

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 3rd SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, GRANGE PARK.

Present: Cllrs M Smith (Ch.), S Dawson (Vc.) S Ash, D Harris, J Davis ,A Walker, S Allen, K Clarke, N Stansfield , A Walker and S Clifford .

Attending: Mrs T Sampson (Parish Clerk).

15/114 Public Questions

114.1 Barry Hull attended the meeting from Wootton Bowls Club and discussed the following issues:

- they would like to install another summer house within the border of the Bowling Green located at the rear of the Community Centre. It will be to be used as a ladies changing room (Billyoh 5000 Sunroom cost £800). If this proposal is agreed it will relinquish the space that is currently being used within the Community Centre. The Parish Council have no issues with this proposal but want to seek further clarification on planning legislation and who would be funding the project. The Parish Clerk was asked to seek clarification.

Action: Parish Clerk

- It was agreed that we would remove the gates at the bottom of the steps to the Bowling Green and relocate them at the top in order to stop all the users/children of the Cafe/Bar running up and down them.

Action: Parish Clerk

- The Parish Council agreed that they would cut the Laurel bushes around the perimeter of the Bowling Green.

Action: Parish Clerk

114.2 PCSO Charlotte Whitehead attended the meeting and informed all Councillors that the Ward Crime Update for the summer will be circulated in the next couple of days. The following issues were discussed briefly:

- Thefts of cycles - Charlotte will organise a day when the Police will be in Grange Park and able to put security codes/markings on individual bikes .
- The Police Commissioner is scheduled to visit Grange Park on Friday 4th September and all Councillors are invited to meet him at the Parish Office at 12.45pm to discuss any issues affecting Grange Park
- Proposed surgery dates which are schedule to take place in the café bar area (these have been advertised on the website www.grangeparkpc.org)

15/115 County/District Councillors Report

115.1 County Councillor Michael Clarke updated us on the following:

- Good News: Superfast Broadband infrastructure installation is ahead of schedule and will be within Grange Park by Christmas 2015. Leaflets were circulated to all Councillors and the Parish Clerk was given some to display in the Community Centre Café/Bar.
- All news updates from Northampton County Council can be found on <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/news/pages/newshome.aspx>
- The County Council are working towards saving money but still trying to protect front line services.

115.2 The following report was received from District Councillors Adil Sadygov and Simon Clifford :

August has been a quiet month. Many people were difficult to get hold of and some things came to a standstill due to officers' and managers' holidays.

COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2015-2016

At the start of August we have discussed the new Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2015-2016, the Cabinet will have it's final say on Monday, the 14th of September, but the Budget Committee has recommended no changes to be made to the 2016-17 CTRS. Due to the Welfare Reforms and Reduced Budget Council has to make some savings of it's own. It was anticipated that for 2015-2016 the reduced level of support for working age customers would offer a reduction in expenditure of £125,157.

Meaning that now residents will have to pay at least 8.5% of their total Council Tax bill in full by themselves. There are 1,417 affected households in South Northamptonshire and for those who are struggling to meet the payments there is still an "Exceptional Hardship" fund available.

Throughout Northamptonshire, we are and Corby are the most generous in pay outs and discounts.

This is not the fourth year of CTRS, and it is not a benefit, it is classified as a discount. I would assume the Parish Council has a clear understanding of its effect on Parish Tax Base?

DEVELOPMENT/ BUSINESS GROWTH

The good news is we have been included into SNC performance plan report as a Prime Example of Growth Delivery and efficient Planning Policy! In particular it states:

Significant commercial projects approved this quarter include: Two B8 distribution warehouses (465,000sqft) at Zone C, Grange Park

The bad news is, the new Guide has been published at the end of August and is now live on the Council Website.

It is called: Business Accommodation Guide. The purpose is to highlight the available premises to meet all business needs from start-ups and sole traders to established larger companies who are looking to move to new premises within the district.

Our Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Regeneration and Housing has said: "South Northants has excellent communication links, being located on the A43 and the M1 and M40 motorways".

