

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL**FULL COUNCIL**

MINUTES of a meeting of the COUNCIL held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 26 October 2011 at Crafton Green House, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

PRESENT: Cllr G Sell (Chairman), Cllrs D Brett, C Dean, I Evans, J Hudson, P L Jones, J Loughlin, T Owen, J Rich, J Salmon and W Stiles

ATTENDING: Mrs R Clifford – Clerk
Cty Cllr R Gooding
6 members of the public

221 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs B Gott, R Rawlinson and V Trundle.

222 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Dean - item 17 as a resident of the Recreation Ground, Cllrs Jones and Stiles - item 16 as members of the PCC, Cllr Salmon – item 9d as the application had been submitted by his wife's employer.

223 MINUTES

Under minute 180b, Cllr Dean stated that she had asked Cty Cllr Gooding about the Youth Centre. Minute 184 – it was confirmed that the Council had taken a decision not to fund the green waste skips in the village from April 2012. There being no further amendments, the minutes of the meetings held on 28 September and 12 October 2011 were signed as a true record.

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- a) Mr Woodcock asked about publication of the Parish Plan document – the Clerk explained the reasons for the delay.
 - b) Mr Woodcock had submitted a paper seeking an assurance from the Parish Council that it would not enter into any private meetings with house developers. The Chairman stated that any meetings held are based on the current policy of the Council which is that no further large-scale development will be supported until after the completion of the Foresthall Park development. Smaller developments, on sites already acknowledged within the Parish Plan, would continue to be discussed if appropriate.
 - c) Mr Shervington referred to a request from the St John's Road Area Residents' Assn to have the road included within the Conservation Area. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would send a further request to the District Council. The Clerk stated that she was not aware of any further reviews of Conservation Areas in the near future.
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224 MATTERS ARISING

157(d) – the Little Scrummers' had left an answerphone message at the Council the previous Saturday morning to say that they would need to use the Recreation Ground again as when they arrived at the Church Hall, it had been double booked again. This had not prompted any complaints to the Clerk.

225 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- A The Chairman reported that the external audit report had been received and no significant issues had been raised.
- B Letter from Essex County Highways notifying a closure of Bentfield Road from 7-9 November.
- C Correspondence from UDC regarding polling districts and stations had been circulated prior to the meeting. Members' views were sought.
- D The Chairman, and Cllr Salmon, had attended the MMCC Prize Giving evening and enjoyed the event very much.
- E The Crafton Green Working Party had met prior to this meeting. Cty Cllr Gooding has prepared a draft Briefing Report to send out to architects to obtain tenders for the first stage of the re-development of the Library. A few minor amendments are to be made, after which the Clerk can send the document out. The Council's thanks were expressed to Cllr Gooding for his valuable assistance. A meeting with the Chief Inspector, Alyson Wilson, is due to take place on 4 November to discuss their involvement in this project.

226 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN - None

227a DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORT - None

227b COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Gooding apologised that he did not yet have an answer to Cllr Dean's query regarding the Youth Centre. A recent Ofsted examination of Childrens' Services has deemed the department "adequate". 55% of secondary and 5% of primary schools have become academies. Cllr Sell asked if this had an impact upon staff within the Education Department – Cllr Gooding reported that whilst sixty posts have been lost, other staff have gone to work for the academies.

228 FINANCE

The list of cheques for signature was approved.

229 PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR COMMENT

- A UTT/1823/11/FUL – Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers, Cambridge Road
Single storey side extension, enlargement and modifications to existing car parking and landscaping

No objections provided that the extended property forms one demise.

- B UTT/1861/11/FUL – The Stables, High Lane
Conversion of stables to dwelling

Members reiterated their previous comments that they had no objection provided that the footprint of the building remained the same.

- C UTT/1862/11/FUL – 18 The Champions
Extension to form new dwelling

No objection provided that there is storage for the wheelie bins within the property.

- D UTT/1865/11/FUL – M11 Business Link, Unit 7, Parsonage Lane
Proposed new windows on ground and first floor rear elevations. Proposed mezzanine floor

No comments.

- E UTT/1866/11/FUL – Plots 329-333 Rochford Nurseries, Foresthall Park
Proposed bollard lighting to car parking court for above plots

No comments.

- F UTT/1876/11/FUL – 8 Churchill Corner
Proposed two storey side and rear extension

No comments.

- G UTT/1904/11/REN – Widdershins, Bentfield Road
Renewal of UTT/1276/08/FUL for a double garage

No comments.

- H UTT/1921/11/FUL – 17 Park Road
Proposed new gate to rear of property

Members were concerned that there were no rights for an access onto the roadway to the rear of this property. If such an access existed, this could be the start of the building in the rear garden becoming a separate property.

- I UTT/2021/11/FUL – 25 Recreation Ground
Construction of a balcony to rear

No comments.

230 OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October.

231 HIGHWAYS SUB-COMMITTEE

Ci) – members agreed to obtain costs for wooden posts to protect the grass verges at Pennington Lane/Rainsford Road junctions. Cii) – agreed to consult with immediate residents regarding a proposed limited waiting restriction in the vicinity of Bentfield School. Di) – Cllr Stiles stated that it would be important to get the lighting right if a footpath was created inside the line of trees and bushes, but members agreed that this might be a more sensible route. Cllr Salmon suggested that the existing path could then be designated as a cycle route. Cllr Dean was happy to support the new route of the path provided that it extended right up to the crossing outside the MMCC.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 14 October.

232 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Page 52, item 217, second line, the words “as well as” were deleted and replaced with “and supported by”.

