

GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL

Community Centre, School Lane
Grange Park, Northampton NN4 5FZ

Bookings: 01604 701431 (Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-11.45am only)
Parish Council: 01604 702938
www.grangeparkpc.org

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2009 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, GRANGE PARK

Present: Cllrs A Walker (Ch), M Smith, D Ramsay, M Aluko, S Cates, C Fry and N Stansfield, M Stansfield, C Nobbs, T Janiu-Deen

Attending: Mrs T Sampson (Clerk)

09/342 Public Questions

342.1 None

342.2 PCSO Charlotte Johnson introduced herself to the Parish Council and updated them on the issues that have affected our Parish within the last couple of weeks.

09/343 County/District Councillors Report

County Councillor B Ingram informed the meeting that Northamptonshire Council are monitoring the adoption process. It was noted that the Developers (Bellway) have informed the Parish Council that all the 20mph signs and landscaping on the island will be removed prior to adoption as it wasn't on the original master plan.

B Ingram, County Councillor was asked to look into the issue regarding the school coaches which park on Saxon Avenue every morning/evening at peak times, collecting and dropping off children and the possibility of an accident occurring as the Children walk behind/in front of the parked vehicles **Action: B Ingram**

District Councillor Janiu-Deen informed the meeting that Alex Terry, Chief Inspector of Police is willing to attend the next Parish Council meeting in January to discuss youth provision. It was also agreed that our local police officer, PCSO and Wootton Parish Council youth worker will attend. The Parish Council decided to start the next meeting at 7.00pm. **Action: Clerk**

09/344 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr L Ellington and Cllr Wilson due to work commitments

09/345 Declaration of Members Interest

None

09/346 Minutes of the meeting of 5th November 2009

346.1 The Council approved and adopted the minutes dated 5th November 2009 and the Chairman signed them as a correct record .

346.2 Matters arising
See Appendix 1

Continued.....

Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting on the 19th November 2009

- 346.3 The Council approved and adopted the minutes dated 19th November and the Chairman signed them as a correct record.

It was agreed (by a majority vote) that Cllr Nobbs would communicate with all residents about the cost of maintaining our green open areas, parks etc. The Council agreed to set a budget of £750 to draw up leaflets and posters which will be included on the website, in the next edition of the newsletter and also hopefully within the package sent by SNC, ref: community charges for next year. It was agreed that Cllr Nobbs would present this information at the next meeting in January for approval. The Parish Clerk was also asked to speak to SNC regarding the above delivery. **Action: Cllr Nobbs/Clerk**

09/347 Chairman's Report

- 347.1 Nothing to report
- 347.2 The Chairman asked the Councillors if they could let the Parish Office know who will be attending the 'Chairman's do'.

09/348 Clerk's Report

- 348.1 The Council agreed to purchase a hard drive which will back up all the files daily from the Computers within the Parish Office. Cllr Smith volunteered to set up the system. **Action: Cllr Smith**

09/349 Finance

- 349.1 The Council approved the expenditure listed in Appendix 2.
- 349.2 The Council approved the monthly committed expenditure relating to Contract 4 (maintenance and upkeep of all the open spaces within the parish)
- 349.3 Cllr Smith updated the Council on the current financial situation relating to the Pavilion Build at Foxfield Country Park. The Council considered the following proposal:
- pay the next valuation on Wednesday 9th December at a cost of £21,793 less 50% which will be paid directly to the CCTV Company – Case Security. The remaining cost will only be paid to Inspire providing the work outlined in their e-mail dated 2nd December 2009 has been completed. Our Project Manager will do a site visit on Wednesday to inspect the above before the cheque will be relinquished. The Council agreed this proposal as our Q/S had undertaken a risk assessment which was minimal due to the retention which is being held until the project has been completed.
- 349.4 The Council considered a recommendation from the Finance Working Group regarding the refund of VAT for the Construction of Foxfields Pavilion. It was agreed that following the letter from HM Revenue & Customs it is the Council's intention to claim back all the VAT associated with the project but to relinquish the running of the day to day business of the Pavilion to a separate committee/association.

