

**GUILDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall  
on Monday 27 March 2006 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs: B Holme, R Murfitt, Mrs D Mitchell, J Kennedy, K Baker and B Spall.  
In attendance: Cllr Mrs C Murfitt, Cllr Mrs Oliver and Mrs G. Stoehr (Clerk).

**Comments and observations from members of the public**

Mr Martin, The Bells was present for item 5.1 to expand on his request for a stopping up order outside his property.

Mr Goodman raised objections to the planning application at 17 Church Street.

**1. To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest**

Apologies were noted from Cllrs K Saban (holiday), K Baker (late) and Mrs J Davis (holiday).

Declarations of interest:

Cllr R Murfitt declared prejudicial interest in item: 3.1 as adjacent landowner.

Cllr Holroyd declared a prejudicial interest in 7.12 as a close friend of the applicant.

On a proposition by the Chairman, carried unopposed the Chairman varied the order of business to take items: 5.1 & 7.1.2 here.

**5.1 CCC – Stopping up order The Bells**

Cllrs Kennedy and Baker arrived at this point in the meeting.

Cllr Kennedy proposed that the Parish Council support the application to remove highway rights from land at 1 Fox Hill Road, which would then revert to private ownership. The proposal was not seconded.

Cllr Murfitt proposed, seconded by Cllr B Holme that the Parish Council objects to the application to remove highway rights from land at 1 Fox Hill Road.

The vote was recorded as four votes in favour of the motion and three votes against.

**7.1.2 S/0506/06/F Bear Cottage 17 Church Street – Extensions**

On a proposition by Cllr B Holme, seconded by Cllr J Holroyd it was agreed that a site meeting will be held on Saturday at 10.30pm to look at the application. In accordance with the Council's standing order the Clerk will submit the Council's decision and comments to the SCDC Planning Department.

**4 To receive the report of the County and District Councillors**

4.1 Cllr Mrs Oliver reported on:

- Concessionary fares
- The crack down on illegal signs and commercial signs on verges.
- Recycling – Cambridge County Council has been awarded Beacon status and is the best Shire County. Government funding has been received.
- The PCT reorganisation.
- The Ambulance Trust re-organisation.
- Police Authority – The neighbourhood team is:
  - Adrian Stephenson.
  - John Sutton
  - David Martin.

The Parish Council expressed disappointment that they had not been informed of this formally by the police.

## 4.2 Cllr Mrs C Murfitt report on:

- Delivery of SCDC magazine.
- The barrington Cemex application which has been deferred indefinitely.
- Animal welfare – The opinion of SCDC is not available at present. More information can be obtained from the website.
- The debating competition.
- As Chairman of SCDC her chosen Charity ‘Prostrate Cancer’ is holding a concert on 8 April at St. Martins Church. Tickets are available.

It was noted that residents are still having problems with their bin collections and it was agreed to request for recycling plastic facilities for the Village.

1.1 Comments from the monitoring officer on personal and prejudicial interests

The comments from Chris Tucker the Monitoring Officer indicating that all matters in the same road as a member should be considered prejudicial.

2. **To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 20 February**

On a proposition by Cllr Mrs D Mitchell, seconded by Cllr R Murfitt the minutes were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman after the following amendment:

- Item: 9.6 should read ‘inorgaration’ of the flag pole.

3. **Matters arising to note or carried forward for discussion/decision**3.1 (3.1) Encroachments Ashwell Road & on PROW adj to parish cemetery

Carried forward as the County Council has not replied.

3.2 (3.2) Village Hall including vesting of lease in the Official Custodian & report on recent Committee meeting

It was noted that the vesting papers had now been sent to the Charity Commission as detailed in Mr Baker's email dated 27/03/06.

Cllr Holroyd reported on the Village Hall Committee meeting he had attended. Consideration was given to the steering group's request for financial support for its proposed grant applications to Wren and others for:

- Re-sand, varnish and seal the floor in the main hall.
- Replace the floor tiles in the committee room with a hard wearing lino.
- Revamp the changing room & shower area - repair structural problems, retile the shower area, replace the shower fittings & put in some wall mounted electric heaters (making it suitable for use by a greater number of the community).

On a proposition by Cllr Spall, seconded by Cllr Holroyd it was agreed that the Parish Council support the grant applications for approximately £18,000 for the works as detailed and will contribute £2,000 from the Village Hall reserve fund towards the works. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would commission the works as appropriate. It was also agreed to seek quotations for the works identified in the surveyor's report for further consideration at the next meeting.

