

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held on Thursday 1 September 2011 at St Mark's Church & Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Blakeman, Chambers, Ovenell, Corinne Royden, Charles Royden, Waterhouse & Wilkins, 34 members of the public and the Assistant Clerk were in attendance.

Absent: Cllr Rider, Cllr Josephs, Cllr Hall and Cllr Darbon

		<u>Action</u>
1	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Josephs (convalescing), Cllr Rider, (Borough hall meeting) , Cllr Hall (ill), Cllr Darbon (work) It was resolved: to accept the apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p><u>Declarations of acceptance of interest in items on the agenda</u> Cllr Chambers declared a personal interest in matters pertaining to Item 5 because of his association with family members who own Chambers newsagents on Brickhill Drive shopping parade.</p>	
3	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u> It was resolved: to approve the minutes for Thursday 9th July as a true record of the meeting.</p>	Clerk
4	<p><u>Public Open Session</u> There were a large number of members of the public who wished to discuss the proposals for the new supermarket on Brickhill Drive. Cllr Fitzpatrick proposed that the meeting moved to Item 5 so that any new information could be shared with the residents. Then the meeting would move back into public questions see item 5 below.</p>	
5	<p><u>To receive an update on the proposals for the new supermarket on Brickhill Drive</u> At the previous public meeting it was unclear whether Charles Wells had actually leased the Bird in Hand property. Since then the Parish Council have received confirmation that a 20 year lease has been signed with Tesco and that planning permission would not be required as the building had previously sold alcohol and food on the premises. Planning permission would only be required for installation of signage, ATM cash machines, installation of refrigeration units etc. Borough councillors Rider and Royden have arranged a meeting with Tesco and Charles Wells to ascertain what products Tesco are intending to stock at this new store. The meeting moved back into Public Open Session and members of the public were invited to ask questions.</p> <p><u>Public Open Session</u> Several members of the public asked questions relating to the new supermarket and they included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could the no 6 bus be re-routed via Sainsburys on Clapham Road as an alternative to the proposed Tesco store? Cllr Royden responded by saying that the local bus services have only just been reviewed in the last month but that he would raise this idea at his next meeting with Stagecoach. • There are several mature trees surrounding the Bird in Hand property could the parish council confirm if TPO orders have been requested for these? Borough Councillor Royden confirmed that this has been raised with the tree officer at 	

	<p>Borough Hall.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern regarding increased car parking and possible congestion along Brickhill Drive and Kestrel Road in particular during the morning and afternoon school rush hour. Clarification was sought regarding the car parking provision adjacent to the shopping parade. Was this for the sole use of customers using the shops and if so would this be interpreted for users of the new Tesco store? • Could the parish council send a representative to the meeting between the Borough Councillors and Tesco and Charles Wells? How will feedback from this meeting be given to members of the public? Questions were also raised regarding the petition currently being circulated – how many signatories were there to date, who will receive this (residents were concerned that these details would be passed to Tesco). Borough Councillor Royden responded by saying that he would feed back the information from the meeting. The petition would not be handed over to Tesco and the details of the signatories would not be circulated. There were approximately 800 signatories to date. It was suggested that the petition is presented to the Borough where it would be brought before the Executive committee. • Mr Chambers (owner of Chambers newsagent) asked for a Parish Poll to be called. Cllr Fitzpatrick outlined the procedure for calling a parish poll which must be called at a parish meeting (and is not a parish council meeting). The approximate cost of a poll would be £2.5-3K according to an estimate provided by Bedford Borough Council, this equates to approximately £1.00 per Band D property. Polling cards are not issues, postal/proxy votes are not available and voting takes place between 4pm and 9pm. <p>It was resolved to support members of the public in organising a parish meeting which would allow for a parish poll to be called and the precise wording of the questions for the poll to be determined. The proposed date was Friday 9 September to be held at St Mark's Church Community Centre – Cllr Royden to arrange for a meeting room to be available.</p> <p>The Public Open session finished and there was a short break whilst members of the public left the room.</p>	Cllr Royden
6	<p><u>To consider and comment on correspondence received from residents to introduce verge parking restrictions along Tyne Crescent and Kimbolton Road</u></p> <p>The clerk had received two emails from residents regarding verge parking on these roads in the parish. In addition Brian Marsh (chairman) of the Community Safety Forum had also asked for the parish council to consider this item. There followed a brief discussion regarding this item and Borough Councillor Royden reported that the use of the Borough enforcement van has been very effective in Linnet Way. In addition if the Parish Council did support enforcement by the Borough for any roads in the parish then there are strict criteria that must first be met as part of the consultation by the Borough and that this would not be actioned unless residents have suitable off road parking available. It was proposed that the parish council adopt a policy regarding verge parking and this was supported by all members of the council. Resolved: the Parish Council are opposed to parking on verges and would support enforcement measures where appropriate by the Highways Authority. Cllr Royden would respond to the emails received from local residents on this issue and the clerk would feedback to the community safety forum.</p>	Cllr Royden Clerk
7	<p><u>To consider a residents request for a memorial bench on Waveney Green</u></p> <p>The Clerk had received a request from Mrs Edwards to have a bench on Waveney Green in memory of her husband. Approximate costings had been obtained by the Clerk and</p>	

