



Minutes of the Meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held on Thursday 5th February 2015 at St Mark's Church & Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford commencing at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Fitzpatrick, Blakeman, Rider, Wilkins, Chrusciak, Ward, two members of the public and the Clerk, Sue Bottoms were in attendance.

Absent: Cllrs Waterhouse, Reeve, Crofts, Charles Royden and Corinne Royden.

1.	<p>Apologies for Absence: Cllrs Waterhouse, Reeve, Crofts, Charles Royden and Corinne Royden sent their apologies. It was resolved to accept these.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of interest in items on the agenda</p> <p>i) <u>To receive written requests for a dispensation:</u> none received.</p> <p>ii) <u>To consider any requests for a dispensation:</u> none received.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting:</p> <p>It was resolved: to approve the minutes of 8th January 2015 as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
4.	<p>Public Open Session (10 mins): Questions were raised by the two members of the public regarding the extent of consultation with regards the spending of the monies held by Ravensden on behalf of Woodlands Park. They were concerned that Woodlands Park had not been fully consulted with and the projects proposed by the Woodlands Park Working Group were not representative.</p> <p>They asked that decisions regarding the spending of these monies be delayed until the formation of the new Brickhill Parish Council after the elections in May, when there would be two councillors specifically representing the view of Woodlands Park.</p>	
5.	<p>Replacement Member for the A&OS Committee (to allow group to be quorate):</p> <p>It was resolved that Cllr Ward would be appointed. The Allotments Officer would be asked to forward meeting dates and necessary paperwork.</p>	Allotments Officer

6.	<p><u>To receive an update and agree action regarding the proposal for Brickhill Parish Council to fund the installation of solar panels on the Brickhill Community Centre:</u></p> <p>Quotations had been received from Ardenham Energy (£13,758), Aran Services Ltd (£12,593) and Solar Partners (£16,890). The Management Committee of Brickhill Community Centre would be contributing £1,500.</p> <p>Having considered the specifications and systems output, it was resolved to accept the quotation from Solar Partners subject to permission being granted by Bedford Borough Council and a satisfactory report from a structural surveyor.</p>	Clerk
7.	<p><u>To receive an update regarding the Woodlands Park Working Group:</u> Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that the Working Group had met for the third time on the 4th February. At that meeting, the suggestions which had been received by the Parish Council were grouped into three and the Working Group recommended that the following be received by the Parish Council.</p> <p>Firstly, some suggestions including noticeboards (see 8 below) and a community orchard/wildflower area should be funded by the Parish Council.</p> <p>Secondly, some suggestions could be funded from the £20,117.50 including benches, picnic benches, dog/litter bins, interpretation signs, path markers (£6,386) and kissing gates allowing access through the metal fencing surrounding the estate into the Country Park (£2,400).</p> <p>Other suggestions e.g. improvements to the play areas, a MUGA, CCTV cameras and a green gym could possibly receive some seed monies from the balance with the remainder of the monies coming from grants etc.</p> <p>The idea of a community centre was put to one side for now.</p> <p>The Parish Council resolved to receive the recommendations of the Working Group. There would be no firm decision to spend any of the Ravensden money, which will not be available until April 2015; the council also recognised the need for the new councillors from Woodlands Park to be involved in the decision making process and the need to allow residents to comment on the proposals before money is spent.</p> <p>The details regarding benches, kissing gates etc and locations would be considered at a future meeting once details had been formalised and agreed.</p> <p>The Clerk to contact Cllr Stephen Moon regarding those suggestions received which concerned highways. She would also contact the Borough Council about the possibility of a community orchard and wildflower area.</p>	Clerk