09/350 Planning, Highways and Transportation

- 350.1 The following applications were considered:

S/2009/1116/FUL

Location: Grange Park Community Centre, School Lane
Proposal: Two cantilevered canopies, one to the side and one to the rear
Case Officer: David Read
Observations: No comment

S/2009/1106/FUL

Location: 127 Woodlands, Grange Park
Proposal: Garage conversion to habitable room
Case Officer: Claire Finn
Observations: No comment

Continued.....

S/2009/1083/FUL

Location: 17 Swift Close, Grange Park
Proposal: First floor extension above existing detached garage
Case Officer: David Read
Observations: No comment

S/2009/1096/CLU (For information only)

Location: 33 The Meadows, Grange Park
Proposal: Single Storey rear extension
Case Officer: David Read
Observations: No Comment

350.2 No further planning applications or decision notices were received.

350.3 Comments on the adoption process has already been mentioned within the minutes (09/343)

- removal of 20mph signs
- landscaping to be removed within the islands

The Clerk was asked to obtain a schedule of works from the developer and to ask when the street lights will be looked at especially locations like Deer Close. **Action: Clerk**

09/351 Administration and Staffing

351.1 After recent issues with broken glass and litter it has been suggested that our caretakers should be tasked with litter/waste collection on request from the public by phone or website. The Council agreed to ask Cllr N Stansfield to identify the 'Litter hot spots and the workload expected e.g. time, how regular' and pass these details to the Lead Councillor for Admin & staffing and he will consult with the caretakers to see if it can be incorporated into their current job description. **Action: Cllrs N Stansfield/ Nobbs**

The Council also agreed to put the following on the website:

Keep Grange Park Tidy – Pick it up and Bin it!

Please don't let litter or leave dog waste spoil our village and parks. Stick to the following and we'll keep Grange Park neat together:

1. Dispose of your own litter and dog waste in the bins or take it home.
2. Do your bit for the community and pick up any litter you see and bin it – Thank You
3. Don't touch broken glass or any hazardous items – ring 01604 702938 or email Parish office (parishclerk@grangeparkpc.org) and we'll arrange for it's removal.

351.2 Cllr Nobbs informed the meeting that nine applications have been received for the post of temporary Keyholder/caretaker and that five had been short listed for interview. Interviews took place on Thursday 26th November and a local man from Grange Park was chosen and an offer letter sent out. Once accepted, the post will be active from January 4th 2010. The post will invoice sharing with our existing Asst. Caretaker the evening/weekend work.

Cllr T Jainu-Deen left the meeting at 8.30pm

09/352 Recreation and Amenities

352.1 Cllr Smith updated the Council on the following regarding the build at Foxfields Country Park:

- Electricity connected this week
- Water to be connected week commencing 7th December 2009
- Gas to be connected before the Christmas break
- Mono paving flooring in the foyer to be installed week commencing 4th January 2010.

Continued.....

