

# GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL

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

Parish Council: 01604 702938

## MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2012 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, GRANGE PARK

Present: Cllrs M Smith (Ch), C Fry (Vch), J Davies, M Aluko, S Dawson, J Walker, S Allen, A Walker, J Proudley

Attending: Mrs T Sampson (Clerk)

### 12/78 Public Questions

PCSO Charlotte Johnson attended the meeting to discuss the Grange Park Community Dog Show which is to be held on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2012 at Foxfield Park, Northampton. Charlotte asked the Parish Council if she could borrow the Gazebo, BBQ and PA System and also if they were willing to donate a raffle prize.

On 12th May 2012, Northants Police, received reports of an attempt kidnapping in Roade village. This is currently still being investigated. Since this incident they have received a number of bogus reports of other kidnapping, and rumours have been spread, which understandably has caused concern.

The Police are working closely with schools, clubs etc, to explain to children the importance of keeping safe and educating them what to do in this particular situation to try and minimise the fear factor.

If you have any other concerns or wish to speak to the police about this matter, please do not hesitate in contacting them.

### 12/79 County/District Councillors Report

District Councillor Mark Davidson informed the meeting that there will be District Council Elections on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The Community Centre will be a polling station. Candidate for the post of District Councillor Tharik Janiu-Deen reported that he was in discussions with the Karios Centre regarding a potential location for the Library.

The proposal is to relocate Wootton Fields Library in September 2012. It is planned that the library will move to temporary accommodation from September 2012 whilst a more permanent location is identified. Further details are to be confirmed.

### 12/80 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillor N Stansfield due to work commitments.

### 12/81 Declaration of Members Interest

Cllr J Walker declared an interest in any issues affecting the allotments.

### 12/82 Minutes of the Council meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

82.1 The Council approved and adopted the minutes dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 and the Chairman signed them as a true record after the spelling amendment of 'organise' (item 74.1).

82.2 Matters arising  
Cllr Dawson asked if the street lighting issues at Saxon Avenue could be put on the matters outstanding.

**Action: Parish Clerk**

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- 82.3 The Council approved and adopted the Annual General Meeting minutes dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2012 and the Chairman signed them as a true record.

## **12/83 Chairman's Report**

- 83.1 All items will be covered within the meeting

## **12/84 Parish Clerk's Report**

- 84.1 No report received
- 84.2 The Parish Clerk informed the meeting that the new Code of Conduct for Grange Park Parish Council will be adopted at their next meeting in July. This is due to SNC only being able to secure adoption on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.
- 84.3 It was noted that the Parish Clerk had attended a course on 'general power of competence' and now needs to complete her portfolio to be qualified to comply with the specific power listed below:

### *The freedom of the GPC*

*Councils no longer need to ask whether they have a specific power to act.*

*The GPC (LA 2011 s1(1)) gives local authorities, including eligible local councils, "the power to do anything that individuals generally may do" as long as they don't break other laws. It is a 'power of first resort'; this means that when searching for a power to act, the first question you ask is whether you can use the GPC. To find the answer, you ask whether an individual is normally permitted to act in the same way.*

## **12/85 Finance**

- 85.1 The Parish Council agreed and approved the accounts for June 2012.
- 85.2 All Councillors were e-mailed for information a copy of the internal auditors report. No recommendations or issues were raised.

## **12/86 Planning, Highways and Transportation**

- 86.1 S/2012/0615/PE – For information only  
Location: Wootton to Roade overhead power line  
Proposal: 33kv overhead line section/span rebuild (Grange Park & Wootton Section)  
Case Officer: Alex Keen  
Observations: Parish Council had already approved the necessary access.
- S/2012/0600/FUL  
Location: Grange Park Community Centre  
Proposal: New access doors from the building out to the Bowling Green with canopy over.  
Observations: The Parish Council fully support this application
- 86.2 No planning refusal or approval decision notices were received.
- 86.3 Cllr J Walker reported that NCC are progressing the task of providing and positioning directional signs within the Parish to let visitors know where the School, Shopping Centre, Community Centre and Foxfields Pavilion are located. It was noted that GPCC have had no input into the text and sign design. We are awaiting the cost which is anticipated in the next 4-6 weeks. The Council agreed to delegate Cllr J Walker and the Parish Clerk to complete the task.
- 86.4 Cllr S Dawson updated the meeting on the following issues affecting Contract 5 (maintenance of the green open spaces within the Parish)