8.	<p><u>To consider and agree action regarding the options for the purchase of noticeboards for Woodlands Park and sites for their location:</u></p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick reported that the Woodlands Park Working Group had suggested possible locations for two boards. Two locations had been agreed; the first one near the Owl Park on Ashmead Road and the other also in Ashmead Road near Westrope Way. The suggestion was to have boards with an open section to allow the public to place notices.</p> <p>Different styles of boards were being discussed with Metrosigns. £3,000 had been placed in the 2015-16 budget but the intention would be to try to purchase before the end of March. The Clerk would make contact with the Borough Council to get permission to install.</p>	Clerk
9.	<p><u>To receive an update and agree any further action regarding the replacement of the main window in the Brickhill Community Centre and re-laying of parts of the paved area:</u></p> <p>Two quotes have been received for the paving (£1183 from local builders Gadsby and Fay) and £1500 from Nars Builders. Two quotes had also been received for replacing the large window (£4,015 from Addison Ousebank) and £2,646 from Prestige Glazing.</p> <p>It was resolved to accept the quote from Gadsby and Fay for the paved area and from Addison Ousebank for the replacement window. The Clerk to send the necessary details to the Borough Council for formal approval prior to accepting the quotations.</p>	Clerk
10.	<p><u>To receive an update on the latest version of the proposed Local Council Award Scheme:</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has now been registered for the new scheme at Foundation Level. This is valid until Jan 2015. A decision would need to be made by November 2015 if the Parish Council wanted to apply for future accreditation.</p>	
11.	<p><u>To receive an update from Will Sparrow regarding youth project in the Parish:</u></p> <p>The Phase 2 report was considered. There was some concern about the numbers involved and the fact that they were all males.</p> <p>It was resolved that the Clerk contact Will Sparrow to establish costs involved so far and inform him that the monies available for the suggested Easter sport sessions for the participants would need to come from the balances remaining from the £3,000.</p> <p>The Parish Council would like to publicise the work being done by this project.</p>	Clerk

12.	<p><u>To receive an update/agree action regarding publication of a statement regarding the discretionary aspects of the LGPS rules and regulations:</u></p> <p>It was resolved to keep the statement as it currently is but add a note to say that the Parish Council do not have access to the details of the Internal Disputes Resolution Procedure (IDRP).</p>	Clerk
13.	<p><u>To receive a written report from the Borough Councillors:</u></p> <p>There is a lot of investment by the Council in Brickhill at the moment. We are delighted that Brickhill Lower School has now joined Scott Lower in receiving their new classroom buildings. New trees are being planted, junction improvements and road resurfacing, verge protection is being installed and the 20mph zone is being extended. Over 80% of people were in favour of the 20mph zone extension, those who were not as keen expressed concern that it might not affect real speeds. We have set funds aside to introduce 3 vehicle activated speed signs in Tyne Crescent and the extended zone. These have been shown to help slow traffic and we know that across the country these zones have reduced speed over time. Five people are killed every day on our roads. Imagine if that happened on trains; there would be a public outcry. We need to take action and these zones do help save lives.</p> <p>We have just announced that council tax will be frozen this year for the fifth year running in Bedford. Frontline services will still be protected with no closures of things like libraries, leisure centres or children's centres. Bus services will continue to be subsidised and alongside £41m investment for schools there will be no reduction in the road budget and an extra 1m for footpath works. This comes against the backdrop of an eye watering £82m government cut, over a third, to our budget every year.</p> <p>In spite of difficult economic times Bedford continues to buck the trend with considerable economic growth. The by pass is underway and the new bus station opens at the end of February. The new seven screen cinema will soon be under construction, with a public riverside square, shops, restaurants, hotel and a new pedestrian and cycling bridge.</p> <p>National chains like Wagamama are taking 20 year leases, showing their confidence in the future for Bedford. Around town derelict buildings are being restored like Porter Blacks, and the old Ford garage on St Peter's. In St Paul's Square the refurbished buildings are almost complete, the timbers show these to have been built in the medieval period around 1460. Why not take a drive into town this weekend to see them, and enjoy free parking !</p> <p>Following questions asked by Cllr Chrusciak regarding what plans were in place to minimise the impact on Brickhill of the construction of the current stage of the by pass, Cllr Rider agreed to arrange for an appropriate official from the Borough Council to attend a future</p>	Cllr Rider

meeting of the Parish Council to answer this.

The Borough Councillors were thanked for their report.

14. **Financial Matters:**

i) To approve bank reconciliations and any accounts for payment:

Payee Name	Cheque Ref	Amount Paid	Transaction Detail
iThink Telecom	DD	£27	Telephone Charges
Bedford Borough Council	DD	£3,083	Salaries Jan
British Telecom	DD	£83	Broadband charges
iThink Telecom	DD	£14	Recovery of Charges
Signs Express	987	£91	Dog Fouling signs (bands)
Brickhill Community Centre	988	£565	Quarterly Rental
Petra Wescott	989	£6	Key Deposit Refund
PSB Plumbing and Heating	990	£320	Replacement Thermostats
ICO	991	£35	Data Protection Register
St Marks	992	£32	Hall Hire
	Total Payments	4,228.61	

It was resolved to approve the bank reconciliations and to agree these payments.

15.	<u>Date of Next Meeting:</u> Thursday 5 th March 2015 at 7:30pm at St Mark's Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise, MK41 7UY.	
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Approved by Chairman
5th March 2015