

**GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL**

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

Present: Cllrs: T Bartlett, J Davis, C Freeman, Mrs A Hoad, B Holme (Chairman), J Holroyd, Mrs D Mitchell, T Oakes and Dr J Townsend-Stojic.

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

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

Cllr Mrs Oliver reported on:

- Ashwell & Morden Station/Odsey parking options – New dates will be announced in approximately two weeks. Royston is to provide an additional 205 spaces.
- The bus route has been revised. Steeple Morden Parish Council has agreed to contribute financially.
- Hanley Grange consultation – 14,100 homes are proposed for long-term development.
- Any rogue traders, including gardening services, should be reported to Neighbourhood Watch.
- Police Call centre times have been reduced to 19 seconds.
- The use of Camshare.co.uk is encouraged.

A question was asked about the Trap Road development.

Cllr Mrs Oliver was asked to support the Grass Routes application for the Mobile Warden scheme.

It was noted that no formal complaints had been received about overflying.

Cllr Mrs Murfitt reported on:

- The South Cambs Autumn newsletter and its delivery.
- The Chairman of the Standards Committee was willing to come to a meeting to discuss its work and the code of conduct.
- The Cambs Together meeting.

It was agreed that Cllr Mrs Murfitt will invite the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee to the January meeting.

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

All councillors were present.

**2. To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 15 September & the planning meeting on 20 October**

On a proposition by Cllr Freeman, seconded by Cllr Mitchell, the minutes of the last meeting on 15 September were approved as a true record following one amendment in item 5.1 to read "Cllr Holme" and were signed by the Chairman. On a proposition by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Hoad, the minutes of the planning meeting on 20 October were approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

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

*BJM*

- 3.0.1 (6.3) Rural Housing Trust – Affordable Housing - It was noted that a Housing Needs Survey has been sent to every home.
- 3.0.2 (3.6) Affordable Housing – Bidwells – nothing further had been heard from Bidwells.
- 3.0.3 (3.2) Odd job man - On a proposition by Cllr Holme, seconded by Cllr Dr Townsend-Stojic, Bernard Ingrey was appointed to be the Council's Odd Job Man in that he would be asked to undertake small works as and when necessary and he would invoice the Parish Council for the work rather than be employed.

3.1 CCC – Request for financial support – Morden Bus

In response to the email from Cllr Mrs Oliver dated 9 October detailing the proposed service routes and the cost implications on a proposition by Cllr Townsend-Stojic and seconded by Cllr Oakes, the Parish Council agreed to contribute £520 towards the annual £1,040 cost and this is on the following conditions:

- a trial period of six months during which time full data on usage will be provided each month to the Parish Council via the Clerk
- payment will be made in arrears at the end of the trial period on the proviso that data has been received
- this will be an agenda item at the Annual Parish Meeting to seek view of parishioners on how successful it has been and if the Parish Council should continue to subsidise.
- Should the trial be successful the Parish Council would need to know at the earliest opportunity what the cost for the next financial year will be.

On a proposition by the Chairman the order of business was varied from this point onwards.

4. To consider reports for info only

4.1 Police & NHW

Cllr Freeman reported:

- On a crime wave, involving theft from farms.
- Neighbourhood Watch requires a co-ordinator to disseminate information and crime prevention advice.
- The Mobile Police van is in the village this week.
- At the Melbourn Neighbourhood Watch meeting it was noted that non-residential burglaries were a concern. There have been cases of sheep rustling.
- Speed checks are to be carried out in the village.

4.2 Transport

It was noted that there was nothing to report.

4.3 Allotments and the Craft and

5.3.2 Request to purchase part of Craft

In response to the request from Mrs Edwards, 44 Dubbs Knoll Road asking about purchasing a part of the Craft and it was noted that Church land needs to be dealt with via Carter Jonas. The Parish Council has a long-term lease. It was noted that there had been complaints about grass cutting and that Cllr Holme would speak to the contractor about this.

5.3.1 Allotments proposal to waive incoming fee and rent for one year for new tenants

In response to the request from Jacky Dean that she take on the adjacent plot, on a proposal by Cllr Hoad, seconded by Cllr Holroyd, it was unanimously agreed to waive the incoming fee and rent for one year for Jacky Dean as the plot was in such a poor condition.

4.4 CALC & Cambs Acre

On a proposal by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Oakes, it was agreed to cancel membership of CPALC based on lack of use by the Council and that members were unable to attend the district meetings.

4.5 Ruddery Pit & Vineyard

4.5.1 In response to the report by Cllr Townsend-Stojic and following review it was proposed by Cllr Townsend-Stojic, seconded by Cllr Hoad, that there should be no shooting at all at Ruddery Pit, and trapping only, with no snares. Given that the rabbits are currently under control it was also agreed that Mrs Boost be thanked for her work however her services are not required any longer. It was noted that Colin Raey's licence had already been revoked with the Police.

