

Minutes of a meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held on Thursday 4 March 2010 at St Mark's Church & Community Centre, Calder Rise, Bedford commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs Fitzpatrick (Chairman), Blakeman, Buchanan, Green, Laybourn, Ovenell, Seymour, Waterhouse, and Wilkins. No members of the public attended. The Clerk to the Council, Delia Shephard, was in attendance as were PC Dave Hawkey (for item 6), Tim Gannon, Brickhill Baptist Church (for item 5) and Sue Miller, Taste Real Food Bedford (for item 7).

Apologies: Cllrs Chambers, Marriott, Rider and Royden.

	<u>Apologies for absence</u> The apologies for absence were accepted.	<u>Action</u>
2	<u>Declaration of Interests in matters on the agenda</u> Cllr Waterhouse declared a personal interest in all matters pertaining to the allotments because of his allotment tenancy.	
3	<u>Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2010</u> It was resolved: to approve the minutes as a correct record.	
4	<u>Public Open Session</u> No members of the public attended.	
5	<u>Grant Application</u> The Parish Council discussed an application for a grant of £500 made by Brickhill Baptist Church Youth Group to support a weekly open access 5-a-side football tournament for middle/upper school young people for 8 weeks in May/June. Tournaments would take place on Waveney Green on Tuesdays from 4.30 pm onwards. The total cost of the project was £1000 and additional funding and administrative/supervisory support would be provided from Play.Live via Bedford Borough Council and Brickhill Baptist Church. It was resolved: to make a community grant of £500 to this project using the Parish Council's powers under S19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.	Clerk
6	<u>Police Matters</u> P D Dave Hawkey provided a report on recent operations to address parking problems outside the local lower schools, a further "school swoop" was planned. There had been recent problems with a criminal damage along Kimbolton Road and in Brickhill itself and Woodlands Park. There were also concerns about anti-social behaviour from year 9 pupils at St Thomas More School. All these matters were being addressed by the Safer Neighbourhood Team. The next meeting of the Community Safety Forum was scheduled for Thursday 15 April at 7.30 pm at Sir William Harpur House and would be the AGM.	
7	<u>Taste Real Food Bedford</u> Sue Miller gave a short presentation on the work of Taste Real Food UK a new not-for-profit association which covers the whole of the UK and which aims to inspire and educate people about real food, biodiversity and sustainable, local food production and consumption. The work of Taste Real Food Bedford was described in particular the projects based at Brickhill Allotments and Parkwood Community Orchard celebrating the legacy of horticulturist Thomas Laxton and working with local schools to help children understand the seasonal nature of food production. This project involves collaboration from students living at the bpha Foyer in Bedford. The Parish Council was asked to consider making a financial contribution to the work of TRFB either by waiving the allotment rent on the TRFB	

	<p>plot at Brickhill, and/or by becoming a corporate member of TRF UK, and/or by subsidising the rent of the Scout Hut for the seasonal school project.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Sue for the informative presentation and her valuable work in Brickhill and suggested that she liaise with the Clerk to make a formal application for grant funding.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>8</p>	<p><u>Brickhill Parish Council Allotment Strategy 2010-15</u> The Allotments Working Group had prepared and circulated to the Council an Allotment Strategy for 2010-2015. This was discussed at some length. The Parish Council noted that adoption of the strategy would include the following implications:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In future new tenants would only be permitted to have a tenancy on one plot. Existing tenants would be allowed to retain existing tenancies on multiple plots but no further plots would be allocated in this way. 2. Existing tenants who wished to retain existing multiple plots would only be entitled to a concessionary rent on a maximum of one plot (with effect from 1 October 2010). 3. One full sized plot would be marked out into two half plots and new tenants would be offered the option of a half plot (whilst these were available). 4. In future residents of Brickhill would be given priority on the waiting list - plots would be allocated to non-Brickhill residents only if there were no parishioners on the waiting list. <p>It was resolved: to adopt and publish the Allotment Strategy.</p> <p>(Cllr Buchanan joined the meeting.)</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><u>In Bloom</u> At the Chairman's request the Clerk had prepared and circulated a briefing paper for all councillors on the Neighbourhood Award scheme of the RHS "In Bloom" Awards. The merits and practical implications of Brickhill Parish Council co-ordinating a Brickhill entry to this scheme were discussed and concern was expressed about the concomitant workload. It was noted that any entry must be community led.</p> <p>It was resolved: to organise a public meeting in the parish to explore the practicality of setting up an In Bloom action group for Brickhill. The action group (if formed) would determine when an entry could be registered with the In Bloom scheme.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>10</p>	<p><u>Parking at Avon Drive Shops</u> A proposal had been put forward that the PC should ask Bedford Borough Council to consider imposing waiting time limits on the parking facilities at Avon Drive shops. The proposal had been prompted by concerns from local shop-keepers and residents that the spaces were dominated by "long stay" parking which affected access to the shops. It was suggested that users of Brickhill Baptist Church also dominated the parking when events were held at the Church. Several councillors were not in favour of the proposed restriction and noted that users of Brickhill Community Centre and residents also relied upon the parking at Avon Drive shops.</p> <p>It was resolved: to write to Bedford Borough Council alerting them to the current parking problems and requesting that they undertake consultation with the tenants of the shopping parade as it was felt important to preserve the commercial viability of their establishments.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>

Account and £54,000 in the 14 day Reserve Account.
The internal auditor had not attended to perform the audit as planned and an alternative date of 9 April 2010 had been scheduled for the audit work.
The following cheques were presented for authorisation to pay:

Cheque No	Payee	Details	Amount
100091	St Mark's Church	Hall hire and photocopying	£36.27
100092	Metrosigns	Replacement screen for noticeboard on Brickhill Drive	£88.13
100093	Open Spaces Soc	Subscription	£40.00
100094	Viking Direct	Stationery and stamps	£81.60
100095 & 6		Salaries (Feb)	£1796.28
100097	BAT&PC	POWB Training	£80.00
100099	St Marks	Office rental and hall hire	£202.75

It was resolved: to approve the accounts for payment.

15.2 A review of the effectiveness of the internal audit and internal controls of the council for the year 2009-2010 had been conducted and the review had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

It was resolved: to approve the review of the effectiveness of the internal audit and internal controls.

15.3 A risk assessment of the Council's current activities had been undertaken and a risk assessment document circulated in advance of the meeting.

It was resolved: to approve the risk assessment.

The Council discussed previous proposals to invest reserve funds in higher yielding investment vehicles. It was noted that the options for making such investments were constrained by legislation and there had been delays in deciding on the suitability of specific courses of action but a proposal would be brought to the next meeting.