

**GULDEN MORDEN PARISH COUNCIL****Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 15 March 2021 at 7.30 pm  
Held remotely via Zoom due to the current pandemic**

Present: Cllrs: B Holme (Chairman), N Baxter, N Buckland, G Harper, J Davis-Roach, K Lock, M Chapman, G Dellar, and R Newman.

In attendance: 4 members of the public including representatives of Climate Conversations, District Cllr Heather Williams, County Cllr Sebastian Kindersley and Mrs Gail Stoehr (Clerk).

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

Phil Porter of Climate Conversations spoke about the delay in the proposed tree planting due to the Community Orchard project. Steeple Morden Parish Council had promised the group £3000 Trees would be planted in public spaces and in private gardens. Options included Thompsons Meadow and around the edge of the recreation ground. Rachel and Andy Tanser supported tree planting in the village.

Andy Tanser asked whether the Parish Council had considered declaring a Climate Emergency. This will be an agenda item for the May meeting.

County Cllr Kindersley reported on the Hertfordshire County Council initiative for tagging bus shelters. CCC was unable to fund this and responsibility for Transport would be transferred to the Mayor on 1 April. A report from officers was awaited.

Cllr Kindersley spoke to his previously circulated report, including:

- The CCC budget and a reduction of £7.5M in the Highways budget.
- Some money had been allocated to footways.
- Postal voting for the Combined Authority Mayor, CCC and the Police and Crime Commissioner elections.
- The 2021 Census.
- East West Rail and electrification. Many groups were lobbying for consultation on the northern route.
- The South West Cambridgeshire Action Group was opposed to the Thakeham housing proposal and the impact on the environment.

County Cllr Kindersley left the meeting.

Cllr Davis-Roach arrived during this item at 7.36 pm.

District Cllr Williams reported on:

- The Thakeham proposal for £25,000 houses. The developers had been told despite their applications that the Local Development Plan is the only route.
- Bourn Airfield had been given planning permission and were allowed to build an initial 500 houses without infrastructure.
- The SCDC budget.
- Measures to deal with homelessness
- The £4.40M debt
- Support for businesses and individuals in need. Residents were encouraged to contact Cllr Williams.
- The SCDC Gypsy and Traveller Inclusion Workshop. Various dates were available and could be booked via Cllr Williams.

**1. To receive apologies for absence, declarations of interest and applications for co-option**

- 1.1 To receive written apologies and reasons for absence  
None.
- 1.2 To receive declarations of interests from councillors on items on the agenda  
None.
- 1.3 To receive written requests for dispensation for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) and to grant any requests as appropriate  
None.
- 2. To approve the minutes of the January and February meetings**  
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 18 January be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop MC, 2nd JD-R, unanimous)  
RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 15 February be approved and signed by the Chairman. (Prop KL, 2nd GH, unanimous)
- 3. Matters arising from last or previous meetings carried forward for discussion/decision**
- 3.1 (2 of 15.2.21) Sewage problems in the village – to consider responses to invitations to attend a meeting sent to Anglian Water, the Environment Agency, Cambridgeshire County Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Anthony Browne MP  
RESOLVED that as the Environment Agency and Anglian Water were willing to attend another meeting, that a Working Group consisting of Cllrs Holme (Convenor), Chapman, Dellar and Newman if he wishes, should meet with Anglian Water, and the Environment Agency, remotely if necessary and report back to the Parish Council's May meeting..  
RESOLVED to note the potential problems with meeting arrangements for May that the Parish Council's April meeting will take place at 7.00 pm on 19 April, with the Annual Parish Meeting to follow at 7.30 pm.
- 3.2 (3.4) Village Hall survey – to consider report on previously undertaken survey  
Deferred to the next meeting to enable Cllr Chapman to contact Janet Townsend-Stojic to ascertain the location of the previous survey reports.  
The Clerk advised that two members should declare an interest in this item.
- 3.3 (3.5) To consider whether the Parish Council should enter into a Neighbourhood Plan with Steeple Morden  
RESOLVED that this item be deferred as the Council was waiting to hear from Cllr Sean Traverse-Healy of Steeple Morden Parish Council.
- 3.4 (4.4) Review of Allotment rents from Michaelmas 2022  
RESOLVED, noting that there was no water supply at Guilden Morden allotments, to make a comparison of rents against other allotments in the area, and that Cllr Newman should bring a report and recommendation to the next meeting.
- 3.5 (4.4) Parish Paths Partnership review  
RESOLVED to defer this item and that Cllr Newman should bring a report and recommendation to the next meeting.
- 3.6 (4.7) Cemetery fees review  
RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting to enable Cllrs Dellar and Harper to make a recommendation to the next meeting..
- 3.7 (5.1) Cutting of Community Orchard – to consider quotations received  
RESOLVED to accept Buchans quote for £45 per but that there should be no spray in 2021 and just to cut the orchard when Buchans usually cut the Craft grass for the first

