

## GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 19 March 2007 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllrs: Mrs J Davis, J Holroyd (Chairman), J Kennedy, Mrs D Mitchell, R Murfitt, K Saban, B Spall and K Barker.

In attendance: Cllr Mrs C Murfitt (District Councillor), Cllr Mrs L Oliver (County Councillor), Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

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

Mr Peter Garner of Morden Hall outlined his proposal to erect some shelters.

Mrs Barrow was present to answer members' questions on her planning application.

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

1.1 Satisfactory Apologies were received from B Holme – out of parish.

1.2 Declarations of interest were received for items 6.1.1 and 6.2 from Cllr Rod Murfitt and Cllr Mrs Murfitt as they are adjacent landowners and also in item 6.2 as they both have a family interest in the land.

#### **2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 11 December 2006**

2.0 The minutes of the last meeting on 22 January 2007 were amended to note the absence of Cllr Baker and apologies were also received from Cllr Mrs Oliver.

#### **3. Matters arising to note or carried forward for discussion/decision**

5.3 A letter was received from Peter Garner dated 12 February outlining his proposal for some additional animal shelter barns. The Parish Council had no objection in principle to the proposal as outlined in his letter and urged Mr Garner to contact South Cambridgeshire District Council(SCDC) planning department as to whether planning permission is necessary.

6.1.1 S/0343/07/F The Wind Mill, Hooks Mill, Potton Road – Change of Use of Land to Paddock, alteration to Residential Curtilage, Erection of Stables, Relocation of Garden Store and Fencing

Cllr R Murfitt left the meeting having declared a prejudicial interest as an adjacent landowner. On a proposition by Cllr Mrs Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Spall the Parish Council recommended that the application be approved as it has no adverse impact on the area and it is keeping with the countryside and the materials being used are in keeping.

Cllr Murfitt rejoined the meeting.

#### **3.1 Parish Plan**

An email from Melanie Baker including an outline for an action plan was considered. On a proposition by Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Spall it was agreed to set up a working group to progress the Parish Plan and bring a clear recommendation to a future meeting. The membership of the group was agreed as Cllrs Holme, Holroyd and Mrs Davis.

3.2 (3.2) O/s matters - Footpath between The Bells and the Church, encroachment path 15 nr cemetery and smelly ditch

An email received from Chris Capps at CCC informing the Council that the paths adjacent to the Church were on the definitive draft map of 1951, and advising that

residents have to apply for a definitive map modification order. An article is to be placed in Gamut to ask if residents with any knowledge could come forward.

It was noted that there still was encroachment of path 15 but that John Cooper was aware of the situation.

Further to the last meeting Cllr Mrs Mitchell had met with the Environment Agency who had said that the responsibility for the ditch rests with the adjacent landowner (riparian ownership) in this case thought to be County Farms Estates. Cllr Holme's report with D Vacher on 15 February 2007 was considered in his absence.

Cllr Mrs Oliver said that Country Farms had not received the Parish Council's letter and that a plan showing the exact location of the stretch of blocked ditch would be appreciated. This is to be sent.

### 3.3 (3.3) Village Drains

Cllr Mrs Oliver reported that the drains near Swan Lake Farm had been done. The Parish Council challenged this. It was noted that the drains near the Edward vii had been jettied and that this will be monitored by the landlord as there has been no significant rainfall. The Parish Council re-requested a plan showing all the drains in the village and Cllr Mrs Oliver confirmed that this would be sent when the officer had time.

## 4. To consider reports and members items

### 4.1 District Councillor

Cllr Mrs Murfitt reported:

- The SCDC magazine has gone out to all homes
- Mini motorbikes using Silver St have no licence plates and underage riders etc. An article is to be placed in Gamut highlighting the penalties for such action.
- The ban on smoking in public places starts in July
- SCDC audit report
- SCDC priorities are the collection of rubbish, environmental health and housing
- Chairman's Charity Concert

### 4.2 County Councillor

Cllr Mrs Oliver reported:

- Policing – call centre response time. She urged the reporting of all incidents including mini motos.
- Inspector Ormerod will be attending the forthcoming Bassingbourn Parish Council meeting to answer the villages concerns about anti-social behaviour. It was agreed that Cllr Holroyd would attend and represent the Parish Council.
- Cambridgeshire County Council is being consulted on the M11 widening consultation and second runway and stacking patterns at Stansted and Luton.
- Consultation at regional and county level on the regional special strategy and the proposed housing increase and greenbelt review.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Mrs Oliver for supporting the mobile warden scheme grant application.

