

25 NOVEMBER 2010

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MILDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL held in the DAVID ROGERS` MEETING ROOM, JUBILEE CENTRE, RECREATION WAY, MILDENHALL on Thursday, 25 November 2010 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr B J Sulman (Chairman) Cllr Mrs T A Gooch-Taylor-Balls
Cllr A J Wheble (Vice Chairman) Cllr G A Hayes
Cllr M J Ball Cllr A F J Peachey
Cllr J Barker Cllr M K Smith
Cllr D W Bowman Cllr G H Taylor-Balls

Also present were: PC H Self, PCSO D Miller, Mrs J Neville, Mr A Keogh, Mr and Mrs Capel, Mr M Peachey, Ms D Grey, County Councillor C Noble, one member of the press, Mrs C Steggles (Chief Executive Officer), Mrs V Shrimpton (Deputy Chief Executive Officer) and Mrs R Buckingham (Minute Clerk).

The Chairman spoke of the death of former councillor Jim Smith. Cllr G Taylor-Balls will represent MPC at the funeral.

It was resolved to discuss item 10 at item 4a

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sqn Ldr R Fryer, Cllrs J W McGhee, H T Hitt, J M Bloodworth and N A Roman and County Councillor S Frost.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Aiden Keogh spoke of vandalism problems on the footpath at the rear of Turnstone Close, Mildenhall since the new Social Club was built. There had been 4 incidents in September and 5 in October including litter, a broken window and damage to a fence. He asked that a substantial fence be built to protect property.

Mr Michael Peachey spoke about the plans of West Row Village Hall & Playing Fields Association to build a conservatory extension to the village hall. Costs will be in the region of £58,000 and various grants have been applied for. He asked members to support the WRVHPFA grant application at item 15.

Ms Denise Grey, Manager of Mildenhall Library spoke about the services provided by the library and asked who is supporting the retention of the library in Mildenhall and how in light of cuts required by the SCC New Strategic Direction.

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.

4. RECEIPT AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

a. Police information

PC Helen Self reported on recent crime figures and stated that suspects have been charged in connection with recent assaults which had taken place outside pubs in the town centre as well as thefts from shops. The police are keeping an eye on the footpath problems behind Turnstone Close and have issued 50 parking tickets in the past month. PC Self said that the SNT's new priorities are tackling graffiti and anti-social behaviour outside Sainsbury's.

Matters raised by members included the boundaries to the SNT areas with regard to West Row not being in the Mildenhall area (PC Self said the matter is being considered and that it would be helpful if there could be some feedback from West Row residents); improvements in the anti-social behaviour problems at Wake Close; whether anti-social behaviour problems outside pubs will be reported to the FHDC licensing department; the lack of lighting on the footpath behind Turnstone Close and keeping the Dial a Ride parking area clear.

10. CHANGES TO OPENING HOURS OF MILDENHALL POLICE STATION

The new opening hours of 9-5 seven days per week were noted. Members were pleased with the new hours.

b. Base information

There was no Base information.

c. County Council information

County Councillor C Noble spoke about the 28% savings that SCC has to make over the next four years, including 10% (£40 million) in the first year. Budget scrutiny papers will be discussed on 15 December. With regard to libraries, Cllr Noble said that savings will have to be made in library services as in all other services, possible by merging SCC library support with other counties and by reducing opening hours for some branches.

Matters raised by members included the future of Wamil Court, a request for information on what services are likely to be cut and by how much and the yellow hashing outside the fire station. C Cllr Noble replied that he is unable to provide such information until all the SCC figures and budgets have been discussed further. He said that SCC does not intend to provide its own care homes in future but will support older people in private care homes.

5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 28 October 2010 were confirmed.

6. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 4 November 2010 were confirmed.

It was resolved to confirm pro rata rentals for allotment plots as follows:

Riverside Plot 28 £8 for 6 months; Riverside Plot 1a £6.66 for 5 months and Lark Road Plot 15 £24.75 for 11 months.

It was resolved that MPC vehicles needing to access the Jubilee Field should go through the Jubilee Centre car park entrance rather than drive down the track to the rear of the football club. Cllr Taylor-Balls voted against the proposal.

It was resolved to grant permission to the resident wishing to place a memorial bench on the river bank at the Barton Mills end.

It was resolved to grant permission to the request for a memorial bench in the Thetford Road Cemetery.

It was resolved that Cllrs Taylor-Balls, Sulman and Peachey attend the next meeting of the Parochial Church Council to discuss the matter of reduced grass cutting in certain areas at St Mary's Church.

It was resolved to accept the draft budget for the General Purposes Committee 2011/2012 as presented, with thanks to the office staff.

7. MINUTES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Establishment & Policy Committee Meeting held on 11 November 2010 were confirmed.

It was resolved to discuss the matter of anti-social behaviour at Turnstone Close at the December Council meeting and consider the request made by Mr Keogh.

It was resolved to receive and accept the budget report.

It was resolved that the following budgets for the financial year 2011/2012 be approved:

General Purposes Committee

An expenditure of £117,328.00 less income of £8, 550.00 equalling a net requirement of £108, 778.00

Recreational Management Committee

An expenditure of £136, 987.00 less income of £58, 501.00 equalling a net requirement of £78, 486.00

Establishment & Policy Committee

An expenditure of £82, 729.00 and net requirement of £82, 729.00

It was resolved that reserve monies are used to purchase a new Kubota or similar machine.