It is all about growth and investment now and Grange Park in particular is included in the GUIDE! 4 existing locations are listed to attract new **businesses**.

- 1) Grange Park Basset Court,
- 2) Grange Park Court, Roman Way
- 3) Grange Park, Cheaney Drive
- 4) Grange Park, Sandy Way

This is to bring new groups in, eventually What it tells me: "expect possible further development heading our way!"

SPEEDING & INCONSIDERATE PARKING

Cllrs, you are aware of my experiences on Facebook with regards to parking around the estate.

Tracy and I had a meeting with Helen Howard from Highways on the 15th of July to discuss the issues of speeding and inconsiderate parking around the estate.

In brief: the only way we can physically stop people from parking are single/double yellow lines. The Highways view on it is that it does not solve the problem it pushes it somewhere else. But if we wish to do so then need to identify affected junctions and blind corners with safety issues. I have raised a question of whether imposing by-law will be applicable – NO, as High Way is a public right of way and it is not a Private Lane.

Helen has suggested to put up extra signs, such as "Children Crossing" or "Cycling" or "Pedestrians" warning in general.

I am currently part of Community Speedwatch group and I am going to liaise with Tracy over the details of setting up one of our own in Grange Park if you, my dear colleagues will be willing to support it and the most important – participate in it.

As CSWatch will strengthen our position in the eyes of Police and High Ways with regards to any future requests.

I believe we are also going to look into the "Respect Campaign" run both on the street and through media sources on behalf of Parish and District Councils.

- All updates/ current news can be found on <http://www.southnorthants.gov.uk/>

15/116

Apologies for Absence

116.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Parish Councillor Mike Aluko due to holiday commitments

15/117

Declaration of Members Interest

117.1 No Declarations of Interest were received.

Continued....

15/118 Minutes of the Council Meeting on the 2nd July 2015

- 118.1 The Council agreed and approved the minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated 2nd July 2015 and signed them as a true record after the following amendment:
Present at the meeting should include: Cllrs Nigel Stansfield and W Shakespeare
Item 97.2: should read: Proposed surgery dates which are scheduled to take place in the café/bar area (these have been advertised on the website www.grangeparkpc.org)
Item 98.1 penultimate sentence should read: Due to the Howdens Planning application being withdrawn then the proposals for any M1 junction 15 highway improvements will not progress at this time.

15/119 Chairman's Report

- 119.1 No report received as all matters are covered on the agenda
- 119.2 It was agreed that all electronic devices are permitted at Full Council meetings as long as they are being used on Parish matters .
- 119.3 The resignation of Cllr W Shakespeare was accepted. The Parish Clerk was asked to send her a letter thanking her for all the commitment she has given to the Parish Council over the last couple of years.

Action: Parish Clerk

15/120 Parish Clerk's Report

- 120.1 No report received as all matters are covered on the agenda
- 120.2 The Parish Clerk reported that she had sent all the information to the insurance company regarding an incident in the café/bar and as yet no response has been received. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk will update us at the next meeting in October

Action: Parish Clerk

15/121 Finance

- 121.1 The Parish Council approved the accounts that had been circulated at the meeting
- 121.2 The Parish Clerk reported that the External audit report from BDO (end of year March 31st) had been received and only one recommendation was raised which the Council noted. It was also noted that the Council would have a Finance Working Group meeting on Wednesday 23rd September at 7.30pm in the Parish Office . All issues will be reported back at the next meeting in October.

15/122 Planning, Highways and Transportation

- 122.1 The following planning applications were received and considered:

S/2015/1915/FUL

Location: 72 Wake Way, Grange Park
Proposal: Single Storey rear extension (Retrospective)
Observations: No comment

S/2015/1824/FUL

Location: 10 Foxfield Way, Grange Park
Proposal: Conversion of existing garage and loft to provide habitable accommodation
Observations: No comment

- 122.2 No approval/refusal planning decision notices were received.

