membership subscription	£ 40.00
MKM Agriculture	Strimmer Cord & key blanks	£ 10.79
Marston Playing Field Comm	Hall rent Aug – Nov	£ 60.00
Mrs. H. Trustam	Petty Cash	£ 30.00
FJ Beddoe	Litter Picking	£ 136.50
Mr. D. Cray	Churchyard grass cutting	£ 256.00

Approval of Clerk's travel expenses for period 1.7.09 to 30.10.09 & utility
Expenses for period 1.7.09 – 30.9.09 £ 197.75

Income

Allotment Rental £ 50.00

Resolved that the invoices for payment should be agreed. Proposed Cllr F. Keep, seconded Cllr G. Spriggs.

11.2 Churchyard Grass cutting contract 2010/11

Mr. J. Cray has submitted his quotation for grass cutting at the Churchyard, war memorial and footpath to Station Road for the 2010/11 season. Cost £2,500.00. Resolved to re-new the contract with Mr. J. Cray for this period.

The Chairman advised Mr. Cray is using his own mower for the main part of the work at the churchyard instead of the one owned by the Parish Council. The Chairman made a suggestion to sell the Parish Council's mower. It was resolved that the Chairman make tentative enquiries into this.

Resolved that a notice in the village diary and a letter of thanks be sent to Mr. Cray for his work over the past year in the churchyard.

11.3 To discuss allotment rents for 2010/11 (Wood End allotment land)

Currently the arrangement with the tenant is not covered by an official tenancy agreement. The Clerk is liaising with R. Palmer over this and it is hoped to draw up a draft agreement to present to the Council for approval. In order to do this the Council has a duty to ensure that the correct rental is charged and thus a land agent has inspected the area and advised that a maximum rental of £50/acre should be achieved. The current rental is £35/acre. Cllr P. Neale proposed to raise it to the £50/acre level with immediate effect. Seconded by Cllr T. Hyde. Resolved that the rental for the allotment ground at Wood End should be set at £50/acre.

11.4 Play Area Inspection contract 2010/11

Clements Play Management submitted their quotation for the play area inspections for the period 1.4.10 – 31.3.11. The inspections to the play area at Lower Shelton Road will increase by £1/month to £23.00, and Bedford Road will increase by £2 /month to £55.00. The rises are to cover increases in fuel and insurance costs. Resolved to re-new the contract with Clements Play Management for this period.

11.5 Finance correspondence:

(a) A 2010 grant request for £250 was received from Marston Community Safety Group following the cessation of the annual grant to the group from Central Bedfordshire Council.

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 Community Safety Group Grant £250.00

- (b) A 2010 grant request for £1,500 and £400 for St. Mary's Church and floodlighting respectively was received.

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:

St. Mary's Parochial Church Council Grant £1,900.00

- (c) A grant request from Marston Youth Club was received to cover the purchase of a Scalextric set and large screen & projector to enable the expansion of computer games to the youngsters. Total cost £450.00.

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 Moreteyne Youth Club Grant £450.00

- (d) An invitation to attend the Annual Employers Meeting of the Bedfordshire Pension Fund was received. The invite was duly noted.
- (e) An update on the tax treatment of member's allowances and expenses was duly received and noted by the Parish Council.
- (f) Information regarding Barclays Bank to convert the business deposit account to the new Business Saver account on 7th December was duly noted. There should be no changes to the way the account operates.
- (g) Resolved to renew the membership to the CPRE at a cost of £29.00 due 26th November 2009.

11.6 **Draft precept discussion: 20010/11**

The Clerk circulated the draft precept figures calculated by her and the Chairman. Each item on the list was discussed. Various precept columns were left blank whilst discussions were made on the level of funding required later in the meeting. Once decisions are made these figures will be inserted and a final decision on the level of precept required will be made at an extra ordinary meeting on 1st December.

Litter Picking: Resolved to increase hourly rate by 50p. With the future installation of bins at the allotments and replacement bins at the play areas/skate park it was resolved that Cllr F. Keep contact Mr. Beddoe to ascertain if he would be willing to empty the bins and seek confirmation that an extra half an hour each week would be sufficient time to undertake these tasks.