It was resolved that the precept requirement for the financial year 2011/2012 is therefore a sum of £269, 693.00. This represents an approximate D band property Council Tax charge of £95.60, an increase of 1.1% (based on the currently available figures of D band equivalent properties in the parish). If there is a similar increase in the number of properties as in 2010/11, this will reduce the D band figure to £93.61, a reduction of 1.01%.

It was resolved that the Financial Risk Management Assessment document be accepted with the following amendments:

At 1a ii, to amend the Material Damage to £1, 139, 600 to reflect the valuation by Barker Storey Matthews and to amend the All Risks to £223, 541 to reflect the acquisition of the children's playground equipment.

At 1a iv to amend the Fidelity Guarantee to £800, 000 to reflect MPC's increased balances.

To delete 3a viii as this power is no longer available for use as MPC adopted the Power of Wellbeing 24/6/10.

To delete 3b ii Section 137 powers shown.

At 3b vi to amend "Will be developed through aim to achieve Quality Parish Status" to "Will be maintained through Quality Parish Status"

It was resolved that the Financial Regulations document be accepted with the following amendment:

At 3.6 to amend "Unspent provision in the revenue budget shall pass into balances and be used to reduce the precept in subsequent years" to "be used to rebuild reserves".

It was resolved that the Standing Orders and Standing Orders with regard to Contracts documents be accepted with no changes.

It was resolved to accept the review of the effectiveness of the Internal Audit.

It was resolved to accept the Audit Plan.

It was resolved that in the event of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman being away at the same time the immediate past Chairman is in charge of Mildenhall Parish Council.

It was resolved that if a committee chairman is unable to attend a meeting of the Establishment & Policy committee then he/she should arrange for a replacement councillor to attend and vote on their behalf. It

was noted that Standing Orders would need to be revised to allow this.

It was resolved to defer discussion on the Local Council Review to the next meeting of the Establishment & Policy Committee.

It was resolved that a Council meeting be held in August in 2011 and 2012 and then be reviewed. Cllr Peachey voted against the proposal.

It was resolved to donate a maximum of £500 towards the removal of graffiti in Mildenhall town provided FHDC contribute a similar amount.

It was resolved to agree in principle to split the cost of refurbishment of the Parish Pump with FHDC subject to the receipt of satisfactory quotations.

It was resolved that temporary Christmas lighting be installed for 2010 at St Mary's Churchyard at a cost of £1390.

8. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 26 October and 16 November 2010 were confirmed.

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

SALC AGM at Henley – 8 November 2010

St Edmunds Day Civic Reception & Citizen of the Year Award – 20 November 2010

SCC New Strategic Direction meeting at Endeavour House – 23 November 2010

RAF Mildenhall & Lakenheath Celebrating Thanksgiving service at Ely Cathedral – 24 November 2010

Wreath Laying at Mildenhall War Memorial followed by service at St Mary's Church, Mildenhall – 14 November 2010.

Vice Chairman

Ceremony at Mildenhall War Memorial – 11 November 2010.

Wreath Laying at West Row War Memorial – 13 November 2010.

11. RETAIL WORKING GROUP MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Retail Working Group held on 28 October 2010 were received.

Cllr G Hayes asked about the status of the temporary car park on the Jubilee Field in the light of the decision that it is not possible to move Mildenhall Town Football Club. Cllr G Taylor-Balls replied that due to events outside the control of FDHC and MPC, the car park will remain on the Jubilee Field for the time being. He said

that this does not mean that MPC will not continue to be alert to the changing face of Mildenhall and any future opportunities which may arise to consider parking for the town.

12. SCC NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTION

The document and letter were received. It was agreed that the matter should be discussed at a future meeting.

13. SALC SUBSCRIPTION

It was resolved to renew MPC's SALC subscription in the sum of £919 in May 2011.

14. POLLING STATION REVIEW

It was resolved that members should fill in the Polling Station review individually and return to the CEO.

15. GRANT APPLICATION

It was resolved that the grant application from West Row Village Hall & Playing Fields Association will be considered as an item for the first tranche of Sainsbury's money, being discussed immediately after this meeting, and recommendation brought back to the December council meeting.

16. BUS TIMETABLE CHANGES

The SCC response to the MPC query regarding bus timetable changes was noted.

17. JUMPPIN JACKS FUNHOUSE

It was resolved that members will visit in January.

18. VISITING FORCES ACT

The letter from FHDC clarifying legal issues regarding precept and the Visiting Forces Act was noted.

19. ACCOUNTS

Accounts for November 2010 totalling £27, 902.16 including telepay salaries were authorised. Cllrs J Barker and G H Taylor-Balls signed the relevant cheques.

20. ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTS

Additional accounts for November 2010 totalling £1, 429.03 were authorised. Cllrs A J Wheble and G H Taylor-Balls signed the relevant cheques.

21. CORRESPONDENCE

The CEO informed members of the following items of correspondence:

- DIS 746/7
- Suffolk Link Bulletin 14.
- FHDC Health Improvement Strategy 2009-2012

- Email from Adam Baker regarding Olympic related event publicity in the EADT.
- LAIS x 4
- Letter from Unison and report re New Strategic Direction.
- DCLG Statistical Release.
- SALC re AGM motions.
- Policing Suffolk briefing sheet.

18. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.