216 – members supported the possibility of a bonfire with fireworks to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee – more details to follow when available. 217 – Cllr Jones gave some background to the subject of gritting roads in winter and requests for grit boxes – his paper had been circulated to all members ahead of the committee meeting. He then proposed the following

RESOLUTION that subject to written approval from insurers, the Parish Council would:

- a) Provide seven new grit boxes – one each on Chapel Hill, High Lane and Mount Drive, and two each at Foresthall Park and on the Croasdaile Estate.
- b) Purchase two grit spreaders and allow labour costs for grit to be spread on the following paths:

Crafton Green, Cooper’s Alley, Lower Street to Burnell’s Way, Recreation Ground to Millside, Lopyy’s Hill to Millfields, black bridge to Stoneyfield Drive and Cannon’s Mead to Blythwood Gardens.

Total cost to the Council would be in the order of £1,100.

Seconded by Cllr Sell and unanimously agreed.

218 – Day Centre – Cllr Jones confirmed that copies of the Day Centre Management Committee’s accounts are received by the Parish Council. Cllr Dean undertook to send a copy to Cllr Rich. Cllr Jones asked members to give some thought to the name of this establishment. 220 – Budget – Cllr Jones spoke on the proposed budget for 2012/13 and ran through various items. Currently, the proposed budget for 2012/13 would give an increase in expenditure of around £11,000, but this would equate to an actual reduction of 3-5% due to the increased income from residents of Foresthall Park. Cllr Jones then gave a breakdown of savings in the current year’s budget, but also detailed a list of projects which he believed it would be desirable to achieve. These could be completed still leaving a modest surplus. These were agreed.

Cllr Jones then proposed, in principle only at this stage, the following

RECOMMENDATION that the Council adopt the draft budget for 2012/13 as tabled, together with the list of amendments to the current year. All figures are subject to a further review by himself and the Clerk, and the Council will be asked to take its final decision and set the precept at Full Council on 14 December.

Seconded by Cllr Sell and unanimously agreed. The Chairman extended his thanks to Cllr Jones and the Clerk for their work on the budget to date.

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October.

233 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Chairman stated that the meeting held with Jan Cole from the Rural Community Council of Essex had been informative, as was the information circulated afterwards which he urged members to read ahead of the meeting on 14 December when a decision on whether or not to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan would be taken.

234 NEW HOMES BONUS

Applications for funding had been received from various village organisations and further information on these had been requested by the Clerk. Parish Council projects so far proposed included the renovation of the Fountain (if no grant is forthcoming), play equipment, wooden posts for the Rainsford Road/Pennington Lane verges, longterm funding for the Youth Centre, Jubilee celebrations. A paper would be circulated ahead of the next Council Meeting and, again, a decision would be taken at the Full Council meeting on 14 December.

235 ALLOTMENTS

The Chairman reported that Gemmill Bros Ltd had offered to lease land to the Council for the provision of allotments. Three possible sites had been proposed. Cllrs Salmon and Stiles would visit all three and report their comments for consideration by the Open Spaces Committee. The Chairman expressed his thanks to Will and Denise Gemmill for their kind offer.

236 REQUEST FROM PCC FOR FUNDING TOWARDS TREE WORK AT ST MARY'S

The Clerk reported that the Churchyard at St Mary's is almost full and the PCC is considering the future maintenance of the Churchyard. It is possible that, at some stage, they will ask the Parish Council to take this on. In the meantime, a tree survey had indicated that fairly major work is required to some of the trees, at a total cost of £4,165. With other urgent calls on the Church funds, they were seeking a contribution towards these costs from the Parish Council.

Cllr Dean acknowledged that a tree in the Churchyard had fallen the previous year, and if the Parish Council was responsible then the trees might be better maintained as the Council had more funds available to it. Cllr Owen queried the benefit to the parish. Cllr Sell believed that the Parish Council should act as a facilitator and, as such, proposed that the Council contribute £2,000 towards the costs.

Put to the vote, two members abstained (as members of the PCC) and all others voted in favour.

237 TO CONSIDER A CCTV CAMERA FOR THE RECREATION GROUND

Funding for an upgrade of the CCTV system, including three new cameras, has been agreed by UDC. One of the cameras included is for the Recreation Ground, but this has not yet been discussed by the Council.

Cllr Dean, having declared an interest, stated that she had a fundamental objection to children at play being the subject of surveillance. With regular visits from PCSO's, and the good work being undertaken at the Youth Centre, anti-social behaviour has reduced

and she believed that CCTV was not warranted and would be a “sledgehammer to crack a nut”.

Cllr Jones held the opposite view. CCTV footage could only be viewed by the Police if an incident had occurred. Whilst they could monitor live, this was highly unlikely. No-one else is permitted to view recordings. There have been incidents of minor vandalism and, if the Parish Council is considering investing a large amount of money in new play equipment, CCTV could prove useful in the event of vandalism. There have also been incidents of danger such as smashing of glass in the play area.

Cllr Rich stated that he supported this view, whilst Cllr Brett said he had not come across anything which stated that CCTV reduces crime. Cllr Loughlin was ambivalent.

Put to the vote, 5 members voted in favour of a CCTV camera on the Recreation Ground, 4 voted against and 2 abstained.

- 238 LIST OF CORRESPONDENCE** - None.
- 239 APPLICATIONS DETERMINED** - circulated with the agenda.
- 240 CLERK’S RECORD OF PLANS** - tabled.

Meeting closed 9.59pm