

GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL

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

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MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER 2009 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, GRANGE PARK

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

Attending: Mrs T Sampson (Clerk).

09/305 Public Questions

None received

09/306 District Councillors Report

Paul Farrow sent his apologies but also gave a verbal report prior to the meeting to the Parish Clerk. He updated us on the following points:

- SNC will speak to Bellway Homes regarding the repairs to the playparks within the Parish. SNC will also look into resident's covenants notices within the Parish in relation to the storing of caravans.
Action: District Councillor Farrow
- District Councillor Tharik Janiu-Deen also informed the Council that he will be arranging a meeting with the Chief Inspector of Northamptonshire Police to discuss a pilot initiative scheme regarding crime that may be used within Grange Park

09/307 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Stansfield and Cllr N Stansfield

09/308 Declaration of Members Interest

None

09/309 Minutes of the meeting of 10th September 2009

309.1 The Council approved and adopted the minutes dated 2nd July 2009 and the Chairman signed them as a correct record after the following amendments were agreed.

Cllr N Stansfield requested via an e-mail if item 09/299.4 last sentence the word 'strongly' could be omitted. The Council considered the request and sought clarification from Cllr Wilson, it was proposed and agreed that no changes were to be made.

It was also agreed that under the County Councillors report it needs to be noted that County Councillor B Ingram would look into NCC providing Bus shelters within Saxon Avenue and report back to the Parish Council.
Action: B Ingram

309.2 Matters arising
See Appendix 1

The Clerk was also asked to look into the action list and update accordingly. **Action: Clerk**

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09/310

Chairman's Report

- 310.1 The Chairman reported that the old Ikea Site has now been purchased by RBS (De-Virgo) and that WNDC has sent the Parish Council details of the S106 agreement and allocated funds. The Council asked the Clerk if she could arrange a meeting with WNDC in order that the Parish Council can discuss the allocation of funds in more detail. **Action: Clerk**

It was also noted that the housing developers are to commence some remedial works on the Highways within Grange Park week commencing 5th October 2009. The remedial work will include street cleansing, highway maintenance, street lights, landscaping etc. Once this work has been completed to an acceptable standard to Northamptonshire County Council the adoption process will commence. It was agreed that this information would be included in the next edition of the newsletter and on the website

Action: Chairman

The Chairman reported that we have received a letter from HMRC regarding the relinquishing of our business activities i.e. the running of the community centre and Foxfields Pavilion due to all the VAT issues. The Council agreed that we need to seek further information from Enterprise Solutions and NALC before any decisions can be considered. The Council agreed to delegate Cllrs Walker/Smith and Ramsay to consider the options and call an extra-ordinary meeting to discuss the detail. The Clerk was asked to organise a meeting. **Action: Clerk**

The Chairman asked all Lead Councillors to consider their budget requirements for 2010/11 and forward them to the Parish Clerk. **Action: All Councillors**

09/311

Clerk's Report

Nothing to report – all items covered in the agenda

09/312

Finance

- 312.1 The Council approved the expenditure listed in Appendix 2.
312.2 There was no expenditure for the Contract 4 accounts this month.
312.3 Cllr Smith reported on the current situation regarding the finances relating to Foxfields Country Park. He expressed his extreme disappointment and reported that the basic utilities have not yet been connected or an application been submitted by the builder (Inspire) to the utility companies although having reported at every monthly meeting that it was imminent.

Cllr Smith informed the meeting that GPPC had paid the money to the builder back in March but this was used to sort out other cash flow issues on the build. It was agreed that the Parish Council would send a cheque to the utility companies themselves in order to get the issue sorted out at the earliest convenience and the utilities installed. This money would be deducted off the next invoice from the builder.

Cllr Smith reiterated the decision that the Council made earlier in the scheme regarding the fact that the Council decided not to take out an insurance risk bond of £11,000 as we always paid in arrears. It was noted that we are nearly at the end of the build which is anticipated within October. Due to the above issues the Parish Council, Architects, Quality Surveyor, builders are having weekly meetings to monitor progress closely.

The Final account of the project is being negotiated at present with our Quality Surveyor and the builders. Once we have received any information we will pass it to Council members.

It was agreed that we should obtain two insurance quotes for the cricket square – We have already received one from our existing insurance company of Allianz. The quote was to insure the artificial wicket for £10,000 and the remaining natural sports surface for a maximum of £2,500. The premium for this is approx £90 per year. The Clerk was asked to seek an alternative quote as a comparison. **Action: Clerk**

- 312.4 The Finance Working Group met on the 21st September to discuss the recommendations from BDO Hayward (External Auditor) following the end of year accounts for 2008/09. The first recommendation was to consider if our fidelity Guarantee insurance was sufficient at £20,000. The Parish Council agreed that they have done a financial risk assessment and adequate measures had been put in place and therefore felt the amount of insurance was acceptable.

