

Minutes of Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held on Thursday 5 June 2008 at St Mark's Church & Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Blakeman, Fitzpatrick, Green, Hand, Holden, Houghton, McConnell, Ovenell, Rider, Royden and the Clerk. Angela Williamson of Bedfordshire County Council attended for item 5.

Apologies: Cllr Humphries, PC Dave Hawkey.

- | | <u>Action</u> |
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| 1 <u>Apologies</u>
Cllr Holden had sent apologies for lateness. The apologies for absence were accepted. | |
| 2 <u>Declaration of Interests in matters on the agenda</u>
None | |
| 3 <u>Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2008</u>
Resolved: to approve the minutes as a correct record of the meeting. | |
| 4 <u>Public Open Session</u>
Mr C Franklin raised the matters of excess rainwater run-off from the allotments into the back of his property and excess surface water on Brickhill Drive. It was confirmed that the PC would look into the matter of the excess rainwater. Mr Franklin also asked whether a bus shelter could be erected at the bus stop near the junction of Brickhill Drive and Curlew Crescent. It was agreed to canvass opinion in the next newsletter. | Clerk |
| 5 <u>Confident Communities</u>
Angela Williamson spoke on behalf of Bedfordshire County Council's Confident Communities Fund about the Bobby Van service for elderly and vulnerable residents of the parish, in particular about how to allocate the services purchased under the Confident Communities initiative. It was agreed to invite applications from residents through the September newsletter and on the PC notice boards. Councillors would also make recommendations of residents/geographical areas which would benefit from the service in consultation with the Community Beat Manager. Recommendations should be made with immediate effect as the work must be completed by the end of the calendar year. Individual names and addresses should be supplied to the Clerk in the first instance.

Cllr Holden joined the meeting. | All Councillors
Clerk
PC Hawkey |
| 6 <u>Police Report</u>
PC Hawkey was unable to attend the meeting due to other policing priorities. | |
| 7 <u>Post Office Working Group</u>
Cllr Green reported on the campaigning activities undertaken by the Post Office Working Group since the last meeting. A total of 197 letters and emails had been received and there were over 1500 signatures on the petition. Letters were being sent to signatories who had not sent in a letter or email. A breakdown of monies spent on the campaign was circulated (copy in minute book). Future activities were discussed including the possibility of a publicity event designed to coincide with the public consultation period.
Resolved: to allocate a further £1,000 to the Post Office Working Group's budget. (Actual expenditure would be approved in the usual way.) | |

- 8 **Footpaths Working Group**
The group had not met since the last meeting. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday 19th June 2008 at 1 pm at St Mark's Church Community Centre.
- 9 **Clerk's Report**
A report on the administration of Parish Council business since the 24 April had been circulated and was noted (copy in minute book).
Resolved: to re-appoint the same internal auditor for the financial year 2008-9.
Resolved: to write to the Deputy Head of Environment & Street Services at Bedford Borough Council to express concern that the job description and anticipated outcomes of the Street Ranger scheme in the parish had not been fully met and to discuss this prior to the commencement of the next post holder.
- 10 **Allotments**
A report on the management of Brickhill Allotments since 24 April had been circulated and was discussed and noted (copy in minute book).
Resolved: to increase allotment rents for the year beginning 1 October 2008 by 5%. Full rent would increase from £40 to £42 and concessionary rents would increase from £25 to £26.25.
An allotment tenants meeting would be held in the near future, date to be confirmed, Cllrs Hand and Green agreed to attend.
- 11 **Correspondence**
A list of correspondence received by the Parish Council since 24 April 2008 was circulated and a number of specific items were dealt with as follows:
1. Letter from Bedford Borough Council regarding removal of BT payphones.
Resolved: to object to removal of BP payphone at Carron Road but to suggest that the phone is restricted to outgoing calls only.
 2. Letter from Bedford Borough Council stating intention to resist registration of land at Waveney Avenue as village/town green.
Resolved: to pursue registration of the land as village green with the County Council.
 3. Consultation document from Bedford Borough Council on Issues and Options for the Allocations and Designations Plan of the Bedford Development Framework.
Resolved: to prepare a response to the consultation.
 4. Letter from Bedfordshire County Council regarding encroachment on to the public highway verge outside 118 Kimbolton Road
Resolved: to write to the County Council confirming that the PC has no objection to stopping up the land on which the wall has been built.
 5. Council noted the introduction of local assessment of allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct for Councillors with effect from 8 May 2008.
 6. Council noted an invitation to attend a seminar on 25 July 2008 on affordable village housing held by the Rural Housing Trust.
 7. Letter from Bedford Borough Council concerning quantity control of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences.
Resolved: that the Parish Council supports the limitation of issue of Hackney Carriage licences and would be in support of a reduction of the existing limit of 10 licences per year.

Cllrs
Blakeman,
Fitzpatrick,
Haughton,
Hand,
Seymour and
PC Hawkey

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk
Cllr Green
Cllr Hand

Clerk

Clerk

Cllr
Blakeman/
Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

12 Financial Matters

A financial report had been circulated before the meeting and the contents were noted.

1. **Resolved:** to approve the following accounts for payment:

Payee	Cheque No	Total	Description
LSN Media	254	£102.42	Newsletter distribution
A Southern	255	£49.47	Stationery/postage
Shaw & Sons	256	£63.20	Stationery
D Shephard, A Southern and HMRC	257, 258, 259	£2303.53	Salaries, tax and NIC
Bedford BC	260	£3,948.05	Election recharges June 06
St Marks	261	£319.00	Photocopying, hall hire, office hire
St Marks	263	£46.08	Photocopying
D Shephard	264	£78.75	Postage

It was noted that total funds held on 1 June 2008 were £65527.59 consisting of £27,463.05 in the current account and £38,064.54 in the reserve account. The cash book balance on this date was £64,920.40

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Approved by Chairman
3 July 2008

Dates of Next Meetings:

Planning Meetings 6.45 pm 3 July 2008, 7 pm 24 July 2008, 7 pm 14 August 2008

Parish Council Meetings 7.30 3 July 2008, 7.30 pm 4 September 2008