and third cuts, that is the first in April/May and the third in September. <sup>(Prop BH, 2nd MC, unanimous)</sup>

RESOLVED to review the spraying in 2022.

- 3.8 (5.2) Proposal that the Parish Council reviews the defibrillator provision in the village and considers whether to install a second defibrillator and considers the grant funding available; to include consideration of report from Community First Responders if received

The report from Wayne Cox on behalf of the Community First Responders was read by the Clerk. CFR will be re-training once the Village Hall is open again.

RESOLVED to defer this item until more information is received from Cllr Harper and the Community First Responders, and until funding is available again.

- 3.9 (5.4) Proposal that the Parish Council considers funding opportunity for cycling facilities

RESOLVED that members should give some thought to the Places to Ride grant scheme and cycling opportunities when and if it reopens as the current funding window had now closed.

- 3.10 (6.1) To consider whether the Parish Council should be re-wilding verges and hedgerows for biodiversity and climate change instead of in the churchyard

RESOLVED to respond that the Parish Council is in principle in favour of re-wilding the churchyard, but wishes to see their management plan and would prefer that the area is topped and seeded in Autumn. <sup>(Prop BH, 2nd GH, unanimous)</sup>

RESOLVED that the hedges in The Craft are not to be cut until Autumn 2022, then every two years subject to the Townlands confirming that there is no problem with Countryside Stewardship.

- 3.11 (6.2) Churchyard grass cutting arrangements

RESOLVED to note that Pat Heavey had kindly agreed to take over the rota.

- 3.12 (3.1) To consider Herts CC putting tags on bus stops and whether the Parish Council is willing to fund repairs or replacements in future

RESOLVED, noting that there had been rumours in the village about the continuation of the service and the route, and having heard from Cllr Kindersley earlier, to write to the Combined Authority Mayor and ask what is happening with the bus service and ask him to provide a timetable and also to express concerns at the new route and that the buses will not stop at all the bus stops. <sup>(Prop BH, 2nd GD, unanimous)</sup>

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

- 4.1 To receive the financial report and approve the payment of bills

RESOLVED that the financial report be received and considered, and that the payments as listed in the financial report (below) should be paid, plus Newlings of Royston (refund of overpayment for memorial permit) £129.00, subject to Cllr Harper receiving the invoices. <sup>(Prop BH, 2nd GH, unanimous)</sup>

Salaries	£358.40
LGS Services (Admin support January)	£824.34
LGS Services (Admin support February)	£891.66
Buchans (Village maintenance)	£1970.60
CAPALC (Affiliation fee)	£370.87
Carter Jonas (Craft rent)	£350.00
Robs Mobile Garden Machine (Mower service)	£39.00
G George (Village Hall external light)	£195.00

Credits, including investment interest, allotment rents and cemetery fees, were noted.