	<p>advice sought from the Borough council who offer memorial benches in nearby green spaces ie Mowsbury and Bedford Park. It was resolved: to approve the request from Mrs Edwards. The parish council would purchase the bench and plaque and charge a cost for the upkeep of the bench over the next 15 years. This was in line with Borough policy and would ensure the upkeep, purchase cost and installation costs are paid for by Mrs Edwards. The Clerk would write to Mrs Edwards to advise her of the parish councils' decision.</p>	Clerk
8	<p><u>To elect members to represent the Parish Council on the following thematic groups:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Environment and Climate Change (ii) Safer Communities (iii) Aspiring, Healthy (iv) Inclusive & Thriving <p>At the last Steering group meeting the plan had been broken into several key areas and it was suggested that a project leader would be responsible for each category who in turn would feed back to the parish Council. Members of the council were asked if they would be willing to lead or become involved in any of the four groups. It was resolved: Cllr Wilkins and Blakeman to represent the parish council in the Environment and Climate Change group but would not be willing to project manage/chair the group. Cllr Fitzpatrick to join the Aspiring, Healthy and Inclusive & Thriving groups. It was noted that several councillors were unable to attend the parish council meeting and that the Clerk should contact them to ascertain if anyone would be willing to join any of the groups.</p>	Clerk
9	<p><u>To consider changes to the current parish newsletter template</u></p> <p>A report had been circulated to all members of the parish council with 3 possible options to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 page full colour on 115 gloss paper = £675 8 page full colour on 80gsm bond paper = £645 8page front and back pages printed in colour = £625 <p>PC has a budget of £450 per issue however due to increased print costs future editions will cost £465.00. Our current format is 4 pages black and white with an A4 sheet (inserted) which is used by the Police Authority. The current format does not allow for any increase in the number of advertisers and we pay a high premium for including a separate A4 insert. There followed a short discussion and it was resolved to trial the 8 page full colour on bond paper for the Christmas edition. If this was successful then this could be continued for further editions and provision made in next year's budget and precept planning.</p>	
10	<p><u>To receive an update from Cllr Blakeman regarding changes to local bus services</u> (Copy of report included in minute file). In addition it was noted that Stagecoach were meeting with the Developers at the Woodlands Estate over the following week to discuss the extension of Service No 6 into the estate now that the roads involved have had their top surfaces completed.</p>	
11	<p><u>Financial Matters:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) <u>A financial report was given detailing expenditure against budget up to 26 August 2011.</u> There were no cheques for payment at this meeting. Actual against budget figures were distributed to show payments made since last PC meeting in July relating to Gathering on the Green and staff salaries. Councillors requested that Parish Council reserves are included on the monthly accounts so that members are clear how much is held in Designated Reserves 	Clerk

	<p>and what our unspecified reserves are.</p> <p>ii) <u>To approve pension provision arrangements for the Clerk and the Assistant Clerk</u> A detailed report had been circulated to all members of the council at the July parish council meeting. This had also been discussed further by the finance advisory group and queries regarding liability for the funds projected shortfall were addressed. Cllr Charles Royden proposed that the parish council join the LG Pension Scheme with immediate effect and this proposal was seconded by Cllr Wilkins. The resolution was passed with a majority vote and one abstention.</p> <p>iii) <u>To approve changes to the community grant criteria</u> It was resolved to adopt the amendments with immediate effect.</p> <p>iv) <u>To consider a request for a community grant from the 3rd Brickhill Guides group for three members to attend the National Jamboree in Serbia.</u> It was resolved not to approve the grant as the annual budget for community grants had already been spent for the financial year and the organisation had already been awarded £500 earlier this year.</p>	Clerk
12	<p><u>Report from Borough Councillors Charles Royden & Wendy Rider</u> A report had been circulated prior to the meeting from Borough councillors Charles Royden and Wendy Rider (copy in minute file). Cllr Royden urged all members to fill in the survey relating to policing in Brickhill. In relation to this Cllr Blakeman raised concern re speeding particularly along Avon Drive and the fact that whilst motorists are receiving a caution, tickets are not being issued. Cllr Wilkins thanked the Borough Councillors for producing the report in advance and for their continued work on behalf of the Parish residents.</p>	
13	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 6th October 7:30pm at St Mark's Church Community Centre, Calder Rise, MK41 7UY</p>	

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Approved by Chairman
6 October 2011