

GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in the Village Hall
on Monday 21 March 2011 at 7.30 pm.**

Present: Cllrs: A Hoad, B Holme (Chairman), D Mitchell, T Bartlett, J Roach-Davis, G Harper and D Thorpe.

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

Comments and observations from members of the public and from the County and District Councillors

Cllr Mrs Murfitt reported:

- Council Tax letters have been sent to all homes. SCDC finance papers are available for perusal by interested parties. There has been no increase in Council Tax.
- South Cambs Magazine delivery. Residents were invited to express their views.
- The Standards regime and letter from SCDC regarding Parish Councils and their role. This will be an agenda item for the May meeting.

Cllr Mrs Oliver's report was read by the Chairman in her absence. This covered:

- Bus service 127 is not currently under review
- Broadband negotiations with BT continue
- Donarbon recycling centre – a visit is being arranged
- CCC fundraising for Comic Relief

The Chairman had received an email from Cllr Mrs Oliver requesting postcodes.

Cllr Harper spoke as a member of the public regarding the Mobile Warden Scheme and declared a personal and prejudicial interest as Treasurer. A request was made for a donation of £400 from the Parish Council for running costs to match contributions from Steeple Morden and Litlington. A funding shortfall from SCDC and CCC is expected.

Concerns were expressed that repairs to the road from Church Street had not been completed. Work had commenced in Church Street and the workmen had returned the following day and sat for an hour without carrying out any work. No letters had been sent to residents warning of the work so cars were parked in the area of the works. This was felt unsatisfactory and a letter will be sent to CCC.

Dog mess on the pavement at Twitchell and Church was reported.

1. To receive apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Oakes (attending another meeting) and Holroyd (out of country), and from County Cllr Mrs Oliver.

Cllrs Harper made a personal and prejudicial declaration of interest as Treasurer of the Mordens and Litlington Mobile Warden Scheme. Cllr Mitchell declared a personal declaration of interest as a member of the Mobile Warden Scheme.

2. Approval of the minutes of the last meetings on 17 January and 21 February 2011

The minutes of the meeting of 17 January were approved^(Prop AH, 2nd DM) as a true record and signed by the Chairman, after the following amendments were made: under Item 1, to read "Denise Thorpe"; under Item 9.12, line 4, to read "McCulloch", and under Item 9.10, to read "Edward VII". The minutes of 21 February were approved^(Prop GH, 2nd JR) and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 Co-option to fill one casual vacancy

Denise Thorpe ^(Prop AH, 2nd DM) was co-opted as a member of the Parish Council. Cllr Hoad will pass Cllr Thorpe her declaration of acceptance and members interests form and new members pack. The declaration and Members' Interests forms are to be signed within 28 days.

3.2 Recreation Ground Trees

The £250 quotation from Matt Fathers to cut back overhanging trees was accepted ^(Prop TB, 2nd GH).

3.3 Dog fouling signage at cemetery and Craft

Given the extent of the problem it was agreed to purchase and install 12 dog fouling signs requesting that dog owners pick up after their dogs and remove the mess, for the Craft, Silver Street, Swan Lane and the Cemetery. Delivery is to be made to the Chairman and installation is to be arranged by the working group.

3.4 (Annual Parish Meeting) Dog bin by the Vicarage

It was agreed to ask Mr Harwood-Clark of South Cambridgeshire District Council Environmental Health department to contact the Chairman regarding moving the bin to another location.

3.5 Gamut funding request for financial support

Cllr Roach-Davis declared a personal interest as part of the Gamut editorial team. Cllr Harper reported that he had spoken to Mr Alton and the correspondence was considered. It was noted that the letter still did not contain all the requested information however, in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, it was agreed that the Council donate £xx to Mike Alton for Gamut which, in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants ^(Prop GH, 2nd AH).

3.6 First Responders Scheme

Cllr Harper reported that little interest had been shown by Steeple Morden and it was agreed that he would continue to canvas views and support via Gamut and with Steeple Morden Parish Council.

4. Financial, procedural and risk assessment matters

4.1 To receive the finance report and approve the payment of bills

The financial report was received and considered and checked by a member against the invoices and statements before the cheques were signed. It was agreed that the payments as listed in the financial report should be paid ^(Prop AH, 2nd TB) plus LG Stoehr (salary) £266.46, Objenix (web hosting) £210.00, Buchans (Grounds Maintenance) £814.63, Cambs Water £52.07, SCDC (cemetery rates) £59.64, Soiltechnics (new village hall soil testing) £5345.40, Carter Jonas (Craft rent) £350.00, B Simpkins (mower) £82.01. It was agreed that before any work was done on the mower in future that Mr Simkins should request an order number from the Clerk and not just carry out the work at the request of the Church.

S Scott (Fallen tree clearance at the Vineyard)	£58.75
Comberton PC (SLCC and ILCM shared membership)	£34.75
CCC (Streetlights)	£1301.12
LGS Services (admin support)	£533.54
Heron Self Help Scheme (donation)	£25.00
LGS Services (admin support)	£499.78
Art Building Maintenance (car park POS)	£320.00

Credits received were noted.

