

PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Neighbourhood Council (South 1) held on Thursday, 10 December, 2009 at The Riverside Community Pavilion, Candy Street, Peterborough.

Present: Councillors Goodwin (Chairman), Lee and Rush.

Officers Present: Helen Edwards – Solicitor to the Council
Steven Pilsworth – Head of Corporate Services
Lisa Emmanuel – Neighbourhood Manager
Claire Boyd – Senior Solicitor
David Blackburn – Principal Democratic Services Officer (Clerk)

There were 30 persons present in the audience.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Benton, Cereste, Croft, Walsh and Wilkinson.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October, 2009 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. Naming of Neighbourhood Council

The Neighbourhood Manager reported upon public consultation undertaken since the previous meeting concerning the naming of the Neighbourhood Council.

It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Council for the South 1 area of the city be named the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Neighbourhood Council.

4. You Said We Did

The Neighbourhood Manager provided an update on the following matters:

Car Parking on POSH match days

Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service had examined access arrangements at the home game on 24 October, 2009 and whilst some erratic parking had been observed, it had been possible for emergency vehicles to navigate all roads. An undertaking had been received from the Fire and Rescue Service that this matter would be kept under review.

Permit Parking

It was identified that a public meeting had been held on 23 November, 2009 and formal public consultation would begin in early January 2010.

The Deputy Leader explained the consultation process to be undertaken and stressed the need for local residents to respond to the formal stage of the process even if they had already commented at the informal stage. It was proposed that 3 letters would be sent to local residents as part of the consultation:

1. A formal communication from the City Council;
2. An explanatory letter from Ward Councillors; and
3. A further letter asking residents whether or not they supported the proposals in a simple "yes" or "no" format.

Details of the costs of residents and visitors parking would be provided in the information supplied to residents.

A local resident commented that the introduction of parking bays had been opposed by local people when proposals had been considered previously. The Deputy Leader recognised the local opposition that existed to parking bays but identified that there was a need for compromise in order to introduce measures that would resolve the large number of complaints that were received from members of the public. In response to a further query, the Deputy Leader identified that it would be the responsibility of each resident to organise parking for visitors should a scheme be introduced and arrangements could involve a scratch card for occasional use and a parking permit for more regular visitors.

A member of the public commented that the Police appeared to have stopped patrolling the area of Glebe Road and Fairfield Road on match days. A Police representative responded that enforcement action was generally the responsibility of the City Council except regarding the offences of obstruction and dangerous parking. The Deputy Leader added that because there were no yellow lines on the roads in the area there were not any parking restrictions to be enforced.

Anti-Social Behaviour on High Street, Fletton

A meeting had been held with a local resident who had raised concerns about anti-social behaviour at the previous Neighbourhood Council meeting and a walkabout undertaken to gain a better insight into the problems that were being experienced. Some of the issues raised would be fed into the community planning process for the area.

Lack of Visibility of PCSOs on Fairfield Road

Following a concern raised by a local resident at the previous meeting, the PCSO had contacted the resident and it was anticipated that there would now be increased activity by PCSOs in Fairfield Road and the surrounding area.

It was agreed that the update report be received and noted.

5. Area Specific Issues

Stanground South Development

The Neighbourhood Manager reported that information had been obtained from the developer regarding the proposal to build a local centre which will include a primary school, supermarket and health centre. Community engagement would begin with a public exhibition at Stanground Community Centre on 7 January, 2010 from 10am to 4pm and on 9 January, 2010 from 10am to 1pm. The developer would also be undertaking other publicity arrangements including the distribution of flyers prior to submission of a formal planning application.

It was agreed that the update report be received and noted.

6. Council Budget 2010/11

The Council's Head of Corporate Services gave a presentation on the Council's budget process which included the following points:

1. The financial settlement for 2010/11 had been received but there was no clear picture regarding future grant funding beyond the next financial year;
2. Government grant of £77 million for 2010/11 was £4 million less than the Council was entitled to receive using the local government funding formula;
3. A Council tax increase of 2.5% was proposed which sought to keep taxation low whilst continuing to deliver key services; and
4. The Council was eager to obtain the views of the public on its spending priorities for the forthcoming year.

