

## GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 17 September 2007 at 7.30pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs C Murfitt (District Councillor), Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

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

- Mr Christie expressed concerns about the planning application at 60 New Road.
- Cllr C commented on the hedging in Church Lane.
- High Street kerbing – Cllr R Murfitt & Holroyd both having declared a personal and prejudicial interest exercised his right to speak under this agenda item as a member of the public made representation on the proposal to install kerbing along the High Street.

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

1.0 Apologies were received from: Cllr Baker (out of parish).

1.1 Declarations of interest were received as follows:

- Cllrs R Murfitt and Holroyd- item: 3.3 – CCC High St kerbing personal and prejudicial as adjacent residents.
- Cllr R Murfitt – item: 6.1.2 – 60 New Road – CCTV Camera on steel mast - personal and prejudicial as a relative of one of an adjacent resident.

#### **2. To approve the minutes of the last meetings on 16 July 2007**

2.0 The minutes of the annual meeting on 16 July 2007 were approved following a proposition by Cllr Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Murfitt and signed by the Chairman. One abstention was noted.

The order of business was altered and item 4.2 was taken here.

#### **4.2 County Councillor's report**

Cllr Mrs Oliver reported on:

- Kerbing in the High Street needs to be put forward as a bid to Cambridgeshire County Council.
- Smelly ditch – when the equipment is available County Farms will do the necessary work. The Parish Council is to ask Dennis Vacher to look into this.
- Travellers in Trap Road – a number of agencies are working on this.
- The Trap Road development which is moving forward and that the village should see changes in the next 6 weeks. Cllr Oliver will ask Officers to check the timber framed building.
- Cambridgeshire County Council is considering applying for transport innovation funding but needs to trail a congestion plan.

The Parish Council asked Cllr Mrs Murfitt to clarify with Matt Siggery, Travellers Officer what he means by 'managing the situation' Can the procedure for dealing with travellers - when they arrive until they leave - be detailed to the Parish Council?

The Parish Council expressed concern:

- at the lack of Police presence at the Parish Council meeting. It was noted that D Martin has left and that a replacement is awaited.
- that the officer who attended the CALC meeting to discuss CCC policy said that he didn't know of local parking problems at train stations.
- about parking outside the pub opposite the Church Street junction. This will be carried forward as an agenda item for the next meeting.

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

#### 3.1 (4.1) Parish Plan – update

Nothing to report. It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

#### 3.2 (4.2) O/s matters - Footpath between The Bells and the Church, encroachment path 15 nr cemetery and smelly ditch

##### 3.2.1 Footpath between The Bells and the Church

Plans awaited from Land Registry confirming the land owner. Then the application for a modification order will be lodged with CCC. The Parish Council approved the cost of the applications for the plans. Land Registry.

##### 3.2.2 Encroachment path 15 nr cemetery

In response to the letter sent to John Cooper asking him to take enforcement measures under the Highway Act for the encroachment, he will attend to it at the earliest opportunity.

#### 3.3 (5.4) CCC High Street kerbing – site meeting with Dennis Vacher

Cllr's Holroyd and Murfitt left the meeting having declared a prejudicial interest, and Cllr Holme, Vice-Chairman chaired this item.

On a proposition from Cllr Holme it was agreed that the Parish Council would make a bid to CCC to kerb the missing length of the west side of the High Street. The vote was recorded unanimously.

Cllrs Holroyd and R Murfitt rejoined the meeting.

#### 3.4 (7.4) Assets review – vicarage shed

The Parish Council gratefully accepted Cllr Holme's offer of a free shed, however if it is not suitable then the Parish Council will purchase a shed up to the value of £300.

#### 3.5 (8.1) Attendance and members responsibilities

Members were urged to attend all meetings and when not able, to give a written report.

