

MONKLAND AND STRETFORD GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN MONKLAND VILLAGE HALL

on

TUESDAY 27th AUGUST 2019 at 7.00p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllr L Brook (Chairman) Cllr A Turner (Vice Chairman) Cllr P Povall.

Also present: Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk) Ms Helen Beale (Senior Estates Manager) 19 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the Extra Ordinary Meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from: Ward Cllr Trish Marsh; Cllr T Neave and Cllr M Louth; Mr A Beasley.
2. To Receive Declarations of Interest - none received
3. Open Session
The Chairman opened the session by explaining to those present the reasons for calling this Extra Ordinary Meeting.

These include concerns associated with a potential fire risk to properties on the common. Difficulties associated in getting a contractor to cut the hay crop and the subsequent tiding up necessary after the contractor had left. The Chairman explained that as a result of these issues – the Parish Clerk had been asked to contact Helen Beale – Senior Estate Manager – to clarify certain legal issues associated with the above.

The Chairman then introduced Helen Beale and invited Helen to give some back ground information on the laws pertaining to common ownership/management etc.

During this presentation, it became apparent that the Parish Council has the Power to Protect the Common but otherwise has no duty with regard to management or maintenance of the common.

The Chairman then opened up the session to residents in order that they may, individually, express their views. A very informative discussion followed which included past parish councillors recalling why and how previous decisions had been made with regard to the ongoing maintenance of the common.

During discussion the question of installing cattle grids was raised plus issues like installing dog waste bins; dealing with travellers on the common; speeding along the common road.

Helen Beale explained that there are grants/funds available to help support ancient common lands/meadow pastures and she offered to make enquiries through Elaine Edwards of the Grants Team with regard to obtaining an application form.

During the above discussion, it was proposed that a Common Committee be set up to oversee future management of the common. The Chairman invited those present to vote on the setting up of such a Common Committee – to include a representative from the Parish Council plus members with common grazing rights and residents who live in neighbouring properties.

The vote, by show of hands, was 18 for and 1 against so to set up a Common Committee was carried by majority.

The Chairman closed the Open Session and those residents who wished to be part of the Common Committee left their details with the clerk.

The Parish Councillors continued to briefly to discuss various other issues associated with the common.

(a) The setting up of the Committee will now be discussed further at the next Parish Council meeting on the 17th September and a Parish Council representative will be elected.

(b) Further to an email received by the Parish Council referring to the recent spread of hard core along the back side of the common was discussed. It was acknowledged that the tenant farmer had discussed with the Parish Council his intention is to make good the pot holes and ruts caused by commercial vehicles over the past year. He is trying to establish a hard surface road way for commercial vehicles in an attempt to prevent the road encroaching further and further into the common. It was acknowledged that although the surface looks rather unsightly at present, grass etc will grow through and gradually the appearance will mellow.

(c) In the same email - further issues were raised with regard to various tracks across and at the back of the common – these routes are established to allow access to the fields beyond the common. It was noted that during the open session, Helen Beale had offered to locate a more definitive map than the one currently available.

4. Discuss current planning applications.

192808 – Land to the West of Mill Cottage – variation of a condition. Access and amended plans.

After discussion – the Parish Council have no object to this amended application.

192805 – Garden Cottage Monkland proposed demotion of existing storm porch, erection of a replacement porch, rea single storey extension, garage and home office.

After discussion, the Parish Council have no objection to this planning application. However, the Clerk was asked to post a comment that the Parish Councillors expressed some concern that the double garage, above which is a home office with toilet and shower facilities, does have the dimensions to allow easy conversion into living accommodation at a later date.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 p.m.

Signed

Date