3.3 (3.3) Quality Council presentation of award

It was agreed to invite Mr A Lansley MP to present the award at the APM on 15 May 2006.

3.4 (3.8) RoSPA checks on recreation ground

Cllr Holme offered to undertake the checks and to produce a report. This offer was gratefully received.

3.5 (3.9) Fly-tipping near Hooks Mill & erosion of grass in New Road

3.5.1 Cllr Spall reported on his meeting with Mr Vacher, Highway Supervisor. It was agreed that Cllr Spall should speak to the adjacent landowner to seek their views on

the options to prevent fly tipping. The Parish Council will consider what if any further action is required at a future meeting.

3.5.2 New Road - erosion of grass verges. Mr Vacher had said that no action is to be taken at present but if it becomes dangerous then action will be undertaken to get them repaired.

3.5.3 Hooks Mill Road – It was noted that this has now been repaired. Thanks are to be expressed to Mr D Vacher.

3.5.4 Potton Road – It was noted that there are pot holes on the south side. It was agreed to write to Bedfordshire County Council to inform them of this.

3.6 (6.2) SCDC Grant award for the Ruddery Pit

It was noted that a grant of £387 had been awarded which had enabled the grass to be cut by a contractor and also a new strimmer to be purchased. It was agreed that safety equipment must be worn and if the volunteer does not have the necessary equipment then the Council will purchase and provide it.

3.7 (8) Gamut

The background paper on how Gamut started was noted. Mike Alton and Mrs Roach had expressed interest in becoming ‘Gamut’ editors and would be assuming this responsibility. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Holroyd for producing what will be two editions of Gamut and for smooth transition to the new editors.

3.8 (9.4) Pet Watch

Cllr Mrs Davis’ paper was considered in her absence. It was agreed that the Parish Council support her endeavours as a member of the public.

**5. To consider correspondence/communications received including**

5.1 CCC – Stopping up order The Bells

Further to the decision taken earlier in the meeting it was noted that the reasons for the objection were: The Parish Council was keen to ensure that the following are not compromised:

- the public access to the path between the property and the Church
- the availability of parking on the old road in front of the property
- the setting of a precedence
- the protection of the village ethos and the aesthetic view

5.2 Mobile Warden Scheme – request for financial support

In response to the request for financial support from the ‘Mordens & Litlington Mobile Warden Scheme’ the proposal by Cllr Spall, seconded by Cllr Holme, that in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Council donate £450 which, in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants, was carried unanimously. A letter of thanks is to be sent to ‘Wheels for Martin’ for its generous donation to the Mobile Warden Scheme.

5.3 SCDC Standards Board – appointment of parish council members

In response to the letter from Colin Tucker, Monitoring Officer, SCDC the Parish Council nominated Cllr Holroyd to stand on the Standards Board Committee.

5.4 Cambs County Council – Rights of Way Improvement Plan

To be circulated.

Items 5.5 to 5.10 were all noted.

5.5 SCDC charging of parish councils for legal advice

5.6 SCDC Biodiversity Strategy consultation

5.7 Request for information – Mrs Bell 67 High Street

5.8 Village of Year

5.9 SCDC training – Trustees

5.10 CCC Concessionary fares

## 6. Financial, procedural and risk assessment matters

6.0.1 The Local Government (Discretionary Payment) Regs 1996 Regulation 4 was noted.

On a proposition by Cllr Holme, seconded by Cllr Spall it was agreed that the Council would write exercising its discretion so that if it paid a lump sum gratuity on the future retirement of its employee time served to 5 April 2006 would be subject to protection and that part of the lump sum could be paid in full and tax free.

### 6.1 Tree monitoring reports

Reports on tree checks undertaken by members were noted. There was no urgent action identified.

