

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 MARCH 2012 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, GRANGE PARK

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

Attending: Mrs T Sampson (Clerk)

Prior to the Full Council meeting a short presentation was given by the Strategic Housing Officer and a colleague regarding the need to circulate to Grange Park residents a survey which will analyse why people like living here, what sort of people live here, their housing & recreation needs etc. This was agreed and the survey will be posted to all residents in the next couple of weeks.

12/31 Public Questions

The Chairman advised members of the public that this session is limited to 15 minutes and that the time has to be shared equally.

A local resident informed the meeting that he had been waiting since 7 o'clock to address the Council. The Parish Clerk informed him that it clearly states on the agenda that there was a short presentation by SNC prior to the commencement of the full council meeting.

The same resident, through the Chairman, asked the Council if they were aware that two planning applications had been submitted for Foxfield Pavilion: one for a retrospective flood light and the other for a variation in the operating hours. The Chairman reported that a local resident who lives in close proximity to the Pavilion had made an official complaint to SNC regarding the floodlight. The Parish Council had acted accordingly and immediately sent in a retrospective application, having previously believed that planning approval had already been sought by their architect and approved by SNC.

The Chairman also advised the resident that the Council had not consulted local residents about the operating hours as of all those directly affected would be sent individual letters from SNC. The local resident accepted that this had been done and that he had written a letter of objection and a petition had also been formulated.

The resident then reiterated his original comment on why these applications had been submitted. The Chairman sought clarification from the local resident as to the purpose and point of repeatedly asking the same questions when they had already been addressed. At this point there was a heated exchange of words between the Chairman and the resident. The local resident then left the meeting.

Another local resident asked the Council to update him on the current situation regarding the access to the allotment site at Lark Lane, Grange Park. Cllr J Walker reported that two applications have been submitted to SNC for the Change of Use of the Land and the proposed new access. He reported that the Parish Council had been working extremely hard with all parties concerned to progress the issue. Members of the Parish Council had attended a meeting earlier today with the Planning Officer, SNC to identify if any more information is required.

12/32 County/District Councillors Report

District Councillor Paul Farrow reported that as of the 1st May 2012 he will become Chairman of South Northants Council. The Parish Council members congratulated him and wished him all the best for the forthcoming year.

Continued

12/33 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from District Councillor Mark Davidson due to work commitments.

12/34 Declaration of Members Interest

The following declarations were received from :
Cllrs N Stansfield, J Davies and A Walker on issues relating to the allotments.

- Item 40.2** The Chairman asked that item 40.2 be brought to the beginning of the meeting as Cllr Proudley had another commitment and had to leave the meeting early. Cllr Proudley gave a verbal report on the draft proposal for future camping events at Foxfield Country Park. He tabled an extensive review of the present arrangements, future proposals and a location plan. The Councillors suggested the following additional items:
- Litter, Camping Charge, the use of portable toilets.
- The Council decided due to time constraints that they would delegate a working group to look into the changes in more detail. The following councillors volunteered to join the group: Cllrs C Fry, N Stansfield, S Dawson, J Walker and A Walker. The Chairman thanked both Cllrs Proudley and Dawson for all their help in producing the draft document.

12/35 Minutes of the Council meeting of 2nd February 2012

- 35.1 The Council approved and adopted the minutes dated the 2nd February 2012 and the Chairman signed them as a true record.
- 35.2 Matters arising
Cllr Fry asked if a copy of the NCALC committee meeting minutes when available can be circulated to all councillors.

Action: Parish Clerk

12/36 Chairman's Report

- 36.1 All relevant items will be covered in the meeting.
- 36.2 The Chairman reported that a letter of resignation had been received from Cllr L Guedes. The Parish Clerk was asked to write a letter accepting her resignation and thank her for the commitment, help and support that she has given the Council over the last few years. **Action: Parish Clerk**

It was noted that one vacancy had already been advertised.

12/37 Parish Clerk's Report

- 37.1 All relevant items will be covered in the meeting.

12/38 Finance

- 38.1 The Parish Council approved the expenditure listed in Appendix 2.
- 38.2 The Council received for information the recent audit report from our internal auditor. It was noted that there were no outstanding issues.
- 38.3 The Council received a grant request from Grange Park WI to help with the cost of hiring the hall within the community centre. The Council agreed to a £250 contribution. **Action: Parish Clerk**
- 38.4 The Council approved the expenditure associated with the installation of a CCTV camera in the internal store at the rear of the building at Foxfields (£450.00). Expenditure of £110.00 has also been approved to supply and install a compatible router for remote connection and cleaning of the existing cameras.

12/39 Planning, Highways and Transportation

- 39.1 The Parish Council considered the following applications:

S/2012/0176/MAF

Location: Lark Lane Allotments, Lark Lane, Grange Park

Proposal: Vehicular Access

Case Officer: Kym Wilson

Observations: The Parish Council fully support the above application

Continued.....

S/2012/0142/FUL

Location: Sports and Recreation Pavilion off Foxfields Way, Grange Park
Proposal: Variation of condition 4 of planning permission S/2007/1574/P and S/2009/0555/P to alter opening hours from 8am to 10pm to 8am to midnight
Case Officer: David Morren
Observations: The Parish Council fully support the above application

S/2012/0177/MAF

Location: Land between Quinton Road and Lark Lane, Grange Park
Proposal: Change of use from meadowlands to agricultural allotments (retrospective)
Case Officer: Kym Wilson
Observations: The Parish Council fully support the above application

S/2012/0209/FUL

Location: Foxfields Sports and Recreation Pavilion, Grange Park
Proposal: Single pole double light floodlight on pavilion side of sports pitch (retrospective)
Case Officer: David Morren
Observations: The Parish Council fully support the above application