4.5.2 Repairs required to gaps in hedges and stiles. Given the urgency of this it was agreed that Cllr Townsend-Stojic should pass the specification to the Clerk who would put the work in had before the next meeting.

4.5.3 Keys formerly held by Mr Paget-Wilkes have been handed to Cllr Dr Townsend-Stojic. Cllr Holme is the second key-holder. The Clerk also holds asset of keys.

4.5.4 The Vineyard – Cllr Townsend-Stojic reported on her meeting with Miss Flint and the District Council's Trees Officer. It was not known whether Miss Flint had cut back overhanging branches. In response to Mr Scott's request that the lower branches of the Vineyard trees be raised it was agreed as these have a tree preservation order on them Cllr Townsend-Stojic should draw up a specification and pass it to the Clerk so that the work could be put in hand.

4.6 Village Hall inc Village Hall Project Group

Cllr Oakes reported that the maintenance work was all completed, apart for painting of the toilets. The Village Hall committee has approved the architects' brief which is being sent out to three architects, with the objective of holding a public meeting in May.

4.7 Welfare & Mobile Warden Scheme

Cllr Davis reported that the deadline for the grant application had been missed, but the Grass Routes scheme was being pursued. She thanked Cllr Mrs Oliver for suggesting this route. The Cambs Community Foundation Grant application had been approved, and Charitable Status would be applied for imminently.

It was noted that Brian Spall and Debbie Brown would assist with the Mobile Warden Scheme.

Cllr Townsend-Stojic reported on the work of the Poor's Charity.

4.8 Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Holroyd reported a 20 metre stretch of highway repair had been completed well. Cllrs Holme and Holroyd are to liaise with Mr Ingrey so that he can undertake the annual clearance of the Twitchell.

4.9 Burial Grounds

It was reported that the hedge had been cut but an additional cut is required. Discussion of the earth mound was carried forward to the next meeting.

4.10 Recreation Grounds

It was unanimously agreed that the Phoenix play equipment was excellent. There were no objections to the earth mounds for the children to bike over.

In response to complaints regarding dog fouling it was agreed that some signs indicating that dogs should be kept on a lead should be purchased from Filcris and installed at the three entrances to the recreation ground.

- 5.5 Recreation grounds – report and proposal to waiver pitch hire charges  
The report on the meeting with the sports clubs on 30 October was considered. On a proposition by Cllr Holme, seconded by Cllr Holroyd, it was agreed to defer any charging for pitch hire.
- 4.11 Parish Plan and  
5.4 Village Plan – Grant award and community meeting  
Cllr Davis reported on advice received from Alan Hampton at ACRE and that the grant application had been successful and the sum of £500 had been received. On a proposition by Cllr Mrs Davis, seconded by Cllr Holroyd, it was agreed to hold a public meeting to seek community involvement, and set up a steering committee onto which other members could be co-opted.
- 5. Members item for discussion and decision**
- 5.1 Tree Maintenance – managing waste  
It was agreed if Mr Paget-Wilkes, Tree Warden wished to retire as thought then volunteers should be sought for this role. Tree maintenance will be an agenda item for the next meeting.  
  
Copies of the tree inspection sheets are to be sent to Cllrs Townsend-Stojic and Hoad.
- 5.2 Optimising communications between meetings  
This was discussed at the last meeting and it was reiterated that no further action was required.
- 5.3.3 Website backup plan in case of absence  
Cllr Hoad's report and 'Guidelines for authenticated users of the website' was considered. On a proposal by Cllr Mrs Hoad, seconded by Cllr Dr Townsend-Stojic the policy was adopted. It was noted that the cost of Objenix work uploading the site was £360 not £300 as indicated in the last minutes and the additional amount approved. Congratulations were extended to Cllr Hoad for her hard work on this project.  
  
It was agreed that Cllr Holroyd is to write the Parish Council's article for Gamut following each meeting.
- 5.3 Burial Ground – Proposal that cemetery fees are increased  
Further to the last meeting, it was proposed by Cllr Freeman, seconded by Cllr Dr Townsend-Stojic, and unanimously agreed, that the charges be increased and be published each year on a five step basis with a reduced fee for interments of children under 16 years and no fee for babies. [Cllr Freeman to let the Clerk have the rates for the minutes]  
  
As the Parish Council had not as yet implemented its previous decision to return all the graves to lawn graves it was agreed to republish the notice in Gamut, along with notices being placed on the notice board and also at the cemetery advising that all graves should be returned to lawn graves and all unauthorised pots etc removed before February. This was proposed by Cllr Freeman and seconded by Cllr Holroyd, and agreed unanimously.
- 6. To consider correspondence/communications received**
- 6.1 SCDC Public Consultation – Responding to Housing Shortfall  
This was noted and it was agreed not to respond to the consultation.
- 6.2 CPALC AGM – 6 December 2008  
Noted. No-one was available to attend.

