

MARSTON MORETEYNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Marston Moreteyne Parish Council held at Marston Moreteyne Sports Pavilion on Tuesday 16th September 2008, commencing 7.15pm.

Present: Councillor M. Petty (Chairman)
Councillors F. Keep (Vice Chairman), P. Neale, T. Hyde, B. Mead, P. Hall, G. Spriggs & Miss E. Johnstone
District Cllrs D. Tysoe & M. Gibson
12 members of public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllrs Mrs. S. Hall, Mrs. J. Allen, Mrs. E. Houghton, B. Chandi & County Cllr B. King.

2. **Energy from Waste Plant to include Public Participation**

The Chairman advised that following the attendance of Andrew Smith – Assistant Director of Environment for Beds County Council at a Parish Council meeting many months ago, the Parish Council officially objected to the proposed scheme. These views were made known to Mid Beds District Council as well and our District Councillors have voiced the Parish Council's views at meetings held by MBDC on this subject. Both District Councillors stated that they fully support the residents and Parish Council on this matter.

The following up to date position was advised:

MBDC: Their response to the Waste Site Allocations Issues & Options in Bedfordshire: Members expressed strong support for the Rookery Pit site for EfW/CHP. However, members requested that a number of issues be addressed, either through the Local Development Framework (LDF) process or through the Planning Application process. These issues related to road infrastructure, lorry movements emission regulations and a request that a full Health Impact Assessment is undertaken as part of the planning process. At a Council Executive Committee held on 21.11.07, MBDC resolved to fully support the County Council to continue with the BeAR project, to deliver the EfW/CHP plant facility for treatment of wastes, to ensure that the statutory landfill targets are met, and that the residents of Bedfordshire do not suffer financial penalties.

Bedfordshire County Council: The planning application will be picked up under the new Unitary Authority. The Environmental Impact Assessment has not yet been completed but will be available for public viewing before the planning application is submitted. Communications will be taking place, with particular emphasis on informing residents living in close proximity to Rookery Pit. These communications will be in addition to the pre-planning consultations to be conducted prior to the submission of the planning application, following the change over to the two new unitary authorities. A letter has been received by the Parish Council inviting 5 residents (including 1 Parish Councillor) to visit an EfW site in Sheffield. It was agreed to place an advert in the village diary asking any residents interested in attending to contact the Clerk direct. Other engagements with the public over the coming months will be bi-monthly updates via the BeAR website, press releases related to key milestone events and direct communications with residents via local road shows in the vicinity of the preferred site.

The BeAR project team are currently working to put together the Outline Business Case due to be submitted to DEFRA by 31st October, following a response received from DEFRA that the BeAR project meets the current Private Finance Initiative award criteria and an invite to submit further detailed information.

Cllr Neale spoke of his experience when visiting the EfW site in Portsmouth. After further discussion, it was realised that there is a lot of information not known. Cllr Gibson and the Clerk stated that Bedford Borough Council has yet to agree with the County's proposals and have an Implementation Executive Committee Meeting on 7th October to hear further details on the project.

Short Term Action: Resolved that the matter be put in the village diary asking residents to write to Bedford Borough Council, BeAR Project and Nadine Dorries MP objecting to the EfW proposals. Resolved to produce an A5 flyer to be distributed around the village as well to ensure full coverage. Hugh Roberts volunteered the members of MMETAG to distribute the flyers to the village as a good will gesture.

