

**GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall on  
Monday 17 March 2008 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs: R Murfitt, Mrs D Mitchell, B Holme, B Spall, J Holroyd (Chairman) and Dr J Townsend-Stojic.  
In attendance: Cllr Mrs Murfitt (District Councillor), one member of the public and Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk)

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

Apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs Davis (out of parish), Cllr Kennedy and Cllr Baker and also from Cllr Mrs Oliver.

Cllr Murfitt declared an on going personal and prejudicial interest in item 6.6 Footpath at Killarney.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 21 January & the planning meeting on 18 February**

On proposition from Cllr Murfitt and seconded by Cllr Spall the minutes of 21 January and 18 February were approved as a true record after the following amendments:

- 3.1 Change to 'Townsend – Stojic' and to 'Church Street'
- 3.3 Delete 'Parish Council' and change to 'a parishioner'
- Apologies to be noted – Rod Murfitt (unwell)
- To record J Kennedy as present

The order of business was varied to take 5.1 NATS flight path consultation first.

**5.1 NATS flight path consultation**

Cllr Spall gave Cllr Mrs Oliver report in her absence. It was noted that NATS are to attend a CCC arranged meeting in April (the date to be announced). The Parish Council will send a representative.

Residents' concerns included that the current number of planes are not known to enable fair comparison. The statement that noise level depends on ground noise e.g. Royston will be busy where as Guilden Morden is quiet and the village will experience disturbances. It was noted that CPRE, Aircraft Environment Forum and others suggest a co-ordinated effort.

On proposition by Cllr Holroyd and seconded by Cllr Murfitt it was agreed to set up a working group to further explore the proposals and bring a recommendation to the next meeting on how the Parish Council should respond to the consultation. Membership of the working group will be Cllr Dr Townsend-Stojic, Cllr Murfitt and Cllr Holroyd. It was also agreed to co-opt Mr Stafford Carr and up to one other resident to the working group The Working Group is to seek the views from the APM meeting and include these in its recommendation.

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

Cllr Mrs Murfitt reported that:

- Council Tax bills have been delivered to homes today
- 'My money went to Whitehall' article in South Cambridgeshire Magazine won an award
- Regarding figures
- Home links information available in Steeple Morden shop for people interested in housing
- Inspectors report was published late this week 'Pockets of excellence'.

- The Recycling banks at 3 Tuns Public House were checked and there was no evidence of business use.

It was noted that the pumping station at Little Green has been again a problem which has been reported to EA.

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

#### **3.1 (3.4) Doctors surgery**

Cllr Holroyd reported that the Surgery has been chased for a reply to a letter he sent them on 13 February. The Surgery has promised information direct from its service provider which has not yet been received. To be carried forward to next meeting.

#### **3.2 (3.7) Parish newsletter proposal**

Copies of the Steeple Morden newsletter had been circulated by Cllr Spall before the meeting. It was agreed to raise this suggestion at the APM and seek the views of the parishioners on a Parish Council newsletter. Cllr Holroyd is to explore the possibilities with the Steeple Morden Editor David Harding.

#### **3.3 (3.9) Emergency Procedures & Policy**

Cllr Murfitt's draft policy which detailed emergency contacts and information in the event of an emergency in the village. It was agreed that this would evolve over time but that the Parish Council would complete as far as possible the basic information and that the Chairman and Clerk would be the first points of contact in an emergency. The information is to be displayed on the notice board.

#### **3.4 (5.1) Cambs ACRE – Housing Needs survey – to consider the draft questionnaire & covering letter**

ACRE's draft questionnaire and covering letter was considered. On proposition by Cllr Spall and seconded by Cllr Mrs Mitchell it was agreed that question 10 should read 'Family or Village Association'. It was noted that this would be circulated by ACRE to all homes in the village within a couple of weeks and the results brought to a future meeting.