- 122.3 The Parish Clerk reported that most of the inappropriate parking at Baines Way/Bridgemoor Way is caused by yellow lines being installed within Sandy Lane making those employees from HRG and Barratts park their vehicles within the Parish/or on grass verges etc. It was agreed that the Parish Council would organise a meeting with their employers to see if we can remove the parking restriction. The Parish Clerk was asked to organise this.

Action: Parish Clerk

Continued....

15/123

Community Centre, Foxfield & Bowling Green

- 123.1 It was noted how well the Summer Fest on Sunday 30th August was organised. The kindly donated raffle prizes were excellent and much appreciated. Due to the terrible weather the event was not as well attended as previous years. It was agreed to look at the format for next year and perhaps a change of date may be worth considering. It was agreed to have a Working Group Meeting to discuss all future events for 2015/16
- 123.2 It was noted that the EPOS system has now been installed in the café/bar area. There are some issues which the Parish Office are trying to resolve with the online training manager at EPOS direct . It was agreed that sales/stock reports will be tabled at each forthcoming Parish Council meeting for information.
- 123.3 Cllr S Dawson reported on the site visit that he attended with Weatherill regarding the installation of interior linings for the main hall at the Community Centre. The Parish Council felt that it may be worth considering as it would definitely transform the main hall into a more desirable function room and generate more bookings. It was agreed that Cllr S Dawson would obtain further information as follows:
- any videos on how to put it up and the end result
 - references from previous customers
 - contact a wedding planner to determine market demands
- 123.4 Cllr S Dawson reported that he had attended a meeting with Wootton/Grange Bowls Club/ Most of the issues have already been reported under 114.1 of these minutes. The following issues were also discussed:
- Signs to be put on the railings advising Parents that no children are allowed on the Bowling Green
 - 12 new members all from Grange Park have recently joined.
 - The Bowls Club are going to attend a youth club session to see if they can get any of them interested in joining the junior league

15/124

Administration & Staffing

- 124.1 No staffing issues to report.

15/125

Environment

- 125.1 It was noted that due to the summer recess we would arrange a meeting with Ken of R&G to discuss any outstanding issues . The Parish Council discussed the following:
- To get a pond expert in to give us some advice on the pond at Foxfield Country Park
 - Agreed that all hedgerows within the parish ownership be cut as per our schedule and no exception to be made for individual request.
 - To obtain an update on the landscaping for the new Zara Logistics site.
 - Agenda item for the next parish council meeting : Fires within the woodland areas

15/126

Communication

- 126.1 The Grange Park newsletter will be completed and circulated in October 2015.
- 126.2 Cllr Simon Clifford reported that he would circulate all the information on web software called 'Nation builder' and it will be discussed in more detail at our October meeting. **Action: Cllr S Clifford**
- 126.3 Due to time constraints in the Parish Council Meeting it was agreed that we would arrange a Working Group meeting to discuss future events. At this stage the only confirmed booking is Saturday 7th November 2105 – Firework Display at Foxfield Country Park. More details will follow in the Parish Newsletter.
- 126.4 It was reported that the 'End of School Party' was a great success and well attended . The Parish Clerk informed the Council that if we were going to continue with this event then we need more helpers on the day. It was agreed to discuss at the working group meeting as above.

15/127

Correspondence

- 127.1 No correspondence received.

15/128 Administration & Service Request

128.1 No request received.

15/129 Date of the Next Meeting

129.1 The Next Parish Council meeting will be held on the 1st October at 7.30pm in the small hall at the Community Centre.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 22.00hrs .

List of Actions

Minute Ref:	Action	By Whom
114.1	Clarification to be sought on planning and funding for a New changing room facility for the Bowls Club. Laurel bushes to be cut. Gates installed at the top of the steps leading to the Bowling Green	Parish Clerk
119.3	To send a letter of thanks to Cllr Wendy Shakespeare	Parish Clerk
120.2	To chase the Insurance Company regarding the incident in the café/bar	Parish Clerk
122.3	To organise a meeting with HRG and Barrats about inappropriate parking	Parish Clerk
126.2	To circulate information regarding the Nation builder website	Cllr S Clifford