

24 JUNE 2010

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MILDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL held in the DAVID ROGERS` MEETING ROOM, JUBILEE CENTRE, RECREATION WAY, MILDENHALL on Thursday, 24 June 2010 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr B J Sulman (Chairman) Cllr G A Hayes
Cllr A J Wheble (Vice Chairman, arrived 7.30pm)
Cllr M J Ball Cllr J W McGhee (arrived 7.30pm)
Cllr J Barker Cllr N A Roman
Cllr J M Bloodworth
Cllr D W Bowman Cllr M K Smith
Cllr Mrs T A Gooch-Taylor-Balls Cllr G H Taylor-Balls

Also present were: County Councillor C Noble, Insp N Ireland, Sgt P Payne, PC H Self, Mr Donovan, one member of the press, Mrs C Steggles (Chief Executive Officer), Mrs V Shrimpton (Deputy Chief Executive Officer) and Mrs R Buckingham (Minute Clerk).

It was reported that former Parish Councillor Jim Leonard from West Row died recently. Cllr Taylor-Balls represented MPC at the funeral.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr A F J Peachey and Sqn Ldr R Fryer. Cllrs McGhee and Wheble sent apologies that they would be late arriving due to another meeting.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest which they had in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item was reached and to leave the meeting prior to discussion and voting on the item.

It was resolved to move item 11 forward for discussion at 4a.

4. RECEIPT AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

a. Police information

Sgt Payne apologised that the police had been unable to attend some recent meetings. He gave an offence report for the last month and said that crime figures have been relatively low. Parking problems in Mildenhall are being tackled robustly, with almost 100 parking tickets being issued in the last month. It is hoped that parking will improve when the Sainsbury's development is finished.

Matters raised by members included parking near the Turkish takeaway; cyclists riding on pavements and through the precinct; speeding on Queensway and congratulations for the SNT's successes in tackling anti-social behaviour in Mildenhall. A request was made that the "SID" Speed Indicator device be used more often in Mildenhall.

The CEO showed a poster drawn up by MPC in conjunction with the police Safer Neighbourhood Teams stating that ball games are not allowed in the children's playground. It will be displayed for a trial period.

11 PUBLIC ENQUIRY DESKS AT POLICE STATIONS

Insp Ireland reported that due to budgetary constraints, the public enquiry desk at Mildenhall police station can be open for any eight hours between 7am and 6.30 pm Monday to Friday as well as 9am to 5pm Saturdays and Sundays. He asked for member's opinions and it was agreed that 9am until 5pm would be preferred.

4 b Base information

The CEO read out a short report from Sqn Ldr Fryer stating that the visiting jets have all returned to RAF Lakenheath and only two complaints concerning aircraft noise were received.

It was resolved to write to Sqn Ldr Fryer thanking RAF Mildenhall for the successful noise reduction measures employed.

c. County Council information

Cllr C Noble informed members that county councils will be required to make savings of 25% over the next 4-6 years. He said that even though Suffolk is the second most cost efficient council in England, this will inevitably lead to cuts in services. There will be a consultation regarding which services SCC should focus on providing. County Cllr Noble reminded members that the new government had made a commitment to zero Council tax rises.

Matters raised by members included questioning why SCC has employed staff on salaries over £100 000. Cllr Noble replied that SCC has employed experts in their field who are tasked with improving SCC's efficiency and saving money in the long run

Standing orders were reinstated.

5. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 27 May 2010 were confirmed. Cllr J Barker's name was removed from the Clubs & Organisations Day group.

6. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 27 May 2010 were confirmed

7. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2010 were confirmed.

It was resolved to confirm a reduced rent of £17.16 for plot 23 Lark Road allotments (2/3 rent as the plot is 2/3 size).

It was resolved to confirm a reduced rent of £14.66 for plots 18 & 36 Riverside allotments as a pro rata rate for 11 months rental.

It was resolved that MPC should put up notices asking allotment holders to be aware of security and advising them to lock the gates whilst on the allotments.

It was resolved that MPC Grounds men will strim around the headstones at St Peter's Church three times per year during the growing season.

In the matter of town centre tubs and planters, it was resolved that MPC should fund the cost of plants and compost in the sum of approx. £500 per year and that the DCEO will arrange the ordering of the above and that MPC will liaise with the local shops to ensure that watering is maintained and that Mildenhall Allotment Association will provide help with the twice-yearly planting.