- 4.2 Risk assessments including play inspections  
RESOLVED to note that no works were required.
- 4.3 To note actions taken under Clerk's delegated powers  
RESOLVED to note that the Clerk, Chairman and Cllr Dellar used delegated powers to grant permission to Hitchin Nomads Cycling Club for parking on the recreation ground on Saturday 22 May from 8 am to 6 pm, subject to receipt of a risk assessment and insurance cover confirmation, with the usual conditions to apply.  
RESOLVED to note delegated decisions relating to the Cemetery and Allotments as shown in the finance report.  
On a proposition by the Chairman, the order of business was varied to take item 6.3 next.
- 6.3 North Road Cycling Club Time Trials – request to use recreation ground for parking on Saturday 8 May  
RESOLVED to grant permission to the North Road Cycling Club to use the recreation ground for parking on 8 May, subject to the standard conditions, and the details of the insurance cover and risk assessment already received.
- 5. Members, Working Groups items for discussion and decision**
- 5.1 Proposal that the Parish Council considers the new large town the other side of the Royston Huntingdon Road  
RESOLVED having noted Thakeham's proposals for 25,000 houses to await the consultation as consideration was premature.  
The Clerk advised on pre-determination and the process for changing decisions.
- 5.2 Proposal that the Parish Council considers tree planting  
RESOLVED to set up a Working Group with the membership of Cllrs Baxter (Convenor), Chapman and Holme, to liaise with others in the village and bring a recommendation to the May Council meeting.
- 5.3 Admin support contract review  
On a proposition by the Chairman, RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the end of the meeting.
- 6. To consider correspondence/communications received**
- 6.1 Resident request for electric vehicle charging point in Cannons Close  
RESOLVED that District Cllr Williams should take the request forward to SCDC as the Parish Council believes the car park is their responsibility.
- 6.2 Duck Lane Farm – request to remove ash tree on The Craft  
At 9.03 pm, the meeting was briefly suspended to enable the resident to speak to his request.  
RESOLVED that the Parish Council has no objections in principle to the removal of the Tree at the Craft, subject to Ely Diocese, via their agent, having no objections, and subject to the resident providing a replacement tree and making an application to SCDC.
- 6.3 North Road Cycling Club Time Trials – request to use recreation ground for parking on Saturday 8 May  
Taken earlier.
- 6.4 SCDC Consultation on new housing policies relating to Build to rent, Clustering and Distribution of Affordable Housing and Affordable Rent Setting  
RESOLVED that the Local Development Plan had to address the number of parking spaces and the sewers being unable to cope with additional housing. Cllr Williams will take this up when relevant.

- 6.0.1 (1 of 15.2.21) CCC Casualty Reduction Scheme, A505 – to consider response from Herts County Council  
Noted.

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

7.1 Planning applications received

- 7.1.1 20/01278/NMA2 – 42 Dubbs Knoll Road – Non-material amendment of planning permission 20/01278/HFUL (single storey rear and two storey rear extension to house and associated work) Substitution of first floor window in the rear elevation in favour of a new conservation roof light in the lean-to roof  
RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop KL, 2nd GH, unanimous)

- 7.1.2 S/0400/18/CONDA – 23 Pound Green – Submission of details required by conditions 3 (Surface water), 4 (Foul water), and 5 (Phase 1 Environmental Desk Study) of planning permission S/0400/18/FL  
Noted.

- 7.1.3 21/00218/HFUL – Barn adj 53 High Street – Internal alteration to barn to convert to ancillary domestic use  
RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop KL, 2nd NBu, unanimous)

- 7.1.4 21/00219/LB – 53 High Street – As above, listed building application  
RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop KL, 2nd NBu, unanimous)

- 7.1.5 21/00645/HFUL – 34 Fox Hill Road – Two storey side and single storey rear extension  
RESOLVED to support the application. (Prop KL, 2nd NBu, unanimous)

7.2 SCDC Decisions and appeal notifications

- 7.2.1 20/04693/HFUL – 6 Silver Street – Two storey rear and single storey side extension with alterations and refurbishment to existing dwelling – Permission granted.
- 7.2.2 20/03869/FUL – Cold Harbour Farm, The Hay Barn, Ashwell Road – Replace existing haybarn with two dwellings – Permission granted.

7.3 Tree works applications

- 7.3.1 21/0200/TTCA – 89 High Street  
Noted that this had already been approved by SCDC.

**8. Gamut items – to decide what is to be included in the next edition**

RESOLVED that Cllr Davis-Roach should include items on the Dog Warden, meeting dates and the Zoom link to the Annual Parish Meeting.

5.3 Admin support contract review

At 9.22 pm, on a proposition by the Chairman, 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, employment matters, the public were temporarily excluded from the meeting and were instructed to withdraw.

The members of the public and the Clerk left the meeting at 9.22 pm and did not return.

RESOLVED to renew the contract with LGS Services at the rates offered for a term of three years

The meeting re-opened to the public.

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

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

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