Probation Service: Owing to the problems experienced in arranging teams to work in the village it was resolved to precept a contingency amount to cover such matters.

Cllr T. Hyde advised that the work to the bench on Denton Drive was not very good and offered to re do the bench again. The Chairman agreed to obtain the linseed oil required.

Allotment: The Chairman had obtained a tentative figure for hedging and fencing the allotment land which fronted Station Road. Once done it should give additional security to tenants. A letter had also been received to advise that the free tree scheme would operate again this year. The Chairman agreed to obtain all costs and quotations for further discussion and agreement at the next Council meeting. The Parish Council agreed on an official opening of the allotments next year.

9.15pm Resolved to continue with the meeting and not to break.

CCTV: The Chairman stated that the cables installed in the ground during the skate park project were not placed in ducting and thus the images received to the CCTV equipment are intermittent. A quotation has been received from AVES Security to rectify this. The maximum amount payable would be £1,450.00 + VAT. Resolved to add this expense to the precept and arrange for the work to be carried out in the next financial year.

12. Planning Matters

12.1 To discuss the following planning applications received since the last meeting

Cllr B. Chandi declared an interest and left the room during discussion on item (a).

(a) Application No. CB/09/06368/FULL
Full: Single storey rear extension
Site: 110B Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne
Comments: Request that neighbours comments are taken into consideration when determination of the application.

(b) Application No. CB/09/06460/REN
Replacement PP sub to new time limit: Erection of two storey detached double garage. Previous approved planning application MB/07/00275/FULL
Site: The White Cottage, 2 Marston Hill, Marston Moreteyne
Comments: No objections.

(c) Application No. CB/09/06340/SCO
SCO: EIA Screening request, Marston Vale Forest Trust Wind Turbine
Site: The Marston Vale Millennium Country Park, Station Road, Marston Moreteyne.

The Chairman advised that this was not an actual planning application, but a request to the Local Planning Authority for a determination as to whether the application must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement. Therefore the Clerk's application for an extension to respond was refused, and the matter will need to be discussed tonight.

Having looked over the information contained the Chairman explained the height, noise and possible light flicker that might be emanated from the turbine. Therefore it was resolved to respond by stating that the Parish Council feels that an Environmental Impact Statement should be included with any planning application owing to concerns over the turbine.

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

The Local Planning Authority has not determined any planning applications for Marston Moreteyne since the last meeting.

12.3 To receive any planning correspondence

(a) Building Control notified the Parish Council that the house name of "Kingfisher House" has been added to the address of 93 Bedford Road, Marston Moreteyne.

13. Allotment Update

Further work is required to satisfy the Anglian Water inspectors before they will connect the water supply. The information has been passed to Mr. Money who will carry out the work. The Chairman quoted prices for galvanised water troughs. It is envisaged that the tanks will be drained for the winter period. It was resolved that the Chairman liaise with the Marston Allotment Club as to how many troughs are required.

Cllr B. Mead stated that he has received a verbal cost of £75.00 for an aluminium allotment sign. It was resolved that a disclaimer notice should also be erected.

14. Extension to Sports Pavilion: Update and further discussions

Following a meeting of the Working Group it emerged that the Playing Field Committee has appointed a Quantity Surveyor subject to the Parish Council's permission.

There is currently a shortfall of funds between costs to complete the project and the S106 allocation. It is envisaged that the total cost would be in the region of £120 - £130,000 (Phase 1 & 2).

A resident had also approached the Playing Field Committee with further plans for extension of the pavilion to incorporate a bar/coffee area, viewing area; indoor children's play area etc. These ideas were also presented to the Working Group. It was noted as a possible Phase 3, and does not currently have planning permission.

For the next meeting on 8th December, it was agreed that:

- Cllrs Mrs. E. Houghton & Miss E. Johnstone look into what grants are available
- Obtain figures for the construction of Phases 1, 2 & 3 with budgets.