### 6.2 Finance report and to approve the payment of bills

The financial report was received and considered. Invoices for payment and supporting papers were checked by a member before payment. On a proposition by Cllr Spall, seconded by Cllr Holme the following payments were approved for payment:

Glass Fibre Flagpoles Ltd	£998.75
E Simpkins (mower service)	£70.03
SCDC (Rates)	£58.17
Cambridge Water	£41.05
Buchans (grass cutting)	£2341.83
LGS Services (admin support)	£316.96
LG Stoehr (salary)	£97.47
LG Stoehr (admin support)	£97.23
Mordens & Litlington Mobile Warden Scheme	£450.00
Inland Revenue (PAYE balance after £250 electronic returns deducted)	£79.09

Credits received:

Awards for All	£1350.00
HMCE (VAT)	£2734.94
Floodlight Committee (Flagpole)	£850.00
Townlands Charity (Craft)	£1949.86
Allianz Cornhill (Bus shelter)	£400.00
Quince (Covington Memorial)	£25.00

### 6.3 Appointment of internal auditor

On a proposition by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Spall it was agreed that Dick Lynch should be appointed as the Parish Council's Internal Auditor.

### 6.4 Footpaths leaflet and report on kissing gate installation

Consideration was given to Cllr Spall's report on the recent meeting held to progress the production of the leaflet. On a prop by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Spall it was agreed that Cllr B Spall and the Clerk could progress the design and printing of the leaflet in accordance with the terms of the 'Awards for all Grant' and the Council's financial regulations without out the matter being referred back to the Parish Council. The draft leaflet is to be circulated to all members for comment before it is printed. The leaflet is to be of a similar layout and design to the Steeple Morden Footpaths leaflet.

It was noted that the 'Kissing Gate' for the recreation ground did not fit and that the matter was being pursued with John Cooper at CCC.

### 6.5 Hearing Loop

It was noted that the hearing loop had now been installed and that additional cabling is to be ordered. Thanks were expressed to Roy Mitchell for helping with the

installation and testing of the hearing loop. The Parish Council approved expenditure for a box with a key to be installed for the amplifier to be kept in.

#### 6.6 Play equipment grant applications – Awards for All

It was noted that grant applications for the play area were being drafted by Phoenix. On a proposition by Cllr Spall, seconded by Cllr Holme it was agreed that the Parish Council will support the grant applications if the Chairman and Clerk agree to the wording.

### **7. To consider planning and tree works applications received/considered since the last meeting**

#### 7.1 Planning

##### 7.1.1 S/0551/06/F Primary School - Temporary Building for Educational Purposes (Retrospective Application)

Although the application had not as yet been received it was recommended for approval as the Parish Council had already indicated its support for the temporary building at an earlier meeting.

##### 7.1.2 S/0506/06/F Bear Cottage 17 Church Street – Extensions

This item was taken earlier.

##### 7.1.3 S/0502/06/F Fox Corner Guilden Morden - Additional Residents Parking Areas

On a proposition by Cllr Mrs Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Murfitt it was agreed to support the application as it fulfils the Parish Council's policy on parking improvement. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Mr Vacher informing him of the application.

It was agreed to vary the order of business and take item 7.14 at the end of the planning section.

##### 7.1.5 S/0410/06/PNT Primary School - 12 Metre High Telecommunications Pole and 0.3 Metre Microwave Dish to Replace Existing 10 Metre High Pole and Dish

On a proposition by Cllr Mrs Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Murfitt the application was recommended for approval.

##### 7.1.6 S/0198/06/PNA Coldharbour Farm Guilden Morden - Agricultural Storage Barn

It was noted that the Parish Council are not being consulted by SCDC as SCDC had indicated that it can approve the site and design without reference to the Parish Council.

##### 7.1.7 SCDC LDF Objection sites consultation

Noted.

##### 7.1.4 S/0459/06/F The Holt 30 Dubbs Knoll Road - Change of Use of Dental Surgery (D1) to Residential - to be Incorporated as Part of Existing Dwelling

Cllr Holroyd (Chairman) declared a prejudicial interest in this item and duly left the meeting whilst this matter was being discussed. Cllr Holme took the chair for this item. On a proposition by Cllr Spall, seconded by Cllr Baker the application for change of use was recommended for approval.

Cllr J Holroyd rejoined the meeting and he re-took the chair.

#### 7.2 Tree works

##### 7.2.1 The Vicarage, Church St

The Parish Council had no comment to make on this item.

#### 7.3 SCDC decisions

##### 7.3.1 S/0073/06/F Keil, 27 Pound Green extension – approved by SCDC.

##### 7.3.2 S/0004/06/F 27 Ashwell Road extension – refused by SCDC.

**8. Councillors' items for the next agenda and closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 10.45 pm.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_