- Long Term Action: Resolved to organise a public meeting for second Tuesday in January 2009, and to invite Cllr Tom Wootton together with other representatives of the BeAR Project Team to provide answers to gaps in information. Resolved that once planning is imminent, a leaflet is produced to try to set up another action group against the EfW. Resolved to request that a public inquiry undertaken.
3. **Update from Marston Moreteyne Against Eco Town Action Group**
Stewart Long from MMETAG stated that as many people would already know, there is going to be an anti Eco Town March on Saturday at 10.30 from the Village Hall. He outlined the route and gave an insight into the Police support expected. Nadine Dorries MP, and both District Cllrs D. Tysoe & M. Gibson have agreed to attend, and it is hoped to have a good turnout of residents. SL officially requested the support from as many Parish Councillors as possible and stated that they still needed Marshalls.
 4. **Report from EB Security**: Owing to the absence of a representative from EB Security, no report was available.
 5. There were no **declarations of interest** expressed in regard to any items on the agenda.
 6. **The Minutes of the Meeting for Marston Moreteyne Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 15th July 2008** were submitted for approval. 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.
 7. **The Minutes of the Meeting for Marston Moreteyne Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5th August 2008** were submitted for approval. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record, and were duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr P. Neale, seconded Cllr P. Hall.
 8. **The Minutes of the Meeting for Marston Moreteyne Finance Committee meeting held on Tuesday 5th August 2008** were submitted for approval. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record, and were duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed T. Hyde, seconded P. Hall.
 9. **The Minutes of the Meeting for Marston Moreteyne Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September 2008** were submitted for approval. It was RESOLVED that the Minutes be accepted as an accurate record, and were duly signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr P. Neale, seconded Cllr P. Hall.
 10. **Update of information from County Councillor B. King**: Owing to the absence of Cllr King no report was available. The Chairman did state that a notice had been received stating that owing to illness, Cllr King has stepped down from his role as Cabinet Member for Community Services, but that he will continue to serve as divisional councillor for Marston. Cllr Peter Hollick is to take over the role of Cabinet Member with immediate effect. The Parish Council recorded their wishes for Cllr King's full recovery.
 11. **Update of information from District Councillors D. Tysoe & M. Gibson**
Cllr Gibson stated that Cllr King has also been replaced by Cllr John Street on the Shadow Council.
MG stated that the Town & Planning Assn invited the Leader of the Council to visit an Eco Town in Amsterdam. He was able to attend this visit as well. MG commented on the differences. To date there have been no planning proposals submitted. MG made a presentation regarding the Eco Town proposals at the full Council meeting of MBDC. Cllr Tysoe stated that many were surprised at the scale of the proposals and that it would be a district wide matter.
DT advised that he has spoken with Steve Whittaker regarding green waste collections and the possibility of using green wheelie bins, but unfortunately the answer was negative. The Chairman stated that many residents are having their green bags refused collection and having overweight labels stuck to them unnecessarily. He added that should this continue then he was fearful that it will lead to an increase in fly tipping. DT agreed to re-visit the matter of green waste and composting with the Council.
Owing to no further matters requiring the attention of either District Councillor, both DT and MG left the meeting.
 12. **Brief update of information on the following committees:**
 - 12.1 Community Safety Group – Cllr F. Keep
Cllr Keep circulated a written report which stated that no major problems regarding youngsters were experienced during the school holidays. There is evidence that alcohol is being purchased from local shops on behalf of youngsters.

The PCSO's have been successful in confiscating alcohol on a number of occasions, however if it persists then the matter will be monitored via the new CCTV equipment with a view to catching those responsible. It was reported that the PCSO's are liaising closely with residents, schools and the CSG and doing a good job. For a time, motor cyclists were a problem. Registration numbers were handed to the Police, and homes were visited. A SmartWater Exhibition will be held in the Marston Social Club on 17th September. Representatives will be there from the firm to explain how it works etc. This method has reduced robberies in some areas by 70%. The Mobile Police Van will visit the village on 29th October.

12.2 Mid Beds Planning Consortium – Cllrs P. Hall/P. Neale/B. Chandhi
Nothing to report.

12.3 Landfill Liaison – Cllrs Mrs. E. Houghton/Mrs. J. Allen
Owing to the absence of both Councillors, there was nothing to report. The Clerk distributed copies of the previous meetings minutes to all Councillors present. In the minutes is stated that owing to the falling attendance for several months the Liaison Committee wished all Town & Parish Councils to consider a proposal to adjust the frequency of the meetings from quarterly to biannually. The Parish Council resolved to agree with the adjustment to biannually and agreed to continue to send a representative to the meetings.

Action/Clerk to respond with Parish Council's decision.

12.4 Playing Field Committee – Cllr G. Spriggs
The planning application for the full extension of the sports pavilion will be submitted to the Planning Authority by the end of September. There is currently no estimation of costs for the extension. A couple of Committee members had reported that the CCTV equipment was not recording the skate park. The Chairman responded by stating that the repairs to the cameras have not yet been completed following the last spate of vandalism. The Committee members wished to know what the procedure is should a power surge go through the recording equipment. Does it automatically reset itself.

Action/the Chairman to contact AVES Security to ascertain procedure for power surges.

12.5 Village Hall Committee – Cllr B. Mead
The Committee have agreed to undertake drawings relating to the proposed improvements and then to establish the costs involved.