To assist with grant applications, it was agreed that the Clerk forward Sue Norman's contact details to Cllr Mrs. Houghton.

15 Update on issues surrounding potential Covanta.

A copy of potential designs for Covanta's proposals and the impact on the surrounding areas were circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting.

Following further discussion the Parish Council unanimously resolved that they were opposed to Covanta's proposals to build an incinerator at Rookery Pit. It was resolved that Cllr P. Neale should remain on and attend the meetings of the Rookery South RRF Community Liaison Panel. A campaign group is currently being set up called "Our Marston Vale" from some members of the Liaison Panel. This is being chaired by Mr. Dave Cooper (Stewartby PC). The Chairman read out a statement of their aims. It was resolved to support Our Marston Vale.

Cllr Neale advised that Covanta will be going for planning under the Independent Planning Commission on 1st March 2010.

Following further discussions the Parish Council resolved that they were opposed to incineration in the Marston Vale owing to the impact it would have on the area. It was noted that the type of waste facility to be taken forward by the BEaR project had yet to be decided and thus until this has been agreed the Parish Council are unable to form any firm decision.

Marston Action Group: MMAG had put in a grant request of £225.00 to cover the costs of a leaflet distributed in Marston Moreteyne making residents aware of Covanta's incineration proposals and the EERA's housing proposals.

The Clerk advised that the balance of the action group's budget was not sufficient to cover the whole amount. After further discussion it was resolved to award the full payment. Proposed Cllr Mrs. E. Houghton, seconded Cllr B. Chandi. However, the Parish Council agreed that MMAG should be made aware that with regard to housing proposals the Parish Council would at the point of no return reserve the right to enter into discussions with developer's and Central Bedfordshire Council in order to take full advantage of S106 possibilities for the village.

10.15pm. Resolved to suspend standing orders and continue with the transaction of business.

16. Update of BEaR Project

Communication events are currently taking place with residents in Marston Vale. Two more events are planned at Cranfield and Ampthill over the next couple of weeks.

The next Parish Council Involvement Group meeting is proposed for Wed 13th January 2010, commencing 6.30pm at the Sports Pavilion, Marston Moreteyne. Cllrs M. Petty & P. Neale to attend.

17. To formulate a response to the East of England Plan 2031

It was noted that many of the opposing comments made regarding the Eco Town proposals also relate to the proposals put forward by the EERA for the East of England Plan 2031. Resolved that a response be made based on guidance notes received from Bedfordshire Council Planning Consortium and previous objections to the Eco Town. The Clerk to liaise with Cllrs M. Petty and P. Neale.

18 Play Areas: To receive reports regarding play area at Lower Shelton Road and to recommend any required action.

It was reported that a hole in the chain link fence at the far end of the play area has appeared.

Also the tarmac area within the circle of bricks is starting to break up. Agreed that the Clerk contact Clements Play Management to obtain costs for repair.

19. Parish Council Vacancy: To receive letters of application for co-option to Parish Council.

Three letters of application were received for the vacancy which the Chairman duly read out. The Parish Council resolved not to interview the candidates. Each candidate's name was put to the vote with the result of Mr. Chris Banks obtaining the majority vote. Resolved that Mr. Chris Banks be duly co-opted as a member of the Parish Council at the extra ordinary meeting on Tuesday 1st December 2009. Resolved that the two unsuccessful candidates be asked if they wish to go forward to be considered for the two remaining seats once clearance to co-opt has been received from the Electoral Office.

Resolved that an application form be formulated to be completed by applicants when applying to fill a Parish Council vacancy. Action Cllr Mrs. E. Houghton & the Clerk.

20. **Green Infrastructure:** After a brief discussion it was resolved proceed with the project. Agreed that the Clerk contact Mr. G. Lambourne to advise him of this decision.

Given the lateness of the evening it was resolved to leave correspondence and the Clerk's report until the next Council meeting.

22. Discussions relating to the Clerk's employment were held as a closed meeting.

There being no further business to transact, the meeting was closed at 10.55pm.