

29 JANUARY 2009

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MILDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL held in the DAVID ROGERS` MEETING ROOM, JUBILEE CENTRE, RECREATION WAY, MILDENHALL on Thursday, 29 January 2009 at 7.00pm

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

Also present were: one member of the press, Mrs C Steggles (Chief Executive Officer), Mrs V Shrimpton (Deputy Chief Executive Officer) and Mrs R Buckingham (Minute Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Sqn Ldr R Fryer, Sgt P Ferrie, County Councillor C Noble, Cllrs J W McGhee and N A Roman.

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.

4. RECEIPT AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

a. Police information

There was no police information.

b. Base information

There was no Base information.

c. County Council information

County Councillor C Noble sent a report concerning his locality budget. Cllr G H Taylor-Balls asked that Cllr Noble be reminded of the broken signpost at Plantation Corner, West Row.

In the absence of the police, members raised concerns about continuing parking problems in Mildenhall, particularly in the Market Square, on Sainsbury's corner, outside Lloyd's Bank/entrance to Mabbs Hall and on Churchill Drive.

5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 11 December 2008 were confirmed. There were no matters arising. Cllr J McGhee's names was added to the list of those present

6. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 9 December 2008 and 6 January 2009 were confirmed. Cllr J W McGhee's name was added to the list of apologies for both meetings. Cllrs M K Smith and J M Bloodworth declared an interest in planning applications numbers 1 and 2 of the 6 January meeting.

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7. MINUTES OF THE RECREATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the Recreational Management Committee Meeting held on 15 January 2009 were confirmed with the exception of item 8, which was referred to the next meeting of the Establishment and Policy Committee.

It was resolved that the Jubilee Centre fire alarm should be monitored, i.e. directly connected to the fire brigade at an installation cost of £380 plus annual monitoring fee of £365.

It was resolved that the trees at St Mary's/Scout Hut land should be continue to be periodically trimmed back as planning permission for more extensive works would not be granted.

It was resolved to carry out tree work adjacent to the path at the side of Mildenhall Town FC football ground as detailed on the report at a cost of £820.

It was resolved to take no further action in the matter of "Access Suffolk – Linking Communities to Nature."

8. MINUTES OF THE RETAIL WORKING GROUP MEETING

The minutes of the Retail Working Group Meeting held on 11 December 2008 were received.

9. MINUTES OF THE QPS WORKING GROUP MEETING

The minutes of the QPS Working Group meeting held on 16 January 2009 were received. Cllr J Barker reported that Riverside and College Heath Middle Schools are keen to work with MPC during their studies on democracy. Cllr Barker distributed a questionnaire to members regarding training needs.

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

a. Itinerary

Welcome Service in Bury St Edmunds with St Nicholas Hospice – 26 November 2008

Yuletide Reception at RAF Mildenhall – 5 December 2008

Open House Holiday Event at the home of Major General Eggington at RAF Mildenhall – 3 January 2009

b. Reports

None

11. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Financial reports for the end of third quarter 2008/2009: Financial Summary – Cashbook and Financial Budget Comparisons were received with thanks to the staff. It was agreed that MPC's savings accounts would be discussed at the next meeting of the Establishment and Policy Committee.

12. COUNCIL TAX

It was noted that now that the D Band Equivalent numbers for 2009/2010 have been confirmed, MPC's D Band Council Tax charge will be £95.23, a reduction of £1.21 (1.25%) on the 2008/2009 charge.

13. CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

It was resolved to carry out a feasibility study into the possibilities and opportunities for providing festive street lighting in Mildenhall town centre. Mildenhall Community Partnership expressed their wish to work with MPC on this and said they already had 60 trees complete with lights available.

14. ZURICH LOCAL COUNCIL ADVISORY SERVICE

It was resolved to confirm the CEO's action in authorising the payment of the Zurich Local Council

Advisory Service membership renewal in the sum of £135.00.

15. SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

It was resolved to renew the CEO's membership of the Society of Local Council Clerks in the sum of £187.00.

16. GRANT APPLICATIONS

a. It was resolved to grant £1360 to West Row Playing Fields and Village Hall Association. It was agreed to clarify MPC's policy on retrospective grant applications at the next meeting of the Establishment and Policy Committee.

b. It was resolved to grant £100 to Optua.

Cllr G H Taylor-Balls declared an interest.

17. SALC TRAINING CALENDAR

Members noted the SALC 2009 training calendar. Cllr B J Sulman requested he attend the course on grants and funding.

18. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

It was resolved to write a letter to the Secretary of State in support of the letter written by the leaders of Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury and Waveney District Councils calling for three unitary councils.

Cllrs Wheble, Smith and Bowman declared an interest.

19. ZEBRA CROSSING IN QUEENSWAY/WEST ROW ROAD

An update report regarding the proposed zebra crossing on Queensway/West Row Road was received.

20. CRUCIAL CREW

It was note that Crucial Crew are looking for volunteers to help with the 2009 event on 9 – 13 March.

21. PRE-BRIEFING

It was resolved to change the time for pre-briefing for Council and Committee meetings to 4pm.

22. NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

It was resolved to refer the matter to the next meeting of the Establishment and Policy Committee.

Members were asked to look at the website www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk and consider how MPC might give support.

23. FHDC PARISH AND TOWN FORUM

It was noted that the FHDC Parish and Town Forum will be held in the Jubilee Centre on 5 February 2009.

24. SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL PENSION FUND

It was noted that the Suffolk County Council Pension Fund Annual Report and Accounts 2007/2008 have been received and are available from the parish office.

25. ACCOUNTS

Accounts for January 2009 totalling £19, 102.80 including telepay salaries were authorised. Cllrs Mrs T A Gooch-Taylor-Balls and B J Sulman signed the relevant cheques.

26. ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTS

Additional accounts for January 2009 in the sum of £2, 540.40 were authorised. Cllrs G H Taylor-Balls and J M Bloodworth signed the relevant cheques.

27. CORRESPONDENCE

The CEO informed members of the following items of correspondence:

- SALC: Local Association Information Service (LAIS) Publications:
 - o Commission for Rural Communities: Economic Downturn, Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill; Communities in Control: Real People, real power, Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees. (Copies of these publications available in parish office)
- West Suffolk College Community Support Project.
- NALC Chief Executive Report – Development of the Sector.
- NALC Legal Consultation Response – Communities in Control: real power: Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees.
- SCC Councillor Briefing – Maximising the Opportunities for Suffolk from London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.
- SCC Partnership with Older People publications.
- SCC Unitary Councils in Suffolk: independent report on the affordability of the financial cases.
- SCC Life of a Lorry Driver Event at Endeavour House 19 February 2009.
- FHDC Promotion Event for local businesses at Palace House, Newmarket 10 February 2009.
- Email from Beck Row Cllr Dave Chandler advising Beck row's fete will be held on 15 August 2009.
- SALC – Councillor's Next Step and Leadership Skills – course dates.
- NALC: response to Ministry of Justice Elections and Democracy Division.
- Standards Board: Satisfaction with Advice and Guidance Research Survey (one copy to be completed by CEO, one by Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chairman of E&P).
- FHDC re "closure" of Mildenhall Magistrates Court.

15. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Members condemned the fact that Mildenhall Magistrates Court has not been in session since 18 December 2008. There has been no consultation on its closure as the Magistrates Office at Bury St Edmunds says it has been mothballed rather than officially closed.

It was resolved to write to the leader of Suffolk County Council, Richard Spring MP and Her Majesties Court Service to express MPC's strong opposition to any closure of the Mildenhall Magistrates Court, official or otherwise.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.