12.6 Church End Lower School – Cllr P. Neale
Nothing to report.

12.7 Shelton Lower School – Cllr M. Petty
Nothing to report.

9.15pm The Parish Council took a short recess for 5 minutes.

13. Matters arising from the minutes of Tuesday 15th July, 5th August & 2nd September 2008

13.1 EB Security: The entry for the village diary has yet to be received from Rob Ludlow. The Clerk advised that the two recent invoices do not have EB Security headed notepaper, and have reverted back to Burton International.

Action/Clerk to ascertain reasons regarding letterhead and ascertain legal implications of the contract if the name has changed.

13.2 Containers – Playing Field: The Clerk has ascertained that the Playing Field Committee advised the Parish Council that they would like to replace the cricket and football garage with a container. In October 2003, the Football & Cricket Clubs agreed to dismantle the garage between them. In November 2003, a 20ft container was donated by NMT to the Youth Club. After that period two other containers were sited, one to replace the Cricket & Football garage and the other as general storage. Both of these containers were funded by the Parish Council. Cllr P. Hall stated that the Youth Club has now moved into the other container following a leak in their own container.

13.3 Station Road: The Clerk stated that the resurfacing of Station Road has been placed on the Highways 5 Year Plan and is scheduled to be done 2009/10.

- 13.4 Arundel Road – White line markings: No change. The Traffic Safety Team at County Council is still assessing.
- 13.5 Land adjacent to 89 & 91 Bedford Road: The Clerk stated that the address of the owner of the ground cannot be traced, but is thought to be in the Kempston locality. It was agreed to place an advert in the local newspaper asking for him to get in touch with the Parish Council. However, it was thought prudent to check the legal implications of this prior to placing the advert.

Action/Clerk to action.

- 13.6 Highway Partnership Scheme: The footway along Woburn Road has been completed and a letter of thanks has been received from a resident of Howes Drive. It is noted that several people are still walking in the road owing to the fact that there is not a dropped kerb at the Moat Farm Cottages end of the footpath. It was resolved to request a dropped kerb at this location.

Action/Clerk to action request for dropped kerb.

- 13.7 Confident Communities Fund: A 50% invoice has been received from AVES Security. The work to both the shop and church areas should be completed shortly. The Clerk advised that owing to the fact that the original quotation for the CCTV equipment was in October 2007, the total costs for the scheme would be an additional £300.00. The hedging will be discussed in Item 14.4 on the agenda.
- 13.8 Probation Service: This is on item 16 of the agenda for further discussion.
- 13.9 Land at Denton Drive: Cllr T. Hyde stated that after much discussion, it has been agreed with residents that TH contact Steve Thomas at MBDC in November to clear the rubbish from the stream and trim down the bank.

Action/TH to contact S. Thomas in November to arrange above work.

- 13.10 Land East of Bedford Road (s106 agreement): The document is on its way to Beds CC for execution following a delay, and it will then be sent to Mid Beds for execution. There is an issue relating to a deed of suspension regarding some of the covenants in the s106, but we are assured that this will not cause a significant delay. The aim for MBDC is to complete the s106 by the end of the month, when they will then issue the outline planning permission as soon possible afterwards.
- 13.11 Parish Walkabout: The Clerk is still awaiting a report from J. Chandler. The weed killing is backlogged at present but will be undertaken asap.
- 13.12 MBDC Play Rangers: The sessions run during the school holidays in the village by MBDC were a success.

14. Finance

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

Calverton Factors Ltd	Security Patrols (July)	£ 856.15
Calverton Factors Ltd	Security Patrols (August)	£ 750.68
LSN Media	Diary delivery	£ 42.00
Mrs. H. Trustam	Backpay (Apr-Aug)	£ 479.65
Warners of Bedford Ltd	Grasscutting (August)	£ 599.74
Copykatz	Diary printing (Sept)	£ 170.00
Pier One Solutions	Web Site Hosting	£ 41.13 SO
TotalCard Services	Petrol – churchyard mower	£ 85.59
3CD Group (UK)	Diary delivery (July)	£ 88.13
TOD Accountancy	PAYE Admin April-August	£ 50.00
AVES Security	CCTV Upgrade – 50% deposit	£ 3525.00
Bedfordshire Pension Fund	Pension Cont Apr-Aug	£ 1886.50
FJ Beddoe	Litter Picking	£ 136.00
A. Bunker	Churchyard Grass cutting	£ 295.00
BDO Stoy Hayward	External Audit	£ 470.00
Pier One Solutions	Domain Registration (2yrs) for Marstonmoreteyne.co.uk	£ 64.63

Payments made in between Council meetings.