- 6.3 Communities and Local Government – Byelaws Consultation Summary  
On a proposal by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Freeman, it was agreed to support the principle and objectives of the consultation summary by a vote with eight in favour and one against.
- 6.4 Neighbourhood Policing - Speedwatch  
An interest was expressed in having this scheme operate and it was agreed to place an article in the newsletter and to monitor and give feedback on any data collected.
- 6.5 Communities and Local Government – Codes of Conduct Consultation  
On a proposal by Cllr Holme, seconded by Cllr Holroyd, it was agreed to support the objectives of the consultation.
- 6.6 SCDC – Cobbs Lane – Planned Works  
Noted.
- 6.7 Parochial Church Council - request to the use The Craft for parking on Sunday 14 June 2008.  
Cllr Hoad declared an interest in this item.  
On a proposition by Cllr Mitchell, seconded by Cllr Davis this was approved subject to permission being granted by Natural England.
7. **To consider planning and tree works applications and decision notices received since the last meeting**  
Cllr Hoad declared a personal interest in the second item
- 7.1 Planning applications received
- 7.1.1 S/1683/08/F – 26 Ashwell Road – Dormer Windows in Rear Elevation  
It was agreed that this application would have no impact on the street scene or the entrance to the village. On a proposal by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Dr Townsend-Stojic, the application was approved by the Parish Council.
- 7.2 Decisions  
The following five items were all noted.
- 7.2.1 S/1716/08F – Village Shop, 2 Foxhill Road – Extension – Permission
- 7.2.2 S/1507/08LB – Thatchways, Little Green – Internal Alterations – Permission
- 7.2.3 S/1408/08/F – 36 High Street – Dwelling – Refusal
- 7.2.4 S/1350/08LB – Odsey House – Alterations – Permission
- 7.2.5 S/1192/07/F – 4 Town Farm Close – Retention of gate and fence – SCDC Update
- 7.3 The Mid-Bedfordshire core development plan  
On a proposition by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Oakes it was agreed to reply to the consultation as follows:  
In Guilden Morden Parish Council's view there is no direct impact upon this Parish as the proposed increase in housing and population will not generate significant movement to, from or through the community, nor will there be significant development of commercial activities which would encourage use of Guilden Morden as a dormitory facility for potential employees. Furthermore, there are no infrastructure implications.  
Guilden Morden Parish Council thanks you for the opportunity to comment on your proposal and informs you that it has no input at present. The Parish Council will be interested in any changes that may have an impact upon our community.
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.  
Buchans (grass cutting) £1184.95

LGS Services (Admin Support)	£534.44
Top Tech (Bicycle Stand)	£146.50
L G Stoehr (Salary)	£251.16
Buchans (grass cutting)	£825.47
LGS Services (Admin Support)	£524.21

Credits received since the last meeting including allotment rents, grant for play equipment and parish plan were noted.

### 8.2 Tree Monitoring Reports

Members' reports on the trees they routinely inspect were considered. Quotations are to be obtained for the removal of a dead ash tree near the public house and also for repairs to the southern boundary fencing.

Consideration was given to a letter from Cunningham Lindsey dated 11 November regarding the claim in respect of 11 Trap Road indicating that the present claim would not be pursued and in the event of any further movement caused by the trees then, providing the Parish Council carries out a 50% crown reduction on the two trees and thereafter limiting the growth of the trees to this size then no liability should be incurred by the Parish Council.

On a proposition by Cllr Oakes, seconded by Cllr Bartlett it was agreed that quotations should be obtained and that the Chairman together with the Clerk be delegated to approve the quotation which represents best value to the Council and put the work in hand. It was also agreed to delegate approval of the quotations for the removal of the tree by the public house and the fencing on the southern boundary to the Chairman and Clerk so that the work can be put in hand before the January meeting. Copies of the quotations are to be circulated to all members.

### 8.3 Freedom of Information Policy review

On a proposal by Cllr Holroyd, seconded by Cllr Townsend-Stojic it was agreed that the current model policy already meets the Council's requirements and is to be put into the required format. It was also agreed that the current charging at cost for any papers etc should continue but that the Council reserves the right to waiver any costs under £5 as this is not cost effective to administer. A copy of the policy is to be put on the website.

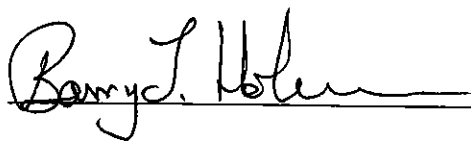
### 9. Councillors' items for the next agenda and closure of meeting

It was decided to change the order of agenda items with items for discussion and decision being brought forward to be dealt with before items for information only such as members' reports being placed at the end of the agenda.

The Mid Beds Travellers and Gypsy Plan consultation is to be an agenda item on the next agenda.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.18 pm.

Signed



dated

19 - 01 - 09