In the matter of a complaint received about an allotment holder, it was resolved to write to the plot holder concerned, stating that a complaint has been received and that if any further such complaints are received, the matter will be thoroughly investigated and the future of their lease considered.

8. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 1 June 2010 were confirmed.

9. MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Establishment & Policy Committee held on 10 June 2010 were confirmed.

It was resolved to place MPC funds into shorter term investment bonds with high street banks for the time being.

It was resolved that MPC covers the cost of an additional fourth edition of the Mildenhall Messenger plus delivery costs for all four editions at a total cost per year of £2, 721.

It was resolved to contribute £3, 500 in the current financial year to FHDC towards the cost of provision of Tourist Information Services in the bus station in Mildenhall town centre and to review the amount when budgets are next set. Cllr N Roman thanked MPC on behalf of FHDC for this successful financial partnership.

It was resolved to grant the request from Mildenhall Angling Club to hold monthly fishing matches from October to March with the proviso that this is not an exclusive right to fish and Mildenhall parishioners can still fish on match days.

10. CHAIRMAN'S ITINERARY & REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

The Chairman commented that he was disappointed that MPC were not invited to two recent community events when MPC has been involved in helping the organisations concerned.

12. POWER OF WELL-BEING

It was resolved that Mildenhall Parish Council, having met the conditions set down by statute under Local Government Public Involvement Health Act 2007 resolves to adopt the Power of Well Being with effect from 1 July 2010.

13. BRAINSTORMING

It was resolved to hold a Brainstorming meeting on 19 August at 7pm.

14. SALC TRAINING COURSES

Members were encouraged to participate in training courses on offer from SALC.

15. BAND CONCERT

Cllr M Ball gave an update on arrangements for the band concert on 24 July.

16. FUN RUN

Cllr J Barker gave an update on arrangements for the fun run on 25 July.

17. LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW

Members considered the question posed by the editor of the Local Council Review "Should parish and town councils have sole control of housing development in their area?" **It was resolved that MPC's opinion is that the answer is no but that they would welcome a more integrated approach when working with FHDC on the matter.** Members and the CEO felt that the question was posed in very simplistic terms and that the time given for responses was unrealistic.

18. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

The letter from SCC regarding anti-social behaviour was noted.

19. SUFFOLK ACRE

It was noted that Suffolk Acre's AGM will be held on 14 July. Cllr Barker will attend as MPC's representative.

20. CPRE

It was resolved to renew MPC's membership of the CPRE in the sum of £29.

21. NALC LOCAL COUNCIL REVIEW

It was resolved to renew MPC's subscription to the NALC Local Council Review in the sum of £192.

22. GRANT APPLICATION

It was resolved to grant £500 to Suffolk Accident Rescue Service.

23. LEASE

It was resolved to approve the draft lease between MPC and Mildenhall Scout Group regarding the remaining land from the existing lease boundary to the river bank.

Cllr Taylor-Balls declared an interest.

24. JUBILEE CENTRE KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

In the light of new information, it was resolved to purchase and install a new range cooker and retain the existing gas hot cupboard at a total cost of £1, 370. This represents a saving of £1, 099 on the amount originally authorised.

25. SUPERMARKET DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE

The report regarding expenditure relating to the Sainsbury's development was received.

26. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Accounts for June 2010 totalling £162, 877.37 including telepay salaries were authorised. The payments to Mildenhall & District Twinning Association in the sum of £125 and to Mildenhall & District Swimming Club in the sum of £400 were authorised under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. Cllrs M J Ball and G H Taylor-Balls signed the relevant cheques.

27. ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTS

Additional accounts for June 2010 totalling £12, 118.72 were authorised. Cllrs B J Sulman and D W Bowman signed the relevant cheques.

28. CORRESPONDENCE

The CEO informed members of the following items of correspondence:

- SNT press release re Neighbourhood and Home Watch Week.
- Suffolk Link Newsletter issue 9.

- DIS number 736.

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- SALC LAIS Up2date numbers 602 and 604.
- FHDC re Brandon Braderie and Festival of Culture.
- Keystone Development Trust Grant Opportunities,
- SCC guidelines for speed management in Suffolk
- NALC events programme.
- SNT newsletter.
- SCC Pension Fund Annual Meeting.
- Mildenhall College of Technology re sponsorship of Awards Evening prizes.
- SCC re Focus Group on Passenger Transport.
- SCC notice of proposed raised zebra crossing on Recreation Way.
- SALC Vetting and Barring update.
- SALC re new councillor training course.
- SALC LAIS update re planning.

21. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 8.54pm.