### 4.3 Allotments and the Craft

Cllr Holme's report and the two new perspective tenants was noted.

### 4.4 CALC, Cambridgeshire Acre & NHW

Cllr Murfitt reported on:

- his attendance at the Neighbour Panel Meeting. It is hoped that one is set up in this area by the end of the year.
- NHW had reported antisocial and damage to property problems in the village when it snowed. 2 local PSCO's had attended the meeting and had urged those present to report all incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- increased police activity in the village.

#### 4.5 Ruddery Pit & Vineyard

Cllr Holroyd reported that he had accompanied the Tree Warden to the Vineyard and cleared path where necessary of fallen tree branches and other debris. Recently planted (Mar 06) trees on the boundary of The Vineyard were inspected and found to be in reasonable condition and growing quite well - one or two may need replacing if they do not thrive this season.

The Clerk reported that Mr Dellar was not willing to catch rabbits in traps as it is too time consuming as a volunteer. This was accepted and it was agreed that this is to be carried forward as an agenda item for the next meeting.

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to vary the order of business to take items 4.6 and 7.2 together.

#### 4.6 Village Hall

Cllr Kennedy's report on the recent Village Hall Committee meeting, its accounts and maintenance priorities was noted.

#### 7.2 Village Hall survey

Cllr Kennedy declared a personal and prejudicial interest as the quote for the survey was from a family member. He left the meeting while this was discussed.

Further to the last meeting the quotation from Daniel Staines for a structural survey of the village hall was considered. The responsibilities of the Council and the tenants as detailed in the Lease were reviewed and the Clerk advised that while the Parish Council could contract the survey, as the Lease specified that the responsibility of the building rested with the Village Hall Committee, the Parish Council could not reclaim the VAT.

Cllr Baker, the Village Hall Treasurer, left the meeting.

On a proposition by Cllr Mrs Mitchell seconded by Cllr Spall it was agreed that the Parish Council is willing to support the Village Hall Committee to contract a survey to ascertain the condition of the hall and that the survey should also include an underfloor survey and some order of priority of works, to a maximum of £600 + VAT to be released from the Village Hall fund. It was agreed that Cllr Spall is to liaise with Cllr Kennedy to progress the matter.

On a proposition by Cllr Davis and seconded by Cllr Spall the Parish Council agreed to release the funds as already promised, up to £2,000 to support the Village Hall works and unlock the Wren grant (3<sup>rd</sup> party funding). It was further agreed that the cheque can be signed between meetings if necessary so as not to delay matters.

Cllrs Kennedy and Baker rejoined the meeting.

#### 4.7 Welfare & Mobile Warden Scheme

Cllr Mrs Davis reported on the recent village quiz fundraising and the County Council grant, which have raised income for the scheme.

4.8 Highways and Footpaths

It was noted that the fallen tree on the public right of way by Town Farm Meadow still has not been removed despite being drawn to the attention of the landowner. It was agreed that Cllr Spall is to raise this with the landowner.

4.9 Burial Grounds

Cllr Mrs Mitchell reported that the yew tree has finally been cut, and also the cemetery grass has been cut.

4.10 Recreation Grounds

Cllr Saban reported that Buchans have now carried out the outstanding cut.

Information on the recreation ground bookings are to be passed to the Clerk so that the Clubs can be invoiced at the appropriate time.

4.11 Tree monitoring reports

Reports on tree checks undertaken by members were noted. There was no urgent action identified for trees that are the responsibility of the Parish Council.

It was noted that trees between Morden House and Thompsons Meadow, on Mr Boston's land were leaning and it was agreed that Cllr Mrs Mitchell is to raise this with the landowner.