HM Customs & Excise	Tax & NI contributions (1 st quarter)	£1,325.90
Zurich Municipal	Insurance premium tax	£ 77.05

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

Cllr G. Spriggs reported that he had received a complaint from a resident regarding the upkeep of the churchyard. The Chairman stated that the weather recently had not been conducive to cutting grass. However, matters were in hand.

14.2 To discuss grant requests received by the Clerk since 15th July 2008.

Grant requests were received from:

- (a) Marston Moreteyne Village Hall Committee who wished to have a grant in order to maintain the building;
- (b) Marston Tiny Tots requested a grant of £1,000 to go towards a planning application and purchase of a storage unit at the village hall and purchase some new tables and chairs;
- (c) St. Mary's Parochial Church Council requested a grant towards the upkeep of the Church and Millennium Church Floodlighting.

Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act) 1976 S19 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 Village Hall Committee	Grant	£2,500
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Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under Section 137 & 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 Tiny Tots	Grant	£ 300
St. Mary's Parochial Church Cncl	Grant	£1,900

14.3 External Audit report for year ending 31.3.08

The Clerk presented the audit opinion of BDO Stoy Hayward in relation to accounts year ending 31.3.08. Resolved that the Council accept and approve the Annual Return for year ended 31.3.08. BDO Stoy Hayward raised an issue relating to insufficient cover regarding fidelity guarantee cover. Resolved that the Clerk ascertain the correct level required and report back to the Parish Council for a firm decision to be made on raising the level.

Action/Clerk to ascertain correct Fidelity Guarantee Cover level required.

14.4 Confident Communities Fund – To receive the quotations and agree a contractor for laying the hedge adjacent to the Sports Pavilion, Bedford Road.

The Clerk advised that the total amount available for this project is £1,700.00. The Chairman stated that the Clerk had met with two contractors and their quotations were as follows:

Paul Blissett: Quote £1,794.00. Work would be completed in around 10 days. There would be additional costs for the removal and chipping of surplus material which the Parish Council would have to source, and also costs to plant replacement bushes and put in a post and rail fence behind the toilet block where the area is not suitable for hedge laying. BTCV: Quote: £1,344.00 plus £350.00 max for chipping and blowing surplus material into hedge adjacent to playing field. £40.00 for replacement hedging behind toilet block. Total quotation: £1,734.00.

BTCV work with their own volunteers plus the probation service and would also like to invite any residents from the village who would wish to learn such a skill as hedge laying. The work would be carried out from November and would take some weeks to complete.

Having considered the above information, it was resolved to award the contract to BTCV owing to the fact that their quotation was in line with the amount available and also it would involve local community.

Action/The Clerk to inform John Seamarks of the Confident Communities Scheme of the Parish Councils decision.

14.5 Finance correspondence

(a) The Chairman advised that Terry O'Donnell who had been administering the Parish Council's payroll announced his retirement from the end of August. Having made some enquiries, Bedford Borough Council undertakes the payroll for many Parish Councils. The cost to Marston Moreteyne would be £150.00 pa. A direct debit arrangement would need to be arranged for the payroll. The Parish Council resolved to take up the services of Bedford Borough Council with regard to payroll and agreed that the cheque signatories could sign a direct debit mandate to allow the relevant payments to be made. Proposed Cllr P. Neale, seconded Cllr P. Hall.

Action/the Clerk to arrange the relevant paperwork with Bedford Borough Council.

(b) The Clerk stated that one of the panels has been broken in the bus shelter at Upper Shelton Road. A quotation for replacement from Mobile Glass was received showing a cost of £188.00 to repair. The Clerk stated that she had informed the insurance company of the damage and advised the Council that there would be an excess of £100.00 against a claim. The Council resolved to proceed with the insurance claim and accepted the quotation provided by Mobile Glass.

Action/Clerk

15. Planning Matters

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

(a) Planning Application No. 08/01562/FULL
Full: Single storey side extension and erection of new entrance gates
Site: 3 Reynes Close, Marston Moreteyne
Comment: Resolved that the Council would like neighbours comments to be taken into consideration when determining the application.

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

- (a) Application No. 08/01286/FULL. Full: Moving existing prefab garage to front of the house. Site: 45 Beancroft Road, Marston Moreteyne. REFUSED.
- (b) Application No. 08/00293/FULL. Full: Conservatory to rear elevation. Site: 21 Moat Farm Close, Marston Moreteyne. APPROVED.
- (c) Application No. 08/00926/FULL. Full: Erection of detached chalet bungalow and single garage (revision to planning permission ref; 08/00227 dated 7.4.08). Site: Land adjacent to 60 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne. APPROVED.
- (d) Application No. 08/00926/FULL. APPROVAL OF DETAILS. Details of Conditions discharged: Condition Nos 2(materials); 3(site levels); 5(boundary treatment) and 7(soft landscaping). Site: Land adjacent to 60 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne.
- (e) Application No. 08/00963/FULL. Full: Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory. Site: 42 Denton Drive, Marston Moreteyne. APPROVED.

15.3 To receive any planning correspondence

- (a) Application No. 08/00043/FULL, refused on 5.3.08, for Retention of change of use of agricultural buildings to retail, workshop and ancillary offices and storage at Sun Valley, Woburn Road, Marston Moreteyne. Notification received that the applicant is appealing against the decision. The appeal is to be dealt with by written representation procedure. Resolved that no further comments be submitted regarding the application.
- (b) Application No. 08/00189/OUT refused on 31.3.08, for Erection of a single dwelling, land at 71 Upper Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne. Notification received that the applicant is appealing against the decision. There will be a hearing into this appeal. No date yet given. Resolved that no further comments be submitted regarding the application.
- (c) Appeal for Site at land to the rear of 28 Upper Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne. Cllr P. Neale attended the appeal and spoke against the application on behalf of the Parish Council on 29th July. The outcome of the appeal is not yet known.
- (d) MBDC sought the Parish Council's comments regarding the postal addresses for 3 terraced dwellings at land adjoining The Bell, Bedford Road. Resolved that the suggestion put forward be 3a, 3b & 3c Bedford Road.

16. Probation Service

to The Chairman reported that the Clerk met with Sherrie Barlow on Tues 9th September in the village discuss locations and identify work required. This information was relayed to the Parish Council. SB agreed to contact Steve Whittaker of MBDC to ascertain if he will undertake a green collection of any green waste produced.

Village Entrance: SB asked if this be put on the back burner for possibly Spring time while she obtains clarification on any safety issues which may arise from working here.

R Garner of the Playing Field Committee has agreed that the workers can use the Sports Pavilion facilities and store any relevant equipment in the middle container. SB was informed that it does leak.

SB identified additional equipment required: 3 sets of long handled loppers along with relevant sandpaper, wood stain etc.

She is hoping to have a team in the village around October time.

Cllr T. Hyde offered to donate a set of long handled loppers to the Parish Council. Resolved that 2 more pairs of loppers be purchased in time for the work to be completed.

17. Allotments: The Chairman stated that the ground adjacent to the Working Men's Club is in a state and looks as if it has not had any attention this year.

The Clerk reported that she is receiving a notable increase in calls regarding garden allotments from residents. Owing to the fact that none are available in the village she passes on the details of Lidlington Parish Clerk. After further discussion, the Parish Council resolved to find out how many residents might be interested in a garden allotment within the village and resolved that the Clerk put an advert in the next edition of the village diary to ask for expressions of interest. It was then deemed to discuss the matter further at the next meeting once numbers were known.

Action/Clerk

10.15pm Resolved that Standing Orders be suspended in order to continue the following business:

18. Completion of Town & Parish Council Survey (copies distributed July)

MBDC are seeking to gain a better understanding of the needs, requirements and aspirations of town and parish councils throughout Bedfordshire, and have produced a short survey relating to understanding councils better, knowing councils aspirations, receive views on important issues concerning the future role of councils and seeking views on the development of a Customer Access Strategy. To this end the Parish Council discussed and completed the survey.

19. Correspondence

19.1 Bedfordshire Highways 5 Year Programme 2009-2014

A draft 5 year programme for major repairs to roads and footpaths had been sent to the Council for comments. The Clerk duly read out the improvements proposed. The Council noted that Station Road re surfacing is planned for 09/10. No alterations were proposed.

20. Clerk's Monthly Report.

Owing to the time, the Clerk circulated a copy of her written report for September.

Owing to the lateness of the evening, and the fact that the remaining items on the agenda were not deemed as urgent, the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.35pm.