

**GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall  
on Monday 15 September 2008 at 7.30pm.**

**Present:** Cllrs: T Bartlett, C Freeman, B Holme (Chairman), Mrs D Mitchell and T Oakes.

**In attendance:** Cllr Mrs L Oliver (County Cllr), Cllr Mrs C Murfitt (District Cllr) Mrs G Stoehr (Clerk)

**Cemetery Presentation from Cllr Mrs Mitchell**

Cllr Mrs Mitchell reported on her role and responsibilities at the cemetery over the last sixteen years, the background to the cemetery extension and the Worboys graves.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Mrs Mitchell for all her hard work.

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

Cllr Mrs Oliver reported on:

- The recent Ashwell Station meeting with local parish council members
- NATS proposals
- The revised bus route to serve the Mordens which would require a parish subsidy of £520pa
- 2012 Olympics and the flag raising at Cambs County Council (CCC)
- CCC's award for the use of technology

It was noted that:

- Ashwell Station. The landowner will reinstate the verges at his own cost and the Police will be encouraged to enforce 'No Parking'. The origin of the cars is unknown but Steeple Morden Parish Council is undertaking a check to see how many originate from each village. A business plan is the next stage and the Parish Council will consider the matter further once this has been received.
- Cllr Mrs Oliver was asked to formally write with information on the proposed bus service revision including any request for a financial contribution so that this could be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- The Chairman met with Steeple Morden Parish Council Chairman to discuss cross boundary issues.

Cllr Mrs Murfitt reported on:

- The importance of the electoral role forms being completed
- Housing Futures
- SCDC Magazine
- Handley Grange
- Kerbside plastics recycling to start 9 October
- False allegations regarding Council Tax demands

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

- 1.0 Apologies had been received from Cllr Mrs Hoad (prior engagement), Cllr Dr Townsend-Stojic (work commitment), Cllr Mrs Davis (overseas) and Cllr Holroyd (overseas).

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 21 July & the planning meeting on 18 August**

On proposition from Cllr Oakes and seconded by Cllr Mrs Mitchell the minutes of the last meeting on 21 July were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman after some rewording in Cllr Mrs Oliver's report and 'annual' being deleted from the heading. The minutes of 18 August were also approved and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters arising from last or previous meetings carried forward for discussion/decision**

**3.1 Mrs Knibbs – Complaint**

Mrs Knibbs had declined the Parish Council's invitation to attend the meeting and had appointed Cllr Mrs Oliver to represent her.

In accordance with its complaints policy the Parish Council reviewed the complaint and the manner in which it had been handled, the decision that had been reached and the action that had been taken to date. Cllr Mrs Oliver outlined Mrs Knibbs' complaint and the letters that she had sent to date; copies of which had been circulated in accordance with the complaints policy.

Prior to the meeting the members of the Council had visited the cemetery to inspect the memorial and it had been noted that some of the other letters on the memorial are starting to show signs of further deterioration. On a proposition by Cllr Holme and seconded by Cllr Freeman the Parish Council unanimously agreed with the earlier findings that is that there is no evidence to substantiate Mrs Knibbs' claim that her sister's memorial had been damaged by the grass cutter.

Mrs Knibbs will formally be notified of the outcome of her complaint.

**3.2 (3.6) To appoint representatives which the Council deems necessary – Odd job man**

It was agreed in principle that it would be beneficial to have a local person undertake small works on the Council's behalf and that the Chairman would approach Mr Ingrey to see if he would be interested before this is considered further at the next meeting.

**3.3 (5.3) Burial Fee & Regulations Review**

It was agreed that Cllrs Freeman and Mrs Mitchell should meet to review the fees and regulations and bring a recommendation to the next meeting.

On a proposition by Cllr Holme, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mitchell it was resolved that exclusive rights of burials would be administered and granted on the Council's behalf by the Clerk as Proper Officer and the member with responsibility for the burial grounds or in the member's absence by the Chairman or any other member.

**3.4 (3.1) Phoenix – Litter Bins**

In response to the request from Phoenix it was agreed that the Parish Council would assume responsibility for two extra litter bins on the recreation ground. The terms of Buchans' contract was reviewed and Cllr Holme is to monitor the emptying of the bins and report to the next meeting.

**3.5 (4.5) The Vineyard – Report on meeting with SCDC and Miss Flint**

Cllr Dr J Townsend-Stojic's report was read in her absence. It was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting so that she could clarify some points.

**3.6 (3.7) Affordable Housing – Bidwells**

It was noted that Rob Hopwood of Bidwells had emailed saying that a housing needs survey will be carried out but it may take some time and that he will report in due course.

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

6.2 Mike Sugden - Possible Affordable Housing, Pound Green6.3 Rural Housing Trust – Affordable Housing

A letter dated 26 August from Mike Sugden at Circle Anglia which outlined a proposal for a housing scheme at Pound Green and also a letter from Rural Housing dated 5 September about the work of the Housing Trust and offering to attend a meeting to discuss further were both considered. It was agreed to wait until the results of the housing needs survey are published before considering either of these matters further so that an informed decision could be reached.

4. To consider reports for info only4.1 Police & NHW

Cllr Freeman reported that the co-ordinators are to meet with the new PCSO Carl Fillary and on hare coursing activities.

It was noted that a sheep was shot near the Ruddery Pit which had been reported to the police. It was agreed to write to Mr Colin Reay to ask when he last visited the Pit and if he did not reply his license should be suspended forthwith. Cllr Dr Townsend-Stojic is to be asked to report on rabbit control to the next meeting.

4.2 Transport

Cllr Holme reported that he had discussed with the Steeple Morden Parish Council Chairman 30mph flashing signs and that he had heard that there is to be a change of priority on the A505 at the Odsey Junction. A letter is to be sent to the Highway Agency to find out more about this and why the Parish Council was not consulted or informed.