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It was also agreed that the Parish Clerk would summarize the accounts every 3 months within the minutes, as detailed below:

Balance brought forward from Previous year	£166,159.90
Expenditure to date (August)	£165,744.96
Income to date (August)	£102,885.82
Total	£103,300.76
Committed Projects (Reserves)	
Muga Mat Accural	£5,000.00
Contract 4/Open Spaces	£73,601.90
Games Area (MUGA)	£43,000.00
Revenue Cost for Foxfields Pavilion	£16,227.50
Less Total Committed Projects expenditure	-£137,829.47
Plus Loan to Foxfields (temporary)	£100,000.00
Total left to spend for year 09/10	£65,471.29

- 312.5 The Council considered a fixed term contract with A H Contracts for the collection of the dog waste within the Parish. The contract would stay at the current price up to the 31st March 2012, the only variation would be the change in the rate of VAT. The Council agreed and approved to accept this offer and asked the Clerk to sign the appropriate paperwork . **Action: Clerk**

09/313 Planning, Highways and Transportation

- 313.1 The following applications were considered:
None
- 313.2 No further planning applications or decision notices were received.
- 313.3 It was agreed to delegate Cllr M Aluko to read the Land registry documents regarding Grange Valley Greenway and report back to the Clerk any issues. **Action: Cllr M Aluko**
- 313.4 The Council noted the outline planning permission granted for the development of up to 450 dwellings, office space, 150 bed hotel and associated parking, open space and Landscaping at the old ikea site within Grange Park. The financial implications to the above scheme has already been discussed under item 09/310.1 of these minutes.
- 313.5 The Council agreed to apply for advertising consent for directional signs to be erected around the Parish for the Community Centre and Foxfields Pavilion. **Action: Clerk**
- 313.6 The Clerk was asked to speak to the County Councillor B Ingram regarding some hard standing space to be installed by the bus stops within Saxon Avenue. **Action: Clerk**

09/314 Administration and Staffing

- 314.1 Cllr Nobbs updated the Council and circulated a written report regarding the current situation with admin (Notes attached)
- 314.2 Cllr Nobbs informed the meeting that an advertisement has been circulated for the post of Temporary keyholder for the Community Centre/Foxfields. The Closing date is Friday 13th November 2009.

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09/315

Recreation and Amenities

- 315.1 An update on Foxfields Pavilion had been covered in item 09/312.3
- 315.2 The Chairman of the Lark Lane Allotments association circulated the paperwork detailing the finances in relation to the installation of the allotments. The Council agreed to put it on next month's agenda for consideration. **Action: Clerk**
- 315.3 Cllr Walker gave a verbal report on Contract 4
- The spraying of the paths at Foxfields had been done recently
 - It was agreed that the developers will be doing some remedial work within Grange Park prior to adoption and that this would include street cleansing
 - It was agreed to delegate Cllrs Walker/Stansfield to look into obtaining a quote from our Contractors Frosts to resurface the playareas within the Parish.
 - It was agreed to speak to our consultants regarding residents creating walkways/pathways within the fencing at Foxfield Country Park
- 315.4 Cllr Ramsay proposed that the following amendment should be made to the current proposal regarding the installation of the Multi-Use Games Area at Grange Valley Greenway:

I would like to recommend that we consider the following amendment to the proposal which was minuted on the 4th June item 09/268.5 stating that Grange Park Parish Council agrees to the installation of a MUGA (size 21m x 13m) at Grange Valley Greenway.

Before Grange Park Parish Council enters into a contract to spend the approx sum of £45,000 of public money, I feel that we should have factual evidence from residents within the Parish that this as an aspiration project, will be of benefit to a large part of the community. I am therefore proposing that we do a public consultation via the next edition of the newsletter seeking the resident's views before we proceed.

I appreciate that we are still waiting to hear from the Planning Dept, SNC and would suggest we wait on their response before the above is implemented.

It was agreed to wait and see what SNC Planning Department advice would be and then bring back to council for consideration. **Action: Clerk**

09/316

Community Centre, MUGA and Bowling Green

- 316.1 Cllr Ramsay informed the Council that new worktops had been installed within both kitchens at the Community Centre – There was only a charge for the supply of the worktops.
- 316.2 The Council are currently waiting on an estimate for the cost of converting the shower area within the Community Centre from HSSP architects. **Action: Clerk**

09/317

Community Activities

- 317.1 The Parish Council briefly discussed the firework events scheduled for Saturday 7th November 2009. It was suggested that refreshments would not be sold this year but due to the time constraints of this meeting the Council agreed to delegate the working group to decide on the detail and report back at the next parish Council meeting dated 5th November. **Action: Fireworks working Group**
- 317.2 Nothing to report
- 317.3 Cllr Cates informed the meeting that a few youths turned up for the youth meeting on the 24th September and a list of aspirations for youth provisions within our Parish were discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund some pizzas (budget cost of £20-£30) for the next 4 meetings to encourage the youth's attendance

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317.4 Cllr Cates informed the Council that in order for us to obtain the speed watch system within Grange Park, we need to obtain 500 signatures – It was agreed to delegate Cllr Cates to advertise this on the website and newsletter.
Action: Cllr Cates

Cllr Cates tabled for information the latest crime statistics for Grange Park Ward. The Clerk was asked to invite the PCSO to our next Parish Council meeting in November.
Action: Clerk

09/318 Website and Newsletter

318.1 Cllr Fry informed the meeting that she had spoken to Northampton County Council regarding the employment of youths(13-16 year olds) to deliver the Parish newsletter quarterly. The Council agreed to delegate Cllrs Fry/Aluko to advertise/ appoint and obtain all the relevant paperwork for this process. It was also agreed to purchase trolleys/ bags.
Action: Clerk

09/319 Correspondence

3191 All items of correspondence were discussed within the Meeting

09/320 Date of the Next Meeting

320.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 5th November 2009.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm

