

26 FEBRUARY 2009

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE MILDENHALL PARISH COUNCIL held in the DAVID ROGERS` MEETING ROOM, JUBILEE CENTRE, RECREATION WAY, MILDENHALL on Thursday, 26 February 2009 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllr Mrs T A Gooch-Taylor-Balls (Chairman) Cllr H T Hitt
Cllr B J Sulman (Vice Chairman, arrived 7.10) Cllr M K Smith
Cllr M J Ball Cllr N A Roman
Cllr J Barker Cllr G H Taylor-Balls
Cllr D W Bowman Cllr A J Wheble (arrived 8.10pm)
Cllr G A Hayes

Also present were: Sqn Ldr R Fryer, Insp D Wilding, Sgt P Ferrie, two members 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 Cllrs J M Bloodworth, J W McGhee and A F J Peachey and County Councillor C Noble.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

4. RECEIPT AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

a. Police information

Inspector Derek Wilding introduced himself to members and spoke of background and previous experience in the area. Sgt Ferrie spoke of the current SNT priorities:

- speeding on Lark Rd, Hornbeam Rd, College Heath Rd and West Row Road
- parking problems on St Andrew's St, High St and King St (20 parking tickets issued)
- targeting repeat shoplifting offenders in Mildenhall. Sgt Ferrie is keen to rejuvenate the Shopwatch scheme and may seek funding to help provide Shopwatch radios to the smaller shops that have shown support for the scheme.

b. Base information

Sqn Ldr Fryer informed members that RAF Mildenhall will be hosting some RC12 US Army aircraft for the next 4-6 weeks whilst their runway in Germany is resurfaced. He talked about planned arrangements for the 75th Anniversary celebrations and checked that members had received their invitations.

c. County Council information

The CEO passed on a message from County Councillor C Noble saying that both locality budgets for this financial year have been allocated.

Standing orders were then re-instated.

5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29 January 2009 were approved. Concerning item 9, Cllr J Barker asked how many training questionnaires had been returned. The CEO informed him that three had been returned to date.

6. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The minutes of the Planning Committee Meetings held on 27 January 2009 and 17 February 2009 were confirmed. There were no matters arising.

7. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

The minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2009 were confirmed.

It was resolved to plant a laurel hedge on the Thetford Road Cemetery perimeter which will need 200 – 240 plants at £2.50 each, planted, at a total cost of £500 - £600.

It was resolved to write to the Mildenhall and District Group of the Suffolk Family History Society to thank them for carrying out the work on the Thetford Road cemetery, to give congratulations on the very impressive result and to ask the History Society not to include addresses on the CD of their work.

It was recommended to confirm that allotment plot 26, The Gravel, has been let at a pro rata price of £37.50 for 10 months rental.

It was resolved that the request from the residents of Selwyn Close for an additional light should not be granted due to the high cost.

It was resolved to ask SCC to provide a grit pile at the junction of Folly Road and Finchley Avenue.

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

a. Itinerary

None

b. Reports

None

9. OLYMPIC TORCH

It was resolved to prepare a proposal that the Olympic Torch should visit Mildenhall in 2012 as part of its nationwide journey. Cllr Smith suggested that the CEO liaise with the FHDC Publicity Officer.

10. INTERNAL AUDIT REVIEW PANEL

The report of the Internal Audit Review Panel meeting held on 6 February 2009 was approved.

11. MILDENHALL MAGISTRATES COURT

Members noted the response from Her Majesty's Court Service concerning the non-use of Mildenhall Magistrates Court since December. They were unhappy with the assurances given and still felt that the court was being closed without consultation. **It was resolved to write back to HMCS expressing MPC's view, with a copy to Richard Spring, MP.**

12. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING

Members noted the response from the Department for Communities and Local Government to MPC's letter concerning Local Government Restructuring in Suffolk. Members were unhappy with the response and that the third option for restructuring is not being considered. **It was resolved to write back to the Boundary Committee, (with a further copy to the Secretary of State for DCMS on 16 July) and to Richard Spring, MP, expressing MPC's view.**

13. CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS DAY

Members noted that permission had been granted by Panther Securities plc for the next Clubs and Organisations Day to be held in the Precinct in Mildenhall and agreed a date of 22 August 2009. The matter to go to March E & P to form working group

14. RIVERSIDE THEATRE COMPANY

The beneficiaries of the Riverside Theatre Company production in January in the sum of £6078 were noted.

15. ST MARY'S CHURCH

It was resolved to release the £1, 000 held in reserve for the automatic winding for the clock at St Mary's Church. Members agreed in principle that they would be willing to contribute towards the upkeep of the clock, subject to receiving financial information when it becomes available.

16. WEST SUFFOLK LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FORUM

Cllr D W Bowman agreed to attend the event on 20 March.

17. GRANT APPLICATION

It was resolved to grant £250 to Age Concern.

Cllr J Barker declared an interest.

18. PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS

Accounts for February 2009 totalling £23, 560.84 including telepay salaries were authorised. Cllrs G H Taylor-Balls and G A Hayes signed the relevant cheques.

19. ADDITIONAL ACCOUNTS

Additional accounts for February 2009 totalling £27, 944.62 were authorised. Cllrs Mrs T A Gooch-Taylor-Balls and G H Taylor-Balls signed the relevant cheques.

20. CORRESPONDENCE

The CEO informed members of the following items of correspondence:

- SALC LAIS publications: Governance and Accountability for Local Councils; Policing and Crime Bill (available at Parish office).
- Cambridgeshire CC New sites proposed for mineral and waste development.
- FHDC re Council's response in the event of emergency (to be completed by Chairman/Vice Chairman).
- Letter from parishioner re traffic in west Row Road/Queensway.
- Power of Wellbeing training, which 80% of councillors must undertake if they wish to use the power – it was agreed to arrange a training evening with SALC.
- Highways Agency re extension of consultation period on dualling of A11 Thetford to Mildenhall.
- SCC Pension Fund annual employers meeting.
- Kings Forest Housing re proposed garage redevelopments.

21. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

22. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was resolved pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 Part 1 Schedule 12A to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the confirmation of confidential minutes and to receive a report from the Personnel Panel on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest
Confidential minutes were confirmed and a report from the Personnel Panel was received.
The meeting closed at 8.37pm.