4.2 Annual Audit and recording of Assets

The Annual Audit date of 6 June was noted, Before then the accounts would have to be internally audited. It was noted that the new Accounts and Audit Regulations are being reviewed and if approved the year end accounts will be prepared accordingly. Cllrs Harper and Holme are to undertake the review of the assets and photograph them.

4.3 Annual Report – to agree content

The current procedure of members submitting and the lack of formal approval prior to publication was considered. It was noted that the appointment of members to specific roles and responsibilities authorised the publication on the Council's behalf. No decisions were made by members, simply reporting on actions and decisions by the Council during the last twelve months. It was agreed to consider the approval of the content of the annual report as an agenda item at the March meeting next year. It was agreed to continue as at present this year and submit all reports to the Clerk next year. An article is to be placed in Gamut regarding the Annual Parish Meeting.

4.4 Clerk appraisal and LGS Services Admin Support annual reviews

On a proposition by the Chairman, it was agreed to defer this item until the end of the meeting.

5. Members' items for discussion and decision

5.1 Tree reports

It was noted that the farmer had damaged a silver birch tree in Ashwell Road and it was agreed Matt Fathers be asked to remove the tree. A letter is to be sent to the farmer asking him to replace the tree. (Prop BH, 2nd AH)

A tree in Pound Green which is leaning against telephone wires has been reported to BT.

6. To consider correspondence/communications received

6.1 Central Bedfordshire Minerals and Waste Consultation

This was not felt to be relevant to the village.

6.2 CCC Library Services Review

Noted. This was not felt to affect the village.

6.3 CCC Highway Wardens Scheme

Carried forward.

6.4 CCC proposed bus service changes

Cllr Bartlett is to contact Cllr Mrs Oliver regarding community transport.

6.5 SCDC Recycling banks

The proposals to remove existing banks and replace them with a range of smaller recycling banks was considered. The Parish Council was not happy with the proposed removal of the glass recycling facility in the pub car park, and as the landlord was probably using this facility and had made the land on which the banks stood available for a number of years free of charge, it was felt to be a good asset for the village and the Parish Council wanted it to continue. It was noted that new banks would cater for shoes and textiles together. As the textiles bank outside the Village Hall was never received and this is to be reported to South Cambridgeshire District Council. A letter is to be sent to Ms Laws at SCDC.

Cllr Murfitt reported that long life light bulbs should be taken to the tip for special recycling.

6.6 SCDC Parish Liaison meeting 29 March

Cllr Holme is to attend.

6.7 Mobile Warden scheme request for financial support

Cllr Harper, having declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item, left the meeting. The request from the Mobile Warden Scheme for a donation of £400 was considered. In accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, it was agreed ^(Prop DM, 2nd TB) that the Council donates £400 to the Mobile Warden Scheme, which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area and its inhabitants.

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

7.1 Planning Applications received

None.

7.2 SCDC Decisions and notifications

None.

7.3 Tree works applications

7.3.1 The Manse, High Street

Cllr Holme declared a personal interest in this item due to a family connection. The Parish Council had no objection to the proposed works provided that the owner of The Manse had no objection. *with the applicant*

7.3.2 53 High Street

The Parish Council had no objections.

8. To consider reports for information only

8.1 Police and Neighbourhood Watch

The Chairman reported that hare coursers had been caught by the Police.

8.2 Transport

Nothing to report.

8.3 Allotments and the Craft

There is one new tenant. Cllr Hoad will place an article in Gamut.

8.4 Ruddery Pit and Vineyard *Ruddery Pit + vineyard*

A visit to the pump, pond area, etc by members will be made prior to the May meeting.

8.5 Village Hall Management Committee

It was agreed to invite Alan Boyd to give a report to the Annual Parish Meeting.

8.6 Highways and Footpaths

The Footpath reports were taken in Cllr Holroyd's absence. Work was noted to Footpaths 44, 24 and 20.

8.7 Burial Grounds

The mound had been removed but the payment was put hold following a complaint from an adjacent farmer that the spoil had not been taken off site but instead spread nearby.

8.8 Recreation Grounds

The bollards work had now been completed. It was agreed to write formally to the Cricket Club and three Football Clubs requesting bookings be made for fixtures prior to use.

8.9 Parish Plan - Nothing to report – carried forward.

8.10 Website – The Parish Council continued to be pleased with the website and thanked Cllr Hoad for her efforts. History searches have been made via the website.

- 8.11 School – Cllr Hoad reported that a letter has been sent by the School to local residents regarding parking issues.
- 8.12 Speeding Working Group
Mr McCulloch reported that a speed camera is required but may take 3 years to be installed.

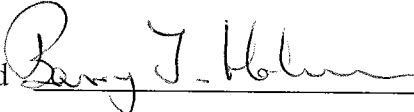
9. **Councillors' items for the next agenda and closure of meeting**

It was observed that if the village wished to celebrate the Royal Wedding residents would need to organise an event.

A quote for £150.70 had been received from Peter Furmston for book shelving etc in the kiosk. It was noted that both kiosks needed decorating.

At approximately 9.40 pm, 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 terms & conditions of employment, the public were temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw. The Clerk and the public left the meeting and did not return.

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

Signed  dated 16 - 5 - 11