### **4. To consider reports and members items**

#### 4.1 District Councillor

Cllr Mrs Murfitt reported:

- SCDC Travellers Officers are working very hard to try and resolve the problem
- SCDC magazine has been delivered by a contractor
- Kerbside collections of plastic – SCDC are considering this at the expense of community grants.
- That she had managed to secure the Phoenix play equipment grant which had been under threat. The Parish Council thanked her for this.

#### 4.3 Allotments and the Craft

Cllr Holme reported that a letter of complaint had been received by the Parish Council from a resident complaining about the cutting of the Craft. She was asked by the Clerk to

contact Cllr Holmes, but as yet he has not been contacted. The Allotment rents have been invoiced.

#### 4.4 CALC, Cambridgeshire Acre & NHW

Cllr Murfitt reported following his attendance at a CALC meeting on transport and congestion charges. Ian Dewar is the new Secretary at CALC following the retirement of Keith Barrand.

#### 4.5 Ruddery Pit & Vineyard- including rabbit control

Cllr Holroyd reported that the Vineyard is alright. It was noted that Mr Dellar will hand over the equipment to Cllr Holme to store and when done the assets list will be updated. It was agreed that there was still a huge problem with rabbits at the Pit. The rabbit catcher is to be contacted to find out how many times he has visited and his schedule to bring them under control.

#### 4.6 Village Hall

Cllr Kennedy reported that the new kitchen is finished. Specialists had to attend to the drain. The outside timbers have been replaced, there are new fire doors, the kitchen door has been replaced and the leak in the kitchen has been fixed. The September Show raised approximately £3,300.

With regard to the root problem and the eastern wall the Chairman reported he had received verbal advice that a root barrier would only last 3-5 yrs and his would not be cost effective. It was agreed that a letter is to be sent to the adjacent resident asking him to cease the nuisance he is causing to the village hall by his trees and to refer the matter to his insurers. The Chairman is to seek, at no cost to the Council, a written report on root barrier options from the surveyor he spoke with.

A vote of thanks to the shop committee is to go into Gamut.

The order of business was varied and item 6.1.2 was taken here

#### 6.1.2 S/1635/07/F 60 New Road – CCTV Camera on steel mast (retrospective application)

Cllr R Murfitt left the meeting, having declared an interest.

Letters were considered which had been received from Mr & Mrs Huckstep, Mr Christie and K Baker expressing their objections to the application, in particular the fact that the camera overlooks land which is not owned by the applicant and it is not in keeping with the rural area. Provision should be within the boundary of number 60.

On a proposition by Cllr Spall, seconded by Cllr Holroyd the Parish Council recommend that this application is refused as it is contrary to a number the objectives set out in the District Council Local Development Framework, namely;

- to protect historic landscapes and public rights of way
- maintain the character of villages, and
- for development to respect and retain or enhance the local character
- The scale of the tower and camera mean it is visible from the public highway and also it is considered intrusive to nearby residents. The pole and camera will become more evident in winter when there is less foliage on the trees and hedges. The Parish Council would be willing to reconsider an application in which the camera (and gate) were situated in closer proximity to the house.

Cllr Mrs Murfitt took no part in the discussion. Cllr R Murfitt rejoined the meeting.

