

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

**Present:** Cllrs Fitzpatrick (Chairman), Blakeman, Buchanan, Chambers, Green, Marriott, Ovenell, Royden, Wilkins, Waterhouse and Seymour. Five members of the public attended the meeting. Mr Peter Lawrence of the NALC County Accreditation Panel attended for item 4. PC Andre Tringham of Bedfordshire Police was present for part of the meeting. Mr Gordon Pearsall of Bedfordshire Police attended to give a presentation and was present for part of the meeting. The Clerk to the Council, Delia Shephard, was in attendance

**Absent:** Cllrs Laybourn, Rider.

		<b><u>Action</u></b>
1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Rider and Laybourn. <b>It was resolved:</b> to accept the apologies for absence.	
2	<b>Declarations of interest in items on the agenda</b> Cllr Waterhouse declared a personal and prejudicial interest in matters pertaining to Brickhill Allotments because of his allotment tenancy. Cllr Green declared a personal interest in matters pertaining to the no 10 Bus route because of his residence in Larkway.	
3	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b> <b>It was resolved:</b> to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 7 October 2010 as a correct record.	
4	<b>Quality Parish Council Award</b> Mr Peter Lawrence, Chairman of the County Accreditation Panel for the Quality Parish and Town Council congratulated Brickhill Parish Council on having attained Quality status on 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2010. Mr Lawrence commented particularly on the quality of the portfolio of evidence prepared for the panel and on the Parish Council's success in attaining the award so soon after its inception. He noted that Brickhill joined only 17 Quality Councils in the County. The Chairman accepted the certificate on behalf of the Parish Council.	
5	<b>Public Open Session</b> A resident who lived off Tyne Crescent expressed concern about parking on the verges in Tyne Crescent despite the erection of No Parking signs in part of the road because the restriction was not being enforced and cars were parked dangerously. It was noted that similar signs were erected on Larkway and in Linnet Way. Cllr Royden confirmed that the Borough Council has obtained an enforcement vehicle which will travel to targeted areas and begin enforcement action wherever there are necessary restrictions.  A group of residents from Falcon Avenue expressed their views about the recent public open meeting organised by the Parish Council and asked for information on the latest developments. The key points raised by the residents included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concern that the meeting had been a "free for all" and had not concentrated on Falcon Avenue as they had expected and surprise at the numbers of people from elsewhere in the parish who attended</li><li>• Concern that the route should have been registered 56 days before operations began but the route had in fact only been registered 20 days before services began</li><li>• Concern that the buses are still not being used and no-one was using the stops in Falcon Avenue, residents were watching the buses and knew this</li></ul>	

to be true

- Concern that the existing bus route was still dangerous and all the problems with verge damage and safety of children remained.

The residents also provided the Parish Council with information from Advice Note TA 79/99 published Feb 1999 by the Highways Agency which contained information about the traffic capacity of urban roads and information from the Departments of Transport and CLG contained in the "Manual for Streets" particularly section 6.5.7 which concerns use of a residential street as a bus route which the Parish Council agreed to draw to the attention of Stagecoach and Bedford Borough Council. The Chairman of the Parish Council confirmed that deployment and management of bus services were not within the Parish Council's control and campaigning should be directed to Stagecoach and/or Bedford Borough Council although the Parish Council wished to be involved in representing the whole community and would be discussing action points at agenda item 8.

*(All members of the public then left the meeting.)*

## 6 **Police Matters**

PC Andre Tringham, who had taken over PC Dave Hawkey's role of SNT Officer for Brickhill, introduced himself to the Parish Council. PC Tringham had 13 years experience as a Police Officer, 10 in Northampton and 3 in Bedford; this was his second week in Brickhill. He had recently transferred into community policing after a time in CID and was enjoying getting to know the Brickhill community. PC Tringham reported that in October there were 25 recorded crimes in Brickhill, 5 were violence against a person, there were no dwelling house burglaries in October (despite the alarming figures quoted at the recent Neighbourhood Watch Roadshow) and there had only been 3 in September and 4 in August. PC Tringham explained that he was already attending Y10 and Y11 assemblies at St Thomas More and was aware of parking problems around the school locations. The Chairman thanked PC Tringham for attending and wished him well in the future.

## 7 **Collision Accidents in Brickhill**

Gordon Pearsall of Bedfordshire Police gave a short presentation on injury collision accidents and speeding in Brickhill. Since 2008 there had been one fatal accident, 6 resulting in serious injury and 24 resulting in slight injuries. The majority of collisions were caused by driver error and all except 7 had taken place at junctions. Since 2002 fixed camera and mobile camera speeding enforcement had been the responsibility of the safety camera partnership. Enforcement activity was linked to speed related injuries although if communities identified sites of concern speed data collection might be undertaken. If data showed more than 10% of drivers were non-compliant with the limit Safer Neighbourhood Teams would be asked to undertake enforcement. In 2008 speed data had been collected from Brickhill Drive (below the roundabout near Linnet Way) and non-compliance was 18.88% so PC Hawkey had undertaken 4 sessions of enforcement. There was mention of the possibility of residents undertaking speed detection activities themselves using borrowed equipment (unenforceable action only). The Parish Council was advised to send in a prioritised list of locations where speed data collection might be necessary and these would be reviewed. The Chairman thanked Mr Pearsall for attending and Mr Pearsall left the meeting.

