

GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: Cllr Mrs Murfitt (District Councillor), Cllr Mrs Oliver (County Council), Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

Comments and observations from members of the public & from the District & County Cllrs

The County Councillor Report

Cllr Mrs L Oliver reported that:

- Ashwell Surgery is not breaking any legislation as this is not a premium rate telephone number. All complaints need to go through Ofcom.
- The smelly ditch has been cleared by the Highway Supervisor
- The resignation of the Leader of the County Council
- The traveller's site has progressed to court action; we are awaiting a date to when this will be. There has been yet another 3 caravans arrive on site today.

Mrs Oliver was questioned about the lack of response from the police to the emails sent to them.

The District Councillors Report

Cllr Mrs Murfitt reported that:

- Plastic recycling is still under review.
- She will clarify where the fly tipping which has been collected can be put.
- New act autumn 2006 on Biodiversity includes a requirement on how to enhance biodiversity.
- Affordable housing has been requested in this area and sites are to be identified

1. To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1.0.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Baker (work) and Cllr Saban (verbal resignation)
The casual vacancy will be advertised. The next elections are in May. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman will oversee recreation ground until an alternative appointment is made.

The regulations regarding statutory reasons for absence and the procedure for approval of reasons for absence was considered. On proposition from Cllr Kennedy and seconded by Cllr Spall it was agreed that the Clerk should alert the Chairman when a member had missed a several months meetings and the Chairman should speak with the member concerned and report to the next meeting.

1.0.2 Cllr Murfitt declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item 6.2.2 The Croft House as this is a friend's application.

2. To approve the minutes of the last meetings on 17 September and 15 October

2.1 On proposition from Cllr Mrs Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Mrs Davis the minutes of 17 September and 15 October 2007 were approved as a true record after the following changes are to be made:

- Item 4.6 correction of spelling
- Item 4.2 to read 'CCC is applying to the government for transport innovation funds but receipt of the funds is contestant on trialling a congestion plan'.

- In attendance Cllr Mrs Oliver's name to be added.

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

3.1 (3.1) Parish Plan – update

Nothing to report. This is to be an agenda item for next meeting.

3.2 (4.2) Police

Another letter is to be sent to the Police inviting them to attend the next meeting.

3.3 (8.0.1) Reply re Doctors surgery

The reply was considered. It was agreed to reply asking the Surgery to confirm the telephone charge rates and to advise them that residents are so concerned about telephoning they prefer to go to the surgery.

3.4 (3.2) O/s matters - Footpath between The Bells and the Church, encroachment path 15 nr cemetery and smelly ditch update

3.4.1 The church path in response to all the statutory declarations that had been submitted CCC had replied saying the Church Commissioners should be contacted and if the land is consecrated then it can not be a public right of way.

3.4.2 Encroachment FP15 – another letter is to be sent to John Cooper saying the Parish Council is disappointed that the County Council has not followed this up urgently. It is now over twelve months since Chris Tucker wrote to the residents asking them to remove the encroachment under section 130 of the Highways act or to use the powers under section 143 of the Act to have the obstruction removed by the end of November 2006.

3.5 (8.0.2) Buxtons Lane, Travellers and landscaping scheme

CCC has applied for a court order to remove the travellers. Another 3 caravans have arrived today.

4. To consider reports and members items

4.1 School

Nothing to report

4.2 Transport & recycling

Cllr Baker liaised with the Chairman between meetings about the bus service.

4.3 Allotments and the Craft

Another allotment has been let. Following the last meeting the resident finally contacted Cllr Holmes and discussed the cutting schedule.

4.4 CALC, Cambridgeshire Acre & NHW

Cllr Murfitt reported that the recent CALC meeting had discussed the merits of parish councils having an emergency policy. This is to be an agenda item for the next meeting. He also reported that NHW signs are required and sought the Parish Council's support. It was noted that the budget includes support for village groups like NHW.

4.5 Ruddery Pit & Vineyard

Rabbit continue to be a problem. The rabbit catcher had requested permission use artificial light to extend the hours he could shoot the rabbits. Approval was given for artificial light to be used. It was agreed that he is to be asked to use the traps as this will increase the rabbit control.

4.6 Village Hall inc Village Hall Project Group report

Cllr Kennedy reported on the Project Group meeting he had attended with Cllr Spall and that costs for the refurbishment of the village hall is required before a decision can be reached on the best way forward i.e. refurbishment or rebuild.

On a proposition by Cllr Kennedy, seconded by Cllr Mrs Davis it was agreed that if it is necessary to pay to obtain the quotes then the Council agree an amount up to £1500 for this.

It was noted that there is a Village Hall Committee meeting on Saturday to look at the leaking roof.

On proposition by Cllr Murfitt and seconded by Cllr Spall it was agreed that the roof must be repaired without delay on the grounds of health and safety and also that access to the disabled toilet is prevented until it is made safe.

4.7 Welfare & Mobile Warden Scheme

Cllr Mrs Davis reported that the accounts have been examined and all is in order. The Scheme organised a trip to Waresley Garden Centre for the members and the volunteers. The Warden had been off sick but volunteers had covered for her.