- 352.2. Cllrs Walker and N Stansfield gave a verbal report on the current issues affecting Contract 4 (the maintenance of all open spaces within Grange Park). The following issues were discussed:
- It was agreed that the Council would be prepared to extend the existing contract for another 2 years as long as confirmation was received that states that the price would remain the same even though some legal transfers of land were anticipated shortly and will need regular maintenance. The Clerk was asked to seek confirmation before accepting the extension. **Action Clerk**
 - The Council agreed to the expenditure (£25k) for the damage of vandalism, review of safety surfaces and remedial work that needs to be undertaken at the playpark at Quintonside. It was agreed that we should spend a sufficient sum of money in order to meet the recommendations of ROSPRA.
 - Four contractors were invited to tender for tree thinning and hedge maintenance works within Grange Park. Following a recommendation from our Projects Director/Landscape consultant the Parish Council approved to appoint AJ& MJ Harper as they submitted the most competitive tender. The work is expected to start before the Christmas break and last for approx 8 weeks.
Action: Clerk
 - The Council approved for the bolts within the playpark at Primrose have 'loctite' applied to keep them in place and prevent removal. PCSO Charlotte Johnson also agreed that she would look into the possibility of us installing CCTV cameras which may elevate vandalism issues
Action: PCSO Johnson
 - It was agreed that our landscape consultants would look into providing 'desire lines' and making permanent walkways to enter the Country Park. **Action: Clerk**
- 352.3 It was agreed to defer the discussion on the Multi Use Games Area until after the January meeting when Youth Provisions will be discussed.
- 352.4 The Youth Shelter has been agreed but we are still awaiting the land transfer of Grange Valley Greenway before we can proceed with the purchase.

09/353 Community Centre, MUGA and Bowling Green

- 353.1 Cllr Ramsay informed the Council that he had a provisional meeting with some of the bowling green members regarding the conversion of the shower areas within the community Centre. The suggested proposal is for the bowling green members (as a lot of them are within the building trade) to provide the labour and the Parish Council to pay for the materials. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Council would investigate this scenario further but to make clear to the Bowling Club that the created facilities would have to be used by the community and that no exclusive rights would be granted.

All members present agreed apart from Cllr N Stansfield who strongly objected to the above proposal as he was concerned that if the Bowling Club Members were providing the labour free of charge there could potentially be some conflict for future community user bookings.

Cllr Ramsay agreed to obtain further information and bring it back to Council for consideration.

- 353.2 The Council obtained two quotes to install partition gates at the rear of the community centre. The quotes were received from J E Matthews & Sons and R Bateman both from companies Northampton. The Council agreed to appoint J E Matthews and the Clerk was asked to sort out the relevant paperwork.
Action: Clerk

09/354 Community Activities

- 354.1 Cllr Cates informed the Council that there is a Neighbourhood Watch meeting on the 10th December 2009 at the Community Centre. All members of the Council are welcome to attend.

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The Council also discussed and expressed concern about the installation of the art screen which has already obtained planning permission to erect it on the oval by the District Centre. After a brief discussion and going to the vote it was agreed by majority to suggest to SNC that they ask Richmond Care Home if they would like the Screen art within their boundaries as it will be more secure . The Clerk was asked to convey this to SNC.
Action: Clerk

The light sculptures were damaged some weeks ago and SNC will check with the District Centre landlord if he would like them repaired or removed.

354.2 Cllr Cates informed the meeting that he would be preparing some information on the Community Speed Watch Scheme and putting it on the website requesting signatures of support

Action: Cllr Cates

354.3 Cllr Cates updated the Council on the visit that took place on the 6th November to Towcester to view the youth Café. They found it very informative and inspirational. It was agreed that we would discuss youth provisions within our Parish at the next meeting in January where external representatives will attend.

09/355

Website and Newsletter

355.1 Nothing to report on the website

355.2 The Council agreed to purchase a hamper (£50) to thank the editor of the newsletter for all his volunteered help and commitment he has given to us in providing the newsletter for the year. The Clerk was asked to organise.
Action: Clerk

355.3 The Council agreed due to the lack of response that we remove all the information from the newsletter referring to SMS text.

355.4 The Council agreed to send the draft information on 'Control of dogs at Foxfields Country Park' to Helen Hunt, Animal Welfare Officer, SNC seeking comments/suggestions etc. It was agreed that if no comments have been received then we would publish the information on the website.
Action: Cllr Fry /Clerk

09/356

Correspondence

356.1 All items of correspondence were discussed within the Meeting

09/357

Date of the Next Meeting

357.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 7th January 2010.

357.2 To obtain information regarding a temporary structure (portacabin) being installed on community land near the community centre.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 10.00pm