Clerk

## 8.1 **No 10 Bus Service**

At this point Cllr Blakeman declared a personal interest in this matter by way of

his residence in Dove Road. Cllr Marriott also declared a personal interest in this matter by way of her husband's employment at Stagecoach. (*Cllr Marriott then left the meeting having apologised for her absence from the rest of the business.*) The Clerk had previously circulated a summary of the points raised at the public open meeting on 1 November 2010 when residents had expressed their views and feeling about the new No 10 bus service. The Parish Council debated the issues raised at some length.

**It was resolved unanimously that:**

1. Brickhill Parish Council supported the introduction of the No 10 additional service in Brickhill.
2. Brickhill Parish Council wished Stagecoach to be proactive in marketing the No 10 bus service in Brickhill, especially on the Woodlands Estate.
3. The Council recognised the widespread support by the community in Brickhill for the current route using Larkway and was mindful of the advice by the police that Dove Road is unsuitable for a bus route.
4. The Council recognised that whilst some residents in Falcon Avenue are in favour of the route along Falcon Avenue, other residents in Falcon Avenue are vehemently opposed to their road being used. The Council would therefore welcome Stagecoach doing all that they can to address the concerns of residents in Falcon Avenue by ensuring that buses do not drive over verges and drive safely at all times.
5. The Clerk would write to Andy Campbell of Stagecoach East expressing the Parish Council's views, forwarding the technical information provided by residents of Falcon Avenue and asking Stagecoach to look into the legality of the service in these respects.

Clerk

8.2 **Introduction of Double Yellow Lines in Falcon Avenue**

Bedford Borough Council had asked the Parish Council to comment on the introduction of double yellow lines at the junction of Falcon Avenue and Waveney Avenue.

**It was resolved:** to support the introduction of the yellow lines as proposed by Bedford Borough Council.

Clerk

(*PC Tringham left the meeting.*)

9 **Council Work Priorities**

The Council noted that the Clerk's Annual Performance appraisal was almost completed but objectives had not been finalised. The Clerk had circulated a report based on discussions of a working group of councillors held on 18 October 2010 with proposed prioritisation of current projects and the suggestion that the Parish Council actively explored delegation of some services to Brickhill Parish Council by the Borough Council. The report also contained proposals about existing staff workload.

**It was resolved:** that the Clerk should formulate a proposal for securing additional "man hours" to address the current workload (options could include overtime payments, temporary staff etc) funding would be drawn from reserves.

**It was resolved:** to adopt the work priorities as laid out in the report and to explore potential for taking on devolved services to include ownership/management of Brickhill Community Centre, ownership/management of Waveney Green and other play areas and green spaces.

All Councillors  
Clerk

10 **Financial Matters**

10.1 A financial report showing expenditure against budget for the year to 1 November 2010 had been circulated before the meeting. The following accounts were presented for payment:

Cheque No	Payee	Details	Amount
206	EAB	Web domain name renewal	£82.25
207	Viking Direct	Stationery and Stamps	£31.74
208	St Mark's Church	Office rental and hall hire	£288.75

**It was resolved:** to approve the report and the accounts for payment.

10.2 It was decided to make arrangements for budget preparation outside the Parish Council meeting.

10.3 Item withdrawn.

Clerk

#### 11 Bedford Electoral Review/Community Governance Review

The Parish Council noted the completion of the Boundary Commission's Electoral Review of Bedford Borough which left the Brickhill Ward unchanged.

**It was resolved:** to write to Bedford Borough Council urging them to initiate an urgent and prioritised Community Governance review as soon as possible in order to review the parish boundary to resolve previously debated anomalies in the PC boundary which still obtained and new anomalies which had recently come to light.

Clerk

#### 12 Sustainable Community Plan

A report from the Brickhill Sustainable Community Plan Steering Group was tabled at the meeting and the contents noted.

**It was resolved:** to elect Cllr Green as formal Parish Council representative to the Brickhill Sustainable Community Plan Steering Group.

#### 13 Borough Councillors Report

Item deferred.

#### 14 Items for information

1. Community Clean ups were planned for 2 April and a date in June 2011.
2. Newsletter submission deadlines for 2011 would be: 10 February, 12 May, 11 August and 10 November.
3. A schedule of parish council meeting dates had been prepared, to be confirmed later all meeting would be on the first Thursday of the month with the exception of Election Day.

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Chairman  
6 January 2011