4.8 Highways and Footpaths

Two kissing gates are to be installed which is will be contracted to Roland Fletcher. Cllr Spall is to meet with D Vacher to progress the kerbing the High Street.

4.9 Burial Grounds

Further to a previous meeting when the Council reached a decision on memorials and planting on plots an article is to be placed in Gamut.

4.10 Recreation Grounds

It has been reported that there is a problem with litter on the recreation ground. It has been agreed that Council members will pick up the litter where possible. Mr John Dellar is to be asked if he would kindly repair the broken bench on the recreation ground.

An article will be placed in Gamut about litter and dogs fouling on the recreation ground.

The Parish Council has already agreed to charge the clubs for pitch hire however no informaiton has been received on the bookings so no invoice has as yet been raised. A letter is to be sent to Mr Saban requesting the informaiton again.

4.11 Tree warden & tree monitoring

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.

5. To consider correspondence/communications received

5.1 Minor Highways Improvement Scheme to consider if a bid will be submitted

The letter inviting bids was considered. It was agreed not to submit a bid this year but the Parish Plan working group will consider bids for submission for next year.

5.2 Further proposed changes to East of England plan

Noted.

5.3 CCC - Bus service review & passenger transport review

No implications for Guilden Morden.

5.4 SCDC - Naming of streets within the district

Catriona Dunnett's letter dated 25 October was considered. It was agreed to reply that historically Parish Councils had used their powers to name new roads in the parish and the Parish Council would not like its powers to be reduced in any way. The SCDC new resolution makes no reference to the role of Parish Council's in road naming and therefore the Parish Council seek assurance that its important role in naming roads will continue.

It also seeks clarification on the section which says under Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 the District Council could charge for anything done for the provision of such a service.

5.5 Mr Coleman – speed at traffic throughout village

The email from Mr Coleman was considered. The Parish Council shared his the concerns It was noted that since the Baldock Bypass, more vehicles are coming through the village as this is the Sat Navs preferred route which is causing major problems with speed and volume of traffic. A request has already been sent to the Police asking for a speed and volume survey in the village and Cllr Spall was asked to liaise with the County Council. The Parish Plan Working Group is to consider this further.

5.6 SCDC Litter dog bin consultation results

It was noted that SCDC was taking over responsibility for the litter bins adjacent to the highways.

5.7 Ashwell Energy Working Group – an inconvenient truth

This has taken place and the Parish Council had agreed to contribute £25 towards this. It was not known how many residents had attended.

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

6.1 Planning

6.1.1 S/1809/07/F 8 Church Lane – Extension

Already looked at in the last meeting.

6.1.2 S/2071/07/F – 51 New Road – Extension

Recommended for approval as this will have no impact on the road or the neighbours.

6.2 Tree works

6.2.1 14 Pound Green

No comment

6.2.2 Croft House, High Street

Cllr R Murfitt declared an interest and left the meeting.

The Parish Council had no comments to make. Cllr Murfitt rejoined the meeting.

6.2.3 19 Thompson Meadow

No comment.

6.3 SCDC Notifications

These were all noted.

6.3.1 S/1658/07/F Odsey Grange, Baldock Road – Double Garage – Refused

6.3.2 S/1635/07/F 60 New Road – CCTV Camera on steel mast – Approved

6.3.3 S/1809/07/F 8 Church Lane – Extension – Approved

6.3.4 Rectory Farm, 47 Fox Hall Road, Swan House - Approved

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 BS, seconded by Cllr JD the following payments were approved for payment, plus NALC/SLCC have now published the annual pay awards for Clerks. The Clerk's and LGS Services rates will be updated as already agreed from the next finance report.

LGS Services (Admin Support)	£492.02
Buchans (Grass cutting)	£850.45
LGS Services (Admin Support)	£433.46
LG Stoehr (Salary)	£213.34

7.2 Phoenix report & to approve the specification for the scheme, the order for the trim trail & release of 3rd party funding

Mrs Dolby and other Phoenix members were welcomed to the meeting where they outlined the success of the funding to date. They sought approval for the order and installation of the trim trail as the funding awarded had to be spent by the end of January 2008.

On a proposition by Cllr Holme, seconded by Cllr Mrs David approval for the order and installation of the trim trail as per the plans viewed was granted. It was also agreed that the third party funding of £5102.04 should be paid to Biffa Waste Services.

7.3 Approve the grass cutting tender specification for 2008-2010

The grass cutting tender specification was considered and approved. Tenders are to be invited.

8 Any other business

8.1 The Fox Hill name sign is broken and needs to be replaced. This is to be reported to SCDC.

8.2 It has been suggested that the meetings are monthly – agenda item next meeting.

8.3 A letter of thanks is to be sent to Mr J Dellar for the litter picking he did on Ashwell Road and the Paddocks.

8.4 The Bedfordshire County sign is still missing. A letter is to be sent again to Beds County Council asking them to replace.

8.5 Gamut is to be an agenda item at the next meeting.

9. Closure of meeting

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10:30pm

Signed _____ dated _____