#### **3.5 (3.8) O/s matters - Footpath between The Bells and the Church, encroachment path 15 nr cemetery**

##### **3.5.1 Footpath between The Bells and the Church**

Following a review of the position to date on a proposition by Cllr Spall, seconded by Cllr Holroyd it was agreed that:

- The Parish Council felt that it had done all it could to support the residents try to get two of these paths included on the definitive map and that no further action be taken as to the two paths that cross consecrated land (i.e. the one between the church and the Six Bells and also the one from the memorial to meet with the one between The Bells and the Church). As Guilden Morden churchyard has been 'closed' under the Burial Act 1855 this Act transfers maintenance responsibilities of the churchyard including the path to the Parish Council in perpetuity. The Parish Council will permit all residents access across the paths which it has legal responsibility to maintain at all times.
- As to the third path that is the very short section from the corner of the churchyard to the corner of The Craft field which is not on consecrated land although it may belong to the Church/Diocese of Ely. The Parish Council resolves that it will ask the Countryside Access Team to include this path on the definitive map using any statements on the declarations that are applicable.
- A letter is to be sent to the owner of The Bells asking them to trim back the hedge where it overhangs the path so as not to encroach on the path and so that residents can walk the path.

- This be raised at the APM so that the residents can be informed and invited to give their views on the paths by the Church.

### 3.5.2 Encroachment P15 near the cemetery

It was noted that further letters had been sent to both CCC and SCDC asking for them to help resolve this encroachment. On a proposition by Cllr Spall, seconded by Cllr Holroyd it was agreed that a formal letter of complaint be sent to the Countryside Access team and to ask them to carry out their agreed action to resolve the encroachment under the Highways Act.

On a proposition by the Chairman it was agreed to vary the order of business to take item 4.6 next.

### 4.6 Village Hall Inc Village Hall Project Group

Cllr Holroyd reported that the Project group was ready to make a recommendation based on its findings. It was agreed that an extra-ordinary meeting, date and time to be arranged, should be convened to consider their recommendations formally.

## 4. **To consider reports for info only**

### 4.1 School

No report received.

### 4.2 Transport & recycling

No report received.

### 4.3 Allotments and the Craft

Nothing to report.

### 4.4 CALC, Cambs Acre & NHW

Cllr Murfitt reported on the NHW Panel meeting he had attended. It was noted that:

- There had been a burglary in bungalow which the police said was rare
- NWH signs have been received and are being put up.
- Hare Coursing

### 4.5 Ruddery Pit & Vineyard

Cllr Holroyd's written report was noted.

### 4.7 Welfare & Mobile Warden Scheme

No report received.

### 4.8 Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Spall reported that he had tried to contact a resident who had emailed expressing concerns about the junction between Dubbs Knoll Road and Fox Hill however he had not replied. No further action is to be taken.

### 4.9 Burial Grounds

Cllr Mrs Mitchell reported that the graves have been levelled to a good standard by the contractor.

### 4.10 Recreation Grounds

Cllr Holme reported that the grass cutting season has now started and that the names and contact numbers of some of the sports clubs have now been obtained.

### 4.11 Parish Plan

Nothing to report. It was noted that an article had been put in Gamut.

## 5. **Members item for discussion and decision**

### 5.2 Notice board

It was agreed to move the notice board when the contractor comes to repair it as its position makes it difficult to put notices up in the wind. Cllr Holroyd was asked to liaise with the

contractor over the exact position. The bus shelter repair is still outstanding and will be sorted out at the same time.

5.3 Buxtons Lane

It was noted that John Cooper, CCC has already sought quotations and possibly placed an order for a highway barrier with two offset openings which will allow tractor access to the two landowners' fields and also access for vehicles to access the byway. Mr Cooper had indicated that the barrier at the end of Buxtons Lane is to be removed and will be used by one of the landowners who has to slightly change his access. The Parish Council was not happy with CCC decision to install urban barriers and remove the gate.

**6. To consider correspondence/communications received**

6.1 Allianz Cornhill notification

Noted.

6.2 CCC Speed limit reviews & policy

Noted.

6.3 The 'Parish partnership' model of an effective community anchor

Noted.

6.4 Cambs Highways Frequently asked questions

Noted.

6.5 Patricia Bradbury offer of memorial bench for parish cemetery

On a proposition by Cllr Mrs Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Holme it was agreed to accept Mrs Bradbury's kind offer of a bench for the parish cemetery however this would only be accepted for the life of the bench. It was agreed to ask Dennis Vacher for permission to install one of the old benches at the cemetery on Connors Corner. This is to be carried forward to the next meeting when, if permission is granted the logistics would need to be agreed.

6.6 CCC Footpaths 24 & 35 (part) diversion order

Cllr Murfitt having declared an interest left the meeting while this item was discussed. The diversion order was noted. Cllr Murfitt rejoined the meeting.

6.7 Odsey Park – various letters from residents had been received by the Chairman.

6.8 A resident's complaint about proposed reduction in bus service was considered. It was noted that no formal notification had been received however a internet a document titled Notices and Proceedings which was found on the Traffic Commissioner for the Eastern Traffic Area website which indicated that the Arriva bus which serves Guilden Morden (service no. 90/91) would be cancelled from 30 March 08. The County Council had said that it had information on the Alan's Coach & Bus service only.

It was agreed to find out more information and also if the rumour was true why the Parish Council had not been consulted or informed. It was also agreed that Cllr Spall would liaise with Steeple Morden Parish Council who also may also be unaware of the proposal and follow this up further as appropriate with Cllr Mrs Oliver and also the County Council. It was also agreed to write to Hertfordshire County Council and ask to be added to their transport consultation database.

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

7.1 S/0202/08/F Redbarns, Ashwell Road - Erection of Office Building following Demolition of Existing Domestic Outbuilding

On a proposition by Cllr Holroyd and seconded by Cllr Spall it was agreed to recommend approval as the proposal is aesthetically pleasing.

7.2 Three Tuns – amended

Cllr Holme declared an ongoing personal and prejudicial interest and left the meeting. It was noted that an amended application had been received but that it had been determined at the SCDC's Chairman's Delegation meeting before the end of the consultation date. On a proposition by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Spall it was agreed to send a letter of complaint to the Planning Portfolio Holder, Cllr Wright. Cllr Holme rejoined the meeting.

## **8. Financial, procedural and risk assessment matters**

### **8.1 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 Cambridgeshire Outdoor Living (Ruddery Pit fencing) £89.30, R Murfitt (Reimburse NHW Signs) £33.39, Anglo Eri Ltd (bus shelter materials) £33.39.

Comberton PC (Shared Membership)	£17.89
LGS Services (Admin Support)	£459.59
Objenix Ltd (Website hosting)	£205.63
CPRE (Planning Workshops)	£35.00
LGS Services (Admin Support)	£483.50
LG Stoehr (Salary)	£332.59
Carter Jonas (The Craft Rent)	£207.50
Playdale Playgrounds Ltd (Equipment)	£5411.00

### **8.2 Tree monitoring reports**

The reports were received. No urgent work was identified.

### **8.3 Date of APM & May PC meeting**

The APM is to be held on 21 April and the next meeting is to be held on 12 May. Apologies have been received from Cllr Holme and Cllr Spall for the APM and the Clerk for the next meeting. A minutes Secretary from LGS Services will attend the next meeting to take the minutes.

### **8.4 Appointment of internal auditor**

The process of audit and the internal audit was reviewed and on proposition by Cllr Spall and seconded by Cllr Holme with one abstention it was agreed to appoint Dick Lynch to undertake the internal audit

### **8.5 Clerk annual appraisal and terms and conditions of employment**

On a proposition by the Chairman, carried unopposed, in accordance with S1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, that is the Council considering the Clerk's Annual Review the Clerk was temporarily excluded from the meeting and was instructed to withdraw.

Clerk left the meeting and did not return.

At approximately 10.53pm the Chairman declared the meeting re-opened.

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

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10:50pm

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