- 4.7 Welfare & Mobile Warden Scheme  
Nothing to report.
- 4.8 Highways and Footpaths  
Nothing to report. The article in Gamut requesting residents ensure their vegetation does not encroach on pavements had little effect.
- 4.9 Burial Grounds  
Nothing to report.
- 4.10 Recreation Grounds  
The Pheonix report was considered this included a kind offer from Wheels from Martin offered to lay a path to the recreation ground and a couple of benches. The Parish Council agreed in principle this is a good idea and the sports groups and adjacent residents in Bells Meadow should be consulted by Phoenix. The route of the path and its construction materials needs to be formally agreed at a future meeting and Mrs Dobby is to be asked to supply this.
- 4.11 Tree warden & 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.
- 4.12 Transport & recycling report  
Nothing to report.
- 4.13 School report  
Cllr Holroyd reported that the school continues to be in good health, operating at its limits of allowed intake. The school has been refurbishing the toilets and the portacabin over the summer. The portacabin was broken into last week.
- 5. To consider correspondence/communication & members reports received**
- 5.1 Bassingbourn/Melbourn and Gamlingay Neighbourhood Panel  
Cllr Murfitt reported on local incidents.
- 5.2 CCC Parking Policy Review  
The consultation was noted.
- 5.3 Eastern Region Quality Councils Networking Group  
The Parish Council supports in principle the 'regional meetings for Parish Councils'. The Vice-chairman is to attend the meetings and complete the form.
- 5.4 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Mental Health Trust – request to attend future Parish Council meeting  
The Parish Council did not feel the need for a representative to attend a future Parish Council meeting, however it will support the proposal for Trust Status.
- 5.5 SCDC Draft Licensing Policy consultation  
Cllr Mrs Murfitt reported on the slight changes to the policy and offered to loan the Parish Council the consultation document so that it could reply. This is to be passed to the Chairman for circulation.
- 5.6 Cambridgeshire Design Guide  
The consultation was noted.
- 5.7 Carter Jonas – The Craft Lease renewal  
The notification of the rent review was considered. This is to be acknowledged formally.

- 5.8. SCDC Homeless Review  
There are none known.
- 5.9 Letter from Andrew Lansley MP in support of local Post Offices. His sentiments were supported by the Parish Council.
- 5.10 SCDC Review of polling districts and polling places  
The consultation was noted. The Parish Council supported the proposals.
- 6. To consider planning and tree works applications received/considered since the last meeting**
- 6.1 Planning
- 6.1.1 S/1658/07/F Odsey Grange, Baldock Road – Double Garage  
The Parish Council makes no recommendation to make providing that the Listed Building Officer has no objections.
- 6.1.2 S/1635/07/F 60 New Road – CCTV Camera on steel mast (retrospective application)  
This item was taken earlier.
- 6.1.3 S/1539/07/F Sancerre Barn, 1 Coldharbour Farm – Extension – to note the Parish Council’s delegated response  
The Parish Council had recommended approval of the application.
- 6.2 Tree works  
None.
- 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 Murfitt, seconded by Cllr Holme the following payments were approved for payment, plus Land Registry £6 (search), LGS Services £6 (reimbursement a Land Registry search) and Buchans £947.09.
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|---------------------------------|----------|
| Buchans (grasscutting)          | £1126.66 |
| LGS Services (admin support)    | £437.77  |
| Cambridgeshire ACRE (J Holroyd) | £15.00   |
| Waste Recycling Ltd             | £835.12  |
| Carter Jonas (rent)             | £207.50  |
| LG Stoehr (salary)              | £213.34  |
| LGS Services (admin support)    | £419.24  |
| LG Stoehr (salary)              | £320.01  |
- 7.2 NS Savings Account  
It was noted that there have been some changes to the account in that money can no longer be deposited, only withdrawn. It was agreed there were risks in making changes in the current climate and this will be carried forward as an agenda item.
- 8. Councillors’ items for the next agenda and closure of meeting**
- 8.0.1 Concern was expressed that the surgery had changed its number to an 0844 premium rate number, and can’t be accessed from overseas. The Parish Council regret that this has been done without consultation and at the expense of the patients. Following a

proposition by Cllr Holroyd and seconded by Cllr Holme it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to the surgery, with copies to Andrew Lansley etc.

8.0.2 Buxtons Lane – As visits from travellers were becoming more frequent it was suggested that this should be landscaped in partnership with Cambridgeshire County Council. This will be carried forward as an agenda item for the next meeting. Cllrs Holme Cllr Spall are to discuss with Dennis Vacher, John Cooper and local landowners.

8.0.3 Streetlight opposite Thompson’s Meadow in Trap Road (no number), - timer needs fixing.  
There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 10.16 pm

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

DRAFT