In response to questions from the public, it was identified that:

1. Investment in the renovation of schools and new build would continue as part of the Council's capital programme and the amounts allocated to schemes were reviewed each year;
2. Capital projects which were not completed within the financial year were rolled forward into the following year or removed from the capital programme if no longer required; and
3. Funding from central government would not keep up with the growth of Peterborough and additional funding was being sought from other sources, including the EU, whenever possible.

The Cabinet Member for Resources added that:

1. The Council would prefer not to increase Council Tax and it should be understood that a 2.5% increase would only raise £1.5 million which was far less than the £4 million clawed back by central government;
2. A specialist team had been set up within the Council to bid for external funding so that the city would have the best possible chance of securing additional funding;
3. The Council was using its resources effectively and although there was scope for further improvement, it had been recognised recently by the Local Government Chronicle as having the best efficiency initiative of all Councils within the UK;

4. The proposed allocation of £25,000 capital funding per Neighbourhood Council would require robust Community Action Plans to be developed to support the release of capital funding; and
5. Details of the draft budget could be found on the Council's website and any member of the public seeking further information should leave their e-mail address on the comments forms circulated at the meeting.

It was agreed that the presentation on the budget setting process be received and noted.

7. Standards Briefing

Mr Ron Kershaw of the Council's Standards Committee gave a presentation on the work of the Committee and explained the Members' code of conduct.

The Council's Monitoring Officer added that few complaints were received about the conduct of councillors and whilst there was a formal process for investigating complaints, every effort was made to investigate matters informally if possible, should a complainant agree with this approach.

It was agreed that the presentation be received and noted.

8. Community Action Planning

The Neighbourhood Manager led a consultation exercise involving all members of the public who were present at the meeting to identify service priorities for inclusion within the Community Action Plan for the Neighbourhood. It was identified that there would be further public engagement including public surveys and a road show prior to the finalisation of the Community Action Plan in March 2010.

It was agreed that the priorities identified at the meeting be included within the development of the Community Action Plan.

9. Open Session

The Chair invited members of the public to raise any matters affecting their communities. The main issues identified during this part of the meeting were as follows:

PCSOs

A member of the public identified that although she was happy that the presence of PCSOs on Fairfield Road had been resolved, it had taken the PCSO 4 weeks to contact her following the previous meeting. The Police representative apologised for the delay.

Great Haddon Development

In response to concern raised by a member of the public about the concentration of development in the south of the city, the Deputy Leader responded that Peterborough was a growing city and the Core Strategy which had been presented at the previous meeting contained proposals for development across the whole of the city. There would be challenges to be addressed in planning for growth and it was recognised that a coherent approach to traffic management was a key part of the development process.

Councillor Rush said that he agreed with the concerns that had been expressed about the scale of growth in the south of the city.

The Neighbourhood Manager reported that there would be a public consultation event on 11 January, 2010 regarding the proposed Great Haddon development.

New Stanground Development

In response to concerns raised about the commercial and residential mix of the new Stanground development, the Deputy Leader responded that the Council was seeking to provide employment opportunities close to where people lived so that they had the opportunity to walk or cycle to their place of work.

Promotion of Neighbourhood Council Meetings

In response to a question about publicity arrangements for meetings, the Council's Communications Officer identified that meetings were advertised in "Your Peterborough" magazine which was delivered to every residential property in the city, a list of locations was being developed for distributing posters and flyers and people present at the meeting could assist with word of mouth communications to encourage greater attendance at future meetings. The Chair added that there had been a great deal of publicity on local radio and on the Council's website, and that the suggestions which had been made by the public about advertising meetings were being acted upon.

Flooding on Fairfield Road

In response to a question from a member of the public, the Deputy Leader identified that residential parking restricted road sweeping and this was the most likely cause of the periodic flooding on Fairfield Road. However, he undertook to have this matter investigated to see if anything could be done to alleviate the problem.

Standing Invitations to Meetings

The Neighbourhood Manager referred to the decision taken at the previous meeting about standing invitations to meetings for community representatives. Forms were available at the meeting for completion by anyone who wished to be considered for these positions.

It was agreed that a community representative be appointed for each ward within the area of the Neighbourhood Council and nominations would be submitted to the next meeting.

10. Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting be held at The Fleet, Fleet Way, High Street, Fletton on Thursday, 11 March, 2010 at 7.00pm.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and for the comments they had made during the meeting.

CHAIRMAN
7.05– 9.00PM