Cllr Bartlett declared a personal interest in the discussion on the A505 due to a legal matter.

4.3 Allotments and the Craft

No report.

4.4 CALC & Cambs Acre

No report.

4.5 Ruddery Pit & Vineyard

No report.

4.6 Village Hall inc Village Hall Project Group

Cllr Oakes report that the programme for the hall's refurbishment is now complete and the meeting was adjourned for a short period to allow an inspection. He also report that the proposals and draft plans would be discussed with the Management Committee before an architect was involved and costs incurred.

4.7 Welfare & Mobile Warden Scheme

Nothing to report.

4.8 Highways and Footpaths

The housing officer is to be asked to attend to overhanging hedges in Fox Hill as the resident is unable to do himself. An article is to be put in the next Gamut asking resident to check their hedging and ct back as necessary. As previously agreed members are to speak to residents whenever they see hedging or trees which overhang the pavement or specifically pose a problem.

It was noted that there are several pot holes on Potton Road and Church Street that need filling and Cllr Holme offered to meet with Mr Vacher to show him various areas which need attention. A large pot hole in the area outside the village hall gates is to also be reported to Mr Vacher and he is to be asked to put some more planings down on the area.

Cllr Holme declared a personal interest in this matter as some of the potholes in Church Street are outside his property.

4.9 Burial Grounds

Nothing further to report.

4.10 Recreation Grounds

Nothing to report.

4.11 Parish Plan

Carried forward to next meeting.

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

5.1 Conduct of business between meetings

Cllr Dr Townsend Stojic proposal was considered and on a proposition by Cllr Home, seconded by Cllr Oakes it was agreed that no change to procedure was required and that if business dictates an extra-ordinary meeting could be convened by the Chairman. BJH

5.2 Report & recommendation on station meeting

Cllrs Freeman and Oakes reported on their meeting with Cllr Mrs Oliver and local parish council representatives. It was agreed that they would continue to liaise on this matter but that all decisions would be reached at the Council meetings once the formal business plan and full details of any financial implications are known.

5.3 Tree surveys to agree member's responsibilities

The plans detailing the trees in the parish which are the Parish Council's responsibilities were considered and it was agreed that the routine checks be carried out as follows:

Cllr Holme - Recreation Ground

Cllr Mrs Mitchell - Cemetery and New Road

Cllr Bartlett - Trap Road

Cllr Hoad – The Craft, Pound Green and Dubbs Knoll Road

Cllrs Holroyd and Oakes – Ashwell Road

Cllr Mrs Davis – Potton Road

Cllr Dr Townsend Stojic – Buxtons Lane, The Ruddy Pit and The Vineyard.

Cllr Freeman will provide cover if any member is unable to undertake their checks due to being unavailable for a long period.

5.4 Website Proposal

Cllr Mrs Hoad's report and proposal was considered in her absence. On a proposition by Cllr Holme, seconded by Cllr Freeman it was agreed to accept her kind offer to re-design and manage the website using open source software and to also approve the cost of the upload of the new site when ready by Objenix, the service provider, at a cost of £300.

5.5 Village Hall Project Group Report

Taken earlier under item 4.6.

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

6.1 South Cambridgeshire Traffic and Speeding Summit

Noted.

6.4 Cogent Solicitors -11 Trap Road

It was noted that the letter dated 8 August had been passed to the Council's insurance company who were dealing with this.

6.5 Burial Grant W D Gray Plot W13 – To be signed

The exclusive rights of burial in plot W13 for Mr WD Gray his heirs and successors was approved for a period of 100 years the grant signed by the Chairman and Cllr Mrs Mitchell.

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

7.1 Planning applications received

7.1.1 S/1408/08/F – Land adj to 36 High Street – dwelling

A letter from the adjacent residents' representative detailing their objections was considered. On a proposition by Cllr Oakes, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mitchell it was agreed that this would have a detrimental impact on the village and on pedestrian and highway safety as there is inadequate turning provision on the site and therefore agreed to recommend the application for refusal.

7.1.2 S/1439/08/LB – 66 High Street – alterations

On a proposition by Cllrs Oakes and Bartlett it was agreed to recommend the application for approval as the alterations are all internal and would have no impact on the village.

7.1.3 S/1507/08/LB – Thatchways, Little Green – internal alterations

It was agreed that no recommendation be made on the above application.

7.2 Minerals and Waste Consultation

It was agreed to circulate this and that all members should send their comments to the Clerk who would submit a response on the Parish Council's behalf.

**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 Oakes, seconded by Cllr Freeman the following payments were approved for payment plus Carter Jonas (The Craft rent) £214.54, Cambridge Water (Cemetery water) £11.17 and Buchans (grass cutting) £1114.59.

SCDC (election fee)	£90.00
Buchans (grass cutting)	£1015.33
Kompan (play equipment)	£535.80
Guilden Morden Village Hall(room hire)	£49.60
LGS Services (admin support)	£475.89
ACRE (Funding Fair)	£20.00
LGS Services (admin support)	£455.94
Playdale (play equipment)	£5702.28
LG Stoehr (salary)	£251.16

It was noted that the following had been released between meetings as previously agreed purchases.

J Martin (shed)	£220.00
PJ Andrews (play equipment groundwork)	£7637.50
Playdale (play equipment)	£1014.61

8.2 Mike Allton – request for financial support – Gamut

The rules of Section 137 were noted. In response to the email request on a proposition by Cllr Oakes, seconded by Cllr Mrs Mitchell it was agreed to donate £35.95 to Mike Alton, Gamut Editor as this is in the Council's opinion in the interests of the inhabitants of the village and proportionate to benefit.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 10.16 pm.

Signed Benny J. White dated 17-11-08