A tree on Mr Huffer's land needs attention and it was agreed that Cllr Saban should raise this with Mr Huffer.

Mr Paget-Wilkes indication that he wanted to stand down as tree warden was considered as was his suggestion that Mrs Ann Allen might be willing to take on the position. It was agreed that the Chairman is to approach Mrs Allen to ask if she is willing to take over.

4.12 Chairman including Phoenix meeting

Cllrs Spall and Holroyd reported on the site meeting they had attended with Rebekah Dolby of Phoenix. It was noted that the proposed scheme already has an activity wall and basket ball net and that problems with the mound location are still to be resolved. It was agreed that the Parish Council support the modular installation if this enables aspects of the scheme to be installed and used earlier.

**5. To consider correspondence/communication received**

5.1 Mr Hosie – Village amenities for the youth

An email from Mr Hosie suggesting village amenities for the youth was considered. It was agreed it inform Mr Hosie that the Phoenix scheme item includes amenities for the youth.

5.2 Crawford National Building Services re 11 Trap Road

The letter from Crawford Building Services alleging damage to 11 Trap Road by a tree on the recreation ground was considered. It was noted that the reports mentioned in the letter were not enclosed on receipt. It was agreed to send all the information to the Council's insurance company and explain the process that the Council has for checking its trees and that the tree has been there much longer than the extension.

5.3 Morden Hall Alpacas

This item was taken earlier.

5.4 Mordens & Litlington Mobile Warden Scheme – charity constitution

A draft constitution for the Mordens and Litlington Mobile Warden scheme charity constitution was considered. On a proposition by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Spall the Parish Council unanimously approved the constitution for the proposed charity.

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

6.1 Planning

6.1.1 S/0343/07/F The Wind Mill Hooks Potton Road – Change of Use of Land to Paddock, alteration to Residential Curtilage, Erection of Stables, Relocation of Garden Store and Fencing

This item was taken earlier.

6.2 Tree works

6.2.1 107 High Street

Cllr Murfitt left the meeting having already declared a personal and prejudicial interest. The application and the advice of the Tree Warden was considered. On a proposition by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Spall the Parish Council agreed to the removal, and replacement with native hedging.

6.2.2 Cllr Murfitt stayed out of the meeting as the proposed hedging was on his land and he had a personal and prejudicial interest. The Tree Warden's suggestion that the Parish Council apply for a grant to reinstate the hedging opposite 1 Ashwell Road was considered. Cllr Holroyd proposed that the Parish Council agreed to this however the motion was not seconded and the matter was closed.

Cllr Murfitt rejoined the meeting.

6.3 SCDC decisions inc Appeal decision 2 The Old Vineyard Cold Harbour

The inspector's decision that the appeal be allowed was noted.

**7. Financial, procedural and risk assessment matters**

7.1 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 the cheques were signed. On a proposition by Cllr Saban, seconded by Cllr Davis the following payments were approved for payment plus SCDC £66.23, Pinner & Sons (memorial tree) £21.56 and LG Stoehr (salary) £406.60:

|                                            |          |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|
| Buchans Landscapes (grasscutting)          | £1003.67 |
| Carter Jonas (rent)                        | £207.50  |
| Comberton Parish Council (SLCC membership) | £19.28   |
| LGS Services (admin support)               | £455.96  |
| Guilden Morden Village Hall                | £36.00   |
| LGS Services (admin support)               | £414.48  |
| Buchans Landscapes (grasscutting)          | £615.48  |
| Buchans Landscapes (grasscutting)          | £188.00  |
| CALC(assoc burial authorities)             | £56.50   |
| Objenix (website hosting)                  | £205.63  |

7.2 Village Hall Survey

This item was taken earlier.

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

8.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Saban for the next meeting (out of parish).

8.2 Annual reports – all members to let Chairman have their reports by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of April.

8.3 Items for the next agenda:

- School report
- Transport & recycling report
- Parish Council's shed at the Vicarage
- Sundial – request from Mr Taffs that the Parish Council accept responsibility for the sundial.

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 10.10 pm

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

DRAFT