

GUILDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on
Monday 21 January 2008 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs: R Murfitt, Mrs D Mitchell, Mrs J Davis, B Holme, K Baker, B Spall, J Holroyd (Chairman) and Dr J Townsend-Stojic
In attendance: Emma Garwood and John Hopper (PCSOS), Cllr Mrs Murfitt (District Councillor), Cllr Mrs Oliver (County Council), Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk) and four members of the public.

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

The Police were welcomed to the meeting.

The lack of visibility of police in the village and fears of reporting incidents due to fear, Ecops reports were discussed. The Police were asked to submit regular reports to the Gamut newsletter.

The County Councillor Report. Cllr Mrs L Oliver reported that:

- Parking tickets issued at Odsey were done by the Cambridge Police
- Police response time is down.
- A new CCC Chief Executive has been appointed
- CCC budget and Council tax implications
- Congestion Charging proposals
- The Library Service – A doorstep service requires volunteers

The District Councillors Report. Cllr Mrs Murfitt reported that:

- Delivery of the South Cambridgeshire magazine
- Government Grant cuts means more impact on an already stretched District Council
- South Cambridgeshire magazine won an award for being the best in East Anglia
- Housing futures – a percentage of rent and sales have to be returned to central government.
- She had looked into the letting of a house in the village and found that procedure had been followed in its allocation
- The Environmental Officer is to visit to assess the problems with inappropriate use of the recycling bank

Concerns were expressed about the poor refuse collection service over Christmas and also the untidiness of one dwelling in Church Street. This is to be reported.

1. To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were received from J Kennedy (work).

2. To approve the minutes of the last meetings on 19 November 2007

On proposition from Cllr Mrs Mitchell and seconded by Cllr Mrs Davis the minutes of 19 November 2007 were approved as a true record after the following changes were made:

- (4.6) Delete Cllr Spall
- County Cllr report - Amend Highway Supervisor to EDF.
- (7.2) 'Davis'

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

3.1 Co-option of member to fill casual vacancy

On proposition from Cllr Spall and seconded by Cllr Mrs Davis Dr Stojic-Townsend of 52 Church End was co-opted onto the Council. She signed her declaration of acceptance of office and her member's interests form is to be completed and returned to the Clerk within 28 days.

- 3.2 (7.2) Phoenix report & to approve remainder of the play equipment scheme and place the order
Carried forward to later in the meeting.
- 3.3 (4.2) Police
It was noted that the Police had attended this evenings meeting as they had been asked. Concerns were expressed that Sergeant in the police approached the Parish Council via the Herts Police.
- 3.4 (3.1) Reply re Doctors surgery
The recent reply from the surgery was considered. It was noted that a member's research with BT showed that the reply is misleading. It was agreed that the Parish Council needs the surgery to be honest when being asked questions and that it is not reassured by this reply. It was agreed that the Chairman pursue the matter with the surgery and report to the next meeting.
- 3.5 (8.0.2) To consider the frequency of meetings
Cllr Spall proposed monthly meetings are held instead of bi-monthly as he felt there is a loss of continuity of Council business. It was agreed that this would be discussed again when the new Parish Council is elected in May.
- 3.6 (8.0.3) NHW Signs
It was noted that each NHW sign will cost approximately £16 per sign. On proposition by Cllr Murfitt and seconded by Cllr Holme it was agreed that 4 new signs are to be purchased up to a cost of £100.
- 3.7 (8.5) Gamut
Following a long discussion it was agreed that Gamut is an independent newsletter and is not Parish Council controlled. Cllr Spall was asked to bring information and a recommendation for a Parish Council newsletter to the next meeting and that this should be an agenda item.
- 3.8 (3.4) O/s matters - Footpath between The Bells and the Church, encroachment path 15 nr cemetery
- 3.8.1 Footpath between The Bells and the Church
A reply is awaited from the Church Commission. It was noted that the County Council had indicated that it could not make a path order on consecrated land.
- 3.8.2 Encroachment of path 15 near the cemetery.
It was noted that the encroachment has not been resolved. John Cooper is to be urged once again to resolve this encroachment without further delay.
- 3.9 (4.4) Emergency Procedures & Policy
Carried forward to next meeting

On proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to change the order of meeting from this point.
- 3.2 (7.2) Phoenix report & to approve remainder of the play equipment scheme and place the order
Phoenix members were welcomed to the meeting. It was noted that:
- £122566 funding has been attained
 - The FSA letter offering £25000
 - The Parish Council had requested a condition on the proposed adjacent new housing given its proximity to the recreation ground
 - Site preparation and removal of mound and old equipment would be done first

- Fencing around 1m bow top whole area is to be decided after equipment is installed
- Path details are still outstanding
- The Parish Council might have a cash flow problem unless the timing of the release of grant funding and invoice payments was carefully managed
- Aim for September show ground opening of scheme

On proposition by Cllr Davies and seconded by Cllr Holroyd the Parish Council formally approved the scheme layout, design and that the orders should be placed at the appropriate time. It was also agreed that The Parish Council would request access to the recreation ground via adjacent County Council land otherwise permission was given to access the site across the recreation ground with the proviso that any damages are reinstated without delay

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 Spall, seconded by Cllr Mrs Davis the following payments were approved for payment, plus Buchans £684.30 & 725.07 (grass cutting), Information Commissioner (DPA) £35, Playdale £4975.43 (Play Equipment) and Cambridge County Council £1021.12 (Street lighting).

Cambs Acre (Membership Renewal)	£25.00
S Scott (Mowing of Paths)	£235.00
Buchans (Grasscutting)	£1292.77
LGS Services (Admin Support)	£764.86
LGS Services (Admin Support)	£437.93
LG Stoehr (Salary)	£213.34

On a proposition by Cllr Holme, seconded by Cllr Spall it was agreed to give a Section 137 donation to The Mordens and Litlington Mobile Warden Scheme which is in the Parish Council's opinion in the interest of the parish.

7.2 Grass cutting tenders and to award the contract/s for 2008-2010

Tenders received for the grass cutting contract were opened at the meeting. On proposition by Cllr Mrs Davis and seconded by Cllr Holroyd it was agreed to accept Buchan Landscapes tender as it represented best value based.

7.3 To approve the budget for FY ending 2009

The budget report was considered and after the grass cutting and village maintenance costs were included on a proposition by Cllr Spall seconded by Cllr Murfitt the budget was approved by resolution of the Parish Council.

7.4 To set the Precept & demand it from SCDC

On proposition by Cllr Mrs J Davis and seconded by Cllr Baker the precept was set at £19,600 as being the amount required to balance the Parish Council's budget and it was agreed to demand it from SCDC.

7.5 Biodiversity Duty

Parish Council formally noted its new duty for Biodiversity and it will take this into consideration as appropriate in the future.

7.6 P3 Grant application

Cllr Spall is to draft the application for 2009.

4. To consider reports and members items

4.1 School

Nothing to report

4.2 Transport & recycling

Nothing to report

4.3 Allotments and the Craft

There is one allotment vacant.

4.4 CALC, Cambridgeshire Acre & NHW

A bogus caller has been reported.

4.5 Ruddy Pit & Vineyard inc complaint

4.5.1 There has been a complaint regarding rabbit infestation. It was noted that Mr Reay has been asked to use traps to catch the rabbits. Cllr Holroyd to liaise with the rabbit catcher. On a proposition by Cllr Holme seconded by Cllr Holroyd it was agreed to purchase 75 yards of sheep netting and that a working group installed this.

4.5.2 Vineyard – It was agreed that a poplar tree would be removed by a working group.

4.6 Village Hall inc Village Hall Project Group

Daniel Staines had emailed to say that the scoping report to enable the estimates to be obtained will be sent on Thursday.

4.7 Welfare & Mobile Warden Scheme

It was noted that the grant from Cambridge County Council has been reduced by 9%.

4.8 Highways and Footpaths

It was noted that the rubbish and road works materials near Ashwell has now been collected. Following the decision at a previous meeting Cllr Spall is to liaise with Mr Vacher about kerbing in the High Street.

4.9 Burial Grounds

It was noted that no-one had complained about the proposal to return the graves back to lawn graves and remove plant and urns placed on the graves rather than in the memorial bases.

4.10 Recreation Grounds

Cllr Holme and Cllr Holroyd are to find out details of which clubs had used the sports pitches and pass the information to the clerk so that the invoices could be raised. An abandoned bike is to be removed. It was noted that Allianz Cornhill were again involved with a claim against the Parish Council for damage to a property allegedly caused by a tree on the recreation ground. It was noted that this matter goes back approximately 12 months.

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.

It was noted that the Council's insurers had sent an assessor to look at alleged damage by a tree on the recreation ground.

4.12 Cold Harbour Farm land access

Concern was expressed that the verge adjacent to the Vineyard had been damaged by vehicles accessing Cold Harbour Farm and also that Anglian Water had put slurry on the fields adjacent to the Vineyard and that potentially it could be washed into the watercourse. Cllrs Mrs Murfitt kindly offered to look into the matter.

4.13 Parking Complaint by Bells Meadow residents on the village hall car park and van parking at Fox Hill causing damage to the verge

It was noted that the Chairman has spoken to the resident concerned and a notice will be put in the next Gamut about the parking situation.

4.14 Parish Plan

It was noted that Melanie Bennett had now left Cambs ACRE and that until a replacement is appointed the Clerk would assist with the Parish Plan wherever possible.

5. To consider correspondence/communications received

5.1 Cambs ACRE – Housing Needs

The letter from David Hockham was considered and it was agreed to accept his suggestion that Cambridge ACRE undertakes housing needs survey. It was noted that an area, owned by SCDC was already earmarked for affordable housing in the current LDF

5.2 CGI Audit SCDC

The letter from South Cambridgeshire District Council about the district council audit was noted. Members are to let the Clerk have any comments.

6. To consider planning and tree works applications and decision notices received since the last meeting

6.0.1 14 Church Street

Cllr Holme declared an interest in this application as it is adjacent to his property and left the meeting while it was discussed. The Parish Council had no comment on the application.

Cllr Holme rejoined the meeting.

6.0.2 33 Church Street – no comment.

6.0.3 25a Pound Green – no comment.

9. Closure of meeting

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 11.06pm

Signed _____ dated _____