

Minutes of a meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held on Thursday 7 October 2010 at St Mark's Church & Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Fitzpatrick (Chairman), Buchanan, Chambers, Green, Laybourn, Ovenell, Rider, Royden, Wilkins, and Seymour. Four members of the public attended the meeting. The Clerk to the Council, Delia Shephard, was in attendance

Absent: Cllrs Blakeman, Marriott, Waterhouse,

	<u>Action</u>	
1	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Blakeman, Marriott and Waterhouse. Cllr Buchanan had sent apologies for his planned early departure from the meeting.</p> <p>It was resolved: to accept the apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interest in items on the agenda None</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting It was resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2 September 2010 as a correct record with the addition of an extra word "Roadshow" following the words "Neighbourhood Watch" in item 5 (Police Report).</p>	
4	<p>Public Open Session <i>Residents of Falcon Avenue had attended the meeting to reiterate their concerns about the recently introduced No 10 bus service. In particular concerns about safety as the bus manoeuvred around parked vehicles were causing disquiet. It was noted that the bus was mounting the kerb and damaging grass verges. The Clerk confirmed that a residents meeting had been scheduled with Stagecoach and Bedford Borough Council on 1 November 2010 at 7.30 pm at St Mark's Community Centre which would be publicised in the parish. It was also noted that lamp-post no 41 on Falcon Avenue had not been illuminated for over two weeks although the fault had been reported.</i></p> <p><i>Cllr Royden confirmed that he had met with the Mayor and Stagecoach and asked for the No 10 service to run down Dove Road instead of Falcon Avenue and Stagecoach had agreed to look at this possibility again. Cllr Royden noted that so far the bus service was not being well used; most passengers came from Larkway and not Woodlands, there was a problem with the bus penetrating into the heart of the Woodlands Park estate as the roads were not yet adopted.</i></p>	
5	<p>Police Matters PC Dave Hawkey had sent his apologies for not attending the meeting but had submitted crime figures and a written report for information. It was noted that there had been an increase in violent crime which was due to domestic violence situations in the parish, all other crime was showing a downward trend. Brickhill Priorities from the Brickhill Community Safety Forum were school parking, parking on grass verges (Bedford Borough initiatives) and ASB on Woodlands Estate. High visibility policing on Woodlands was on-going and there had been recent arrests for criminal damage and arson. The area was quiet at the time of writing the report. A Neighbourhood Watch Roadshow would be held on 11 October 2010 at St Mark's at 7.30 pm, guest speakers would include Peter Martin and the Fire Service. A mini roadshow in Woodlands may follow. The Brickhill Community Safety Forum would follow on 14 October 2010 at 7.30 pm at Brickhill</p>	

Baptist Church. PC Andre Tringham had commenced as an additional Officer across Brickhill and De Parys in anticipation of PC Hawkey's impending leave. PCSO Roberto Bonaforte was now working a new shift rota.

It was resolved: that a letter be written to PC Hawkey thanking him for his excellent service to the community over the last 5 years.

It was resolved: that a letter be written to Bedfordshire Police expressing the Parish Council's appreciation of PC Hawkey's excellent work and articulating the hope that policing in Brickhill would continue to the same high standard.

6 Financial Matters

A financial report had been circulated showing transactions against budget to the end of September and this was noted (copy in minute book). There were no accounts for approval at the time of the meeting.

7 Meeting Date

The Clerk had proposed that a meeting be held to discuss Brickhill Parish Council's priorities and action points for the forthcoming financial year so that a business plan could be agreed which would inform the imminent budgeting process.

It was resolved: that an informal meeting of councillors be held on Monday 18th October from 7 pm to 8.30 pm to discuss and prepare a plan for formal adoption at the November Parish Council Meeting.

All Councillors
Clerk

8 Website and Logo

The Clerk noted that the new website designed by Simon Edgar of NYS had been launched and initial feedback had been very positive. The site was still a work in progress and Councillors were encouraged to provide feedback and suggestions for improvement on an ongoing basis. It was agreed that amendments would be made to the Wikipedia information so that Brickhill Parish Council's policy on Woodlands Park was made clear. It was further agreed to change Parish Councillor personal email addressed to a contact form so as to minimise spam etc.

The new logo designed by Simon Edgar was discussed.

It was resolved: that the logo be approved and adopted by the Council with immediate effect.

Clerk

9 Special Area Charges Review

Cllr Green gave a verbal report on a meeting he had attended on behalf of the Parish Council on 5 October 2010 to discuss calculation and issues pertaining to the Special Area Charges levied by Bedford Borough Council on the residents of Brickhill. The calculation of these charges was due for review and the Bedford Borough Clerks' Champions Group and the Bedford Borough Partnership Parish and Town Council Network had been keen to explore the calculation of these charges in order to ensure there was no danger of double taxation. A further meeting was scheduled for 13 October 2010. It was agreed that the Clerk would attend this meeting which resulted in a change of her performance appraisal date from 13th October to 11th October at 7 pm (venue unchanged)..

It was resolved: that the Parish Council would continue to represent the interests of Brickhill residents at this and any subsequent meetings and, if necessary, would lobby the Executive of Bedford Borough Council for fair treatment on Special Area Charges.

10 Brickhill Sustainable Community Strategy

The Clerk had circulated a written report on the work of the Steering Group of Brickhill Sustainable Community Strategy Pilot which was noted. Attention was drawn to the excellent support from the community in delivering and collecting the recent community questionnaires and it was noted that over 1000 questionnaires had been returned which demonstrated a high level of community engagement and interest in the project.

It was resolved: to ask the Steering Group to put out a press release advertising the high response rate.

The Parish Council discussed the future of the Bird in Hand public house and its connection to the Brickhill Drive community shopping parade which had featured in many of the responses to the questionnaire.

It was resolved:

1. that the Parish Council would write to Charles Wells brewery to express its dismay at the potential closure of the pub and ask for a meeting to discuss community use of the building.
2. that the Parish Council write to the Save the Bird action group and inform them of this.
3. that the Parish Council write to the local GP surgeries to see if any of them were interested in pursuing use of the pub premises.

11 **Allotment Tenants' Meeting**

The minutes of the Allotment Tenants' Meeting held on 22 September 2010 had been circulated and were noted and discussed.

12 **Brickhill in Bloom**

A written report on the Parish Council's involvement in Brickhill in Bloom 2010 had been circulated and was noted and discussed.

It was resolved: to continue to support Brickhill in Bloom with the intention of submitting an entry in the urban community category for 2011 and to review Parish Council involvement in January 2011.

13 **Correspondence**

The following items of correspondence were noted:

1. Letter from Bedford Borough Council confirming adoption of Bedford High Street Supplementary Planning Document
2. Letter from Bedford Borough Council re Parish Tree Wardens

It was resolved: to seek a job description for Parish Tree Wardens from the borough Council.

3. Letter from Bedford Borough Council concerning Consultation on Statement of Licensing Policy

It was resolved: that Brickhill Parish Council would not respond to this consultation unless a councillor put forward a proposed response for full consideration prior to the November Parish Council meeting.

14 **Items for Information**

The Council was reminded of the following events:

1. Bulb Planting Event 9 October 2010 at Waveney Green 10 am to 12 noon (stout footwear required)
2. AGM of BATPC on Thursday 21 October 2010 (Parish Council has 3 votes to exercise, guest speaker of John Findlay OBE of NALC)
3. Clerk's Annual Performance Appraisal (now rearranged to 11 October 2010)
4. Meeting on 1 November 2010 to review issues connected with No 10 Stagecoach bus service between Bedford and Woodlands Park, all welcome

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Chairman
4 November 2010