39.2 No planning refusals or approval decision notices were received.

12/40 Staffing

40.1 Nothing to report.

12/41 Grange Park Sports & Community Association (GPC&SA)

- 41.1 Cllr Smith informed the meeting on the following issues:
- An un-lagged pipe had burst at the Pavilion causing damage to the ceiling within the men's toilet area. This had also caused damage to the meeting room walls. Our insurance company had been informed and the appropriate paperwork sent. The builders that will be doing the works are 4frontinteriors from Grange Park.
- Action: Parish Clerk**

Cllrs J Proudley and S Allen left the meeting

- 40.2 The procedures for camping had already been discussed at the beginning of this meeting.
- 40.3 Cllr J Walker gave a verbal report on the following issues that took place at the GPC&SA meeting on 20th February 2012:
- Association budget has been approved in principle apart from the costing associated with the cricket square and football pitches. This will be discussed at the next meeting when further information on cost has been sought.
 - Discussion took place on usage of facilities over the summer school holidays and a special 50% reduced rate will be introduced. The Assistant Clerk will formulate posters and put something in the newsletter.
 - It was agreed that Cllr J Walker will scrutinise the association accounts in preparation for the end of year annual return.

12/41 Environment

- 41.1 Cllr Smith updated the council on the current issues with Contract4/5:
- The hedgerow at middle hedge is nearly finished and a lot of positive comments have been received from the general public regarding the works. The Council approved the expenditure and asked the Parish Clerk to pay the invoice.
 - It was noted that two quotes had been received to replace a small piece of wetpour at Wake Way Playpark. The Council considered the quotes and decided to go with R&G Landscapes at a cost of £215.00. The Clerk was asked to contact R&G to see if the works can be done prior to the Easter holidays.
- Action: Parish Clerk**

Continued.....

- 41.2 Cllr Fry updated the Council on the cleaning and removal of some equipment to make more storage within the main cupboard in the community centre. The pool table and ice hockey table were removed as they were broken. A few activities have been booked over the next few weeks: Pizza making, a litter pick on the 12th April 2012 in partnership with the residents of Richmond Homes.
- 41.3 Cllr J Walker informed the meeting that all planning applications have been submitted for the allotment site and they were currently out for consultation. It was also noted that the application for the vehicular access will not be granted in its present form as the drawings need yet more detail. A meeting was attended this morning with the Planning Officer at SNC who identified what is required to progress this application.
- 41.4 Cllr J Walker updated the Council that the environment agency had started work on the brook today. They will be removing urban debris, overhanging branches and a considerable amount of fly tipping items. This work will continue over the next 2-3 days.
- 41.5 Cllr J Walker informed the Council that a meeting had taken place with SNC Planning Officer and NCC Highways regarding the moving of the existing entrance gate at Foxfields to the property boundary line incorporating the turning circle. It was agreed that as this formed part of the highway and the turning circle is used for heavy vehicles to turn around (i.e. refuse, delivery vans) they would not approve any submitted request. The Parish Council agreed not to pursue this request.

It was noted that the above issue was as a result of a Police notice informing us that there were anti-social behaviour issues at this point within Foxfield Way. The Parish Clerk was asked to speak to our PCSO informing her of the above decision and to see if we can pursue some form of signs highlighting to drivers to be mindful of residents and that loud music and ASB will not be tolerated.

- 41.6 The Parish Clerk was asked to speak to our Highways liaison Officer regarding the street lights at Bus stops within Saxon Avenue. The Council members felt that the bus stops in question back onto current waste-land and whilst not a residential area could be dangerous to people who want to use the bus route. The areas are so dark that people waiting at these stops could be a potential target for crime.

The Parish Clerk was also asked to mention the overhanging of bushes along the roadside at above area.

Action: Parish Clerk

12/42

Communication

- 42.1 Cllr Fry reported that the Assistant Clerk is currently working on the newsletter and it is anticipated that it will be circulated in the latter part of this month (March). The Parish Clerk was asked to speak to Martyn Fearn, Website Manager, to see if we could update minor items. **Action: Parish Clerk**

The Parish Council also expressed concern about the number of shops that have given up their lease at the District Centre over the last few days. The Parish Clerk was asked to write to the land management company asking for an update report.

The Parish Clerk was asked if she could find out whether a facebook page was created for the parish that it will be recognised in our communication portfolio for Quality Status.

- 42.2 It was noted that a great deal of time and commitment has already been put into organising the QE2 diamond Jubilee. The following issues were discussed:

- Cllr Davies reported that he had been able to secure a band at a reduced cost of £230.
- Raffle prize request letters need to be circulated
- Cllr A Walker is in discussion with a tethered balloon company
- Cllr Fry will organise cupcakes and bouncy castle

It was agreed to hold another informal meeting to discuss progress sometime in April. Cllr Davies will inform members of the date and venue.

Action: Cllr Davies

- 42.3 Cllr Fry informed the Council that she would be willing to submit regular reports to the Northampton Chronicle & Echo which will be included in the articles for 'Down your Way'. **Action: Cllr Fry**

12/43

Correspondence

- 43.1 A letter of thanks had been received from Richmond Homes, Grange Park for the installation of a bench at Grange valley Greenway. The bench and its installation had been donated by a local resident.

Continued

Public Question: Just before the meeting had concluded a local resident had rushed from work in order to attend and address the council on the issue of the infilling of Millers Ditch and the potential problem with his boundary fence. The Council agreed that they would contact Taylor Wimpey to start a dialogue and see what measures that can do to try and resolve the issues.

12/44 Date of the Next Meeting

- 44.1 The next meeting of the Council will be held on Thursday 5th April 2012 at 7.30pm and will be held at the Community Centre.
- 44.2 Agenda items received for the next meeting:
Number of baby swings at Playparks within the parish

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.22pm