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- A local resident had written to the Parish Council expressing concern about local children playing within the green area adjacent to his property at the entrance to the Ridings. The Parish Council agreed to write to local residents within close proximity asking if they could ask their children to be mindful of cars and people's property. It was also agreed to flail the piece of derelict land at the back of the town house properties within the Ridings which would give the children somewhere else to play football.
- The Parish Council agreed that the area at the Withey's needs some attention due to overhanging of bushes and height of trees. It was noted that this area has not been maintained for some time. It is estimated that the cost will be in the region of £2k. The Parish Clerk was asked to instruct our landscape consultants to progress this job. **Action: Parish Clerk**
- It was noted that our landscape consultant would produce a work schedule ('traffic light' system) to identify locations where hedges need cutting and trees including pioneers species need removing and thinning over the next 3 years. **Action: Parish Clerk**
- Some of the goal areas within the outfield need maintenance and additional marking had been requested this year due to tournaments etc. Normally re-lining will be done every two weeks (14 times a year)
- Our Consultant contractor has agreed to a site walk with Prologis to identify any remedial works that need doing prior to adoption (date yet to be agreed).
- Wootton Brook Country Park has now been flailed this year – although a gearbox was damaged due to logs left by the Environmental Agency following earlier work.
- The Parish Council agreed to the cost of spraying weeds in the gutters within the spinal road (Wake Way) at a cost of £11 per mile. The Parish Clerk was also asked to obtain a street cleansing programme from SNC and to circulate it. **Action: Parish Clerk.**
- The Parish Council authorised the Parish Clerk to spend up to £200 on any remedial works that need doing on the playgrounds without seeking approval from council.

86.5 Cllr Fry reported that she had received some complaints regarding the congregation of youths at the bench which had recently been installed at Grange Valley Greenway. After a brief discussion it was agreed that we would arrange for a litter bin to be installed and extra slabs located in front of the bench. Cllr J Walker explained the reason for the location was due to it being very close to the halfway from the exit of Richmond, Northampton and the current present seats on that pathway.

## 12/87 **Staffing**

87.1 All staffing issues were discussed under item 12/92

## 12/88 **Grange Park Sports & Community Association (GPC&SA)**

88.1 Cllr J Walker reported that the last meeting of the GPC&SA held on May 10<sup>th</sup>, was the AGM. There was no public presence. The Current trustees resigned and seven trustees were nominated. The new trustees were each given a copy of the inauguration deed and gave their personal details to the Secretary. The Chairman gave an annual statement of performance and Cllr J Walker presented the financial report which in brief showed an income of £77,300 against expenditure of £66,400 leaving a positive balance of £10,900, which even deducting the £5000 starting donation from the Parish Council showed a positive balance at year end. All minutes will be posted on the GPC&SA website.

## 12/89 **Environment**

89.1 Cllr J Walker updated the council on the issues affecting the allotments. He reported that he had written to our MP Andrea Leadson on May 25<sup>th</sup> who progressed matters by writing to the CEO at SNC and National Grid. A meeting was set up at SNC to discuss the problems and the Parish Clerk and Cllr J Walker attended. Although not initially aware of the problem, we quickly updated Andy Preston, Head of Planning and he assured us he would look into the problem as a matter of urgency.

A phone call has been received today from a Senior Engineer from National Grid who stated they could not imagine any problem with having allotments over their HP gas pipeline. He is willing to talk and write to anyone at SNC. The only stipulations they would make is that there must be no permanent /standing structures within the nine metres exclusion zone and that access must be available at all times. Neither of these issues should give us any problems.

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Cllr J Walker requested from the Parish Council their agreement that we should now submit a revised retrospective application (Change of Use). This was approved.

The Parish Council at the next meeting need to decide if they are to support the need for a vehicle entry and if so how will it be funded. **Action: Parish Clerk**

## 12/90 **Communication**

- 90.1 Cllr Fry reported that Cllr Aluko will be formulating the newsletter over the next couple of weeks. The deadline for articles will be 25<sup>th</sup> June 2012. The Chairman requested if a draft copy could be sent to all councillors prior to printing. **Action: Cllr Aluko**
- 90.2 Cllr Fry reported that the numbers attending the youth club have increased. Cllr Dawson mentioned that he had spoken to a number of youths and they would like to obtain some IT Equipment .
- 90.3 It was noted that although weather conditions were bad on the day, the Queens Diamond Jubilee function was well attended and thanks were given to the Parish Council for organising such a good community event. A significant donation will be given to Air Ambulance (amount yet to be advised). It was noted that no report was made in the local newspaper although they attending on the day. Cllr Fry agreed to pick up this issue and report back at the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Fry**  
We need to contact Balloonmania regarding the outstanding stock and receive an updated invoice. It was agreed that we would pay for the additional balloons and give them to Richmond Retirement Village for their summer fayre in August as long as they contributed any funds received from the balloons to Air Ambulance **Action: Parish Clerk**
- 90.4 It was noted that residents who contribute to Grange Park Residents facebook would like to organise a car boot sale. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Parish Council have no objection. Kathryn Davis has been volunteered to organise the event. The Parish Clerk was asked to make sure that our licence covered such an event. **Action: Parish Clerk**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would look into organising a disco to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grange Park (date yet to be agreed)

*9.00pm The Chairman left the meeting and Vice- Chair Claire Fry took the chair for the remaining items on the agenda.*

## 12/91 **Correspondence**

- 91.1 All matters of correspondence have been discussed.

## 12/92 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

- 92.1 In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted the notes of this part of the meeting will only be attached to the originals.

## 12/93 **Administration & Service Request**

To order name badges for all councillors - **Action: Parish Clerk**

## 12/94 **Date of the Next Meeting**

- 94.1 The next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012 at 7.30pm and will be held at the Community Centre.

Please note: At 7.00 pm prior to the Parish Council Meeting - Rapleys will present an overview of the proposals for the IKEA site.

There being no further business the Vice - Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm.