

HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL, CASTLETHORPE ROAD, HANSLOPE, MK19 7LG.

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Hanslope Parish Council, on Monday 13th November 2023
at 7pm at the Hanslope Community Hall, MK19 7LG.**

MINUTES

Present:

Parish Councillors: -

D Courtman (Chairman)

A Andrew

W Pacheco

Clerk: G Merry

E Price

R Simpkins

R Wallond

1 member of Public

23.126 Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Geary

23.127 Minutes from previous meetings held 9th and 21st October 2023

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the 2 meetings PROPOSED by Cllr Price SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED

23.128 Declarations of Interest: No items

23.129 Public Participation: No items

23.130 Council

- i. **Clerk's Report:** October closed with income at £139,893 (103% of budget) and expenditure at £115,600 (85% of budget). Items paid for from EMRs, are not accounted for in this percentage, as they are not in the annual budget. The need to move an amount from the savings account where reserves are held, to the current account before year-end, is predicted. VAT refunds are also regularly coming in. It has been a frustrating month, with MKCC taking so long to install the connection boxes for the Christmas lights and not responding to the Festive Lights application. With various obstacles in the way of the Public Art application and MKCC not permitting the PC's enforcement officer to issue FPNs. The outcomes on these yet are not yet resolved.
- ii. **Co-options and the legal position:** The auditor had confirmed that any applicant for a casual vacancy, who meets the eligibility criteria, must be accepted and co-opted. Just as they would if they self-nominated in an election year. The clerk circulated a simplified application form and this approach was agreed.
- iii. **White Ribbon Accreditation:** Cllr Andrew advised that MKCC would like the whole borough to be White Ribbon accredited by the launch date of 25/11/23. Practical guidance will be issued to councillors and Cllr Andrew will cascade further information as this goes live. It was agreed that the PC will sign up to this initiative and Cllr Andrew will act as champion. The joining fee of £249 was agreed.

MOTION: To agree to become a White Ribbon authority PROPOSED by Cllr Courtman SECONDED by Cllr Wallond and AGREED.

- iv. **Clarion/Village Newsletter:** Cllr Andrew had begun working on the new layout. Printed copies for the whole village will cost in the region £700 and this was approved. She will circulate the content and asked for help with proof-reading. It was agreed that local tradespeople could be



listed, with the stipulation that they are based in Hanslope. It was hoped to have the magazine out in time for Christmas.

- v. **Village Website:** Cllr Andrew will meet with the editor of the current website, with a view to streamlining this into a new one.
- vi. **Highways and crime updates:** No updates
- vii. **Speeding:** SIDs: Cllr Courtman went through the SID data: Park Road heading out of the village (30mph limit), over 13 days, recorded 17,000 vehicles with 58% exceeding the speed limit. Park Road is due to have the new permanent SID and the clerk agreed to enquire when the funding will be confirmed (*After Note: Feb/March 2024*). On Newport Road coming into the village, over 9 days, 4000 vehicles were recorded with 40% exceeding the speed limit. Community Speedwatch: Cllr Wallond reported that during October, 10 x 1-hour sessions were held, with 18 vehicles exceeding the limit. The team continues to go out 2-3 times a week and this is working well. Cllr Wallond enquired about the process for implementing a 20mph limit. Cllr Andrew responded that there is a defined 4-step process, the first step of which is to carry out local consultation, via a leaflet drop. There needs to be a significant percentage in agreement, to progress to the next stage and the SID/CSW data will also be helpful with this. Cllrs Andrew and Wallond agreed to progress this and revert back to council.
- viii. **Enforcement Contract - update:** Cllr Andrew reported that residents have been generally supportive of the initiative and she is putting the officer in touch with the local PCSO. Cllr Andrew will also approach MKCC's Shaun Greig as to how the officer may be permitted to issue FPNs.
- ix. **Reports from Cllrs:** Cllr Andrew reported as follows:
 - 'Watts Arms' Junction: Highways had assessed the junction and this will not revert back to a roundabout. However, the splitter islands will be removed.
 - Cllr Andrew reported that the CCTV at the Rec. Ground has now been upgraded to focus better on car number plates and with better views of the MUGA & play area.

23.131 Planning

i. **Co-option to working party.** Mr. Tivey had offered to join the Planning working party and this was agreed.

MOTION: To agree to co-opt Mrs. Thomas Tivey on to the Planning working party, PROPOSED by Cllr Courtman SECONDED by Cllr Price and AGREED

ii. **New Planning Applications – Oct/Nov:** The following new applications were considered. Agreed actions as per last column:

23/02284/HOU	13 Long Street Road Hanslope, MK19 7BL	Two storey side extension, dropped kerb to create off street parking space for electric charging	17/11/2023			No objections/comments AGREED
APPEAL RE. 22/01109/FUL	Cuckoo Hill Farm, Castletorpe Road, MK19 7HQ	Construct 2 new commercial buildings (class E) - resubmission	11.05.22	Original objections agreed 13/6/22	Originally refused 13/1/22	Appeal: 23/00025/REF Ref: APP/Y0435/W/23/3325545 APPEAL COMMENT AGREED AT 21/10/23 MEETING AND SUBMITTED 22/10/23
23/02461/DISCON	Salcey Green Farm Forest Road Hanslope MK19 7DE	Approval of details required by condition 3 ref. 20/01024/FUL	04/12/2023	DISCON only		No objections/comments AGREED

MOTION: To agree responses to applications, as above PROPOSED by Cllr Price, SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED

ii. Enforcement matters and breaches within the conservation area: It was advised that The Cock had installed a sign on MKCC land without permission. Since this was in the conservation area, an objection should be raised. This was agreed and the clerk will discuss it with the Conservation Officer first.

iii. Revision of Neighbourhood Plan - update: The 2 village consultation events took place on 23/10/23 and 29/10/23 at 3pm, and were well attended. Resident feedback was now essential to ultimately validate the proposed revisions. Although some had been received at the events, more were needed. Details had been published on the website/social media and more comments had been received, which were generally supportive. Following this, the group will meet and then revert to O'Neil Homer consultants to finalise the submission. Cllr Andrew advised checking the MK new City Plan to ensure consistency.

23.132 Finance

- i. **Reconciliations and Financial Situation Report:** Cllr Price had checked the reconciliation reports to 31/10/23. The Accounts by Budget had been circulated and the clerk advised the water rate bills were high, as they were based on the 2022 (drought year) usage. The clerk had requested a paid-for site visit from Anglian Water, as the meters were not where they had advised and an accurate reading was now needed.
- ii. **Budget 2023-24:** The clerk circulated the 1st draft of the proposed budget for 2024-25. The tax base had been advised by MKCC and was an increase of 49 homes to 1314. However, the planned increase in expenditure is still forecasting an increase in precept and therefore the parish council proportion of the council tax bill. Cllrs were asked to consider the budget and any suggested amendments by the December meeting.
- iii. **Payments to be Agreed:** The list of payments had been circulated as follows:

	Invoice from	For	Net	Vat	Total
29/09/2023	Tove Landscapes	Village Verge Cut - Sept 2023	£ 675.00	£ 135.00	£ 810.00
04/10/2023	All Round Property Maintenance	Allotment clearance	£ 180.00		£ 180.00
04/10/2023	All Round Property Maintenance	Rec. Ground fencing issue and make safe	£ 160.00		£ 160.00
12/10/2023	Tull Industrial	Repairs to Pavilion shutter	£ 120.00	£ 24.00	£ 144.00
19/10/2023	Locked and Secure	Modifications to CCTV	£ 520.00	£ 104.00	£ 624.00
30/10/2023	All Round Property Maintenance	Gutter and roof clear – Hall	£ 380.00		£ 380.00
30/10/2023	All Round Property Maintenance	Gutter and roof clear – Pavilion	£ 150.00		£ 150.00
30/10/2023	Tara Davies	Hall and Pavilion cleaning – Oct	£ 150.00		£ 150.00
01/11/2023	Tove Landscapes	Hedge reduction and clearance - 30-36 Williams Close	£ 428.40	£ 85.68	£ 514.08
01/11/2023	Tove Landscapes	Winter works - Rec Ground - month 2	£ 798.00	£ 159.60	£ 957.60
01/11/2023	Tove Landscapes	Village verge cut - extra – Oct	£ 675.00	£ 135.00	£ 810.00
01/11/2023	Tove Landscapes	Ongoing hedge maintenance	£ 200.00	£ 40.00	£ 240.00
01/11/2023	Tove Landscapes	Clearance - rear of 89 Williams Close	£ 200.00	£ 40.00	£ 240.00

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01/11/2023	Tove Landscapes	Reduction of tree rear of 22 St James Close	£ 240.00	£ 48.00	£ 288.00
01/11/2023	Anne Washington	Oct caretaking	£ 616.00		£ 616.00
01/11/2023	Marcus Young Landscapes	Oct bins and dog bins	£ 660.55	£ 132.11	£ 792.66
06/11/2023	Ace Machines Ltd	Allotment machine repairs x 4	£ 415.00	£ 83.00	£ 498.00
08/11/2023	Propertycare Bucks	Repair to changing room door and Hall door	£ 140.00	£ 28.00	£ 168.00
08/11/2023	All Round Property Maintenance	Picnic bench install	£ 680.00		£ 680.00
10/11/2023	All Round Property Maintenance	Bench install - top of Rec.	£ 202.00		£ 202.00
Grant Applications					£ -
07/11/2023	St James the Great PCC	Grant for '23 Warm Hub (£500 received from MKCC for this)	£ 500.00		£ 500.00
PAID					£ -
19/10/2023	Hugo Fox	Website hosting	£ 9.99	£ 2.00	£ 11.99
19/10/2023	British Gas	Hall - Elec - Sept-Oct	£ 52.41	£ 2.62	£ 55.03
19/10/2023	Adobe	Subs	£ 16.64	£ 3.33	£ 19.97
23/10/2023	British Gas	Pavilion - Elec - Sept-Oct	£ 134.58	£ 6.73	£ 141.31
26/10/2023	Amazon	Lockable cabinet	£ 117.24	£ 23.45	£ 140.69
30/10/2023	British Gas	Pavilion - Gas - Sept-Oct	£ 78.60	£ 3.93	£ 82.53
30/09/2023	BT	Phoneline & broadband	£ 57.15	£ 11.43	£ 68.58
31/10/2023	G Merry	Oct Salary			
31/10/2023	HMRC	Oct tax and NI			
31/10/2023	Bucks Pensions	Oct LGPS			
07/11/2023	Amazon	2 rolls hazard tape	£ 18.91	£ 3.80	£ 22.71
10/11/2023	Photo ID Card Co.	ID for Enforcement officer	£ 13.99	£ 2.80	£ 16.79
13/11/2023	British Gas	Hall Gas - Aug-Oct	£ 151.40	£ 7.57	£ 158.97

MOTION: To agree the payments as presented, PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED

23.133 Recreation Ground

- i. **Booking for Futsal Group on the MUGA:** A group had started using the MUGA for Futsal on a Friday evening without prior permission. It was agreed they could continue. The clerk advised that both their Oct and Nov invoices remained unpaid.

MOTION: To retroactively agree that the 'All People Active' group may use the MUGA on Fridays 5-6pm from 6/10/23, PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Pacheco and AGREED

- ii. **Gigaclear:** Cllr Wallond is progressing this, as agreed at the Sept. meeting for a 3-month trial. The expected contract will need to be signed by the clerk.
- iii. **Development of Community Hall:** The clerk advised that the roof was in need of several repairs and had drawn up a specification. Only one quote had come in so far and it was agreed to obtain more before a decision is made. It was agreed this must be implemented before the

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fitting of any solar panels and the PC will fund this from EMRs. The clerk advised that bookings are down and Cllr Pacheco offered to help promote the hall via social media etc.

MOTION: To agree quotes – deferred

23.134 Village Projects

- i. **Update on Handover of Bloor's Land:** Cllr Simpkins and Mr. Proctor had conducted another site visit and had updated the snagging list. The transfer is now with both sets of solicitors, with a view to transferring by March 2024. Cllr Simpkins advised that a footpath runs through a private property on Repton Drive alongside a small piece of open land. The owners are unlikely to have released it is not theirs. He suggested approaching the resident, once transfer is complete and ask if they wish to continue maintaining this open space and offer the option to buy it from the PC at a peppercorn rate, providing they pay the legal fees. This was agreed as a way forward. Cllr Courtman advised that the car park off Castlethorpe Road was intended not for the Dr's surgery but for school drop off. Cllr Simpkins added that once it is transferred, the PC will install appropriate signage. The PC cannot open either car park until transfer is complete, for reasons of liability. The clerk reported she is receiving increasing complaints from residents of both Hanslope Fields and Wheatfields and asked if issuing a statement would help. This was agreed providing it is circulated to councilors first. Cllr Wallond suggested he work with Cllr Simpkins on the Wheatfields snagging list and asked Cllr Simpkins for sight of the Ecology Plan.
- ii. **Additions to the Annual Landscaping Contract:** Since going out to tender this year, more areas had come to light as excluded from the contract inherited from MKCC. These included 3 areas of Williams Close and one area adjacent to Lincoln Court. The contractor had provided costings @ £1490 total per annum. It was agreed to absorb these into the contract.

MOTION: To agree the additions to the contract and costs as above, PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED

- iii. **Christmas Lights:** The work to the connection boxes had only been completed in the last week of October, giving only a short timeframe to find a suitably accredited electrician and to apply to MKCC for the permit. 2 suppliers had declined to quote but the 3rd had made some effort to provide detailed documents, as required by MKCC. The application had been submitted but there had been no response yet. The contractor had quoted £4670 for installation and take down. Cllr Andrew offered to try to obtain a lower quote at short notice. However, it was discussed that although the quote was higher than expected, it was likely to be the only way that Christmas lights could happen this year. A split vote was recorded as follows: Cllr Courtman – YES, Cllr Simpkins – YES, Cllr Wallond – YES, Cllr Price – NO, Cllr Pacheco – NO, Cllr Andrew – NO.

MOTION: To agree the supplier – AAES Electrical - and quote @ £4670 and to set aside Financial Regulations 10.3 and 11.1 d), PROPOSED by Cllr Courtman SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED on Cllr Courtman's casting vote.

- iv. **Williams Close Hedge work:** The PC had been supporting the elderly occupants of the bungalows for several years, by having the hedge trimmed to the rear of the bungalows. It was discussed and agreed to continue this service on a permanent basis using the same contractor – All Round Maintenance - @ £350 each time and this would be implemented twice a year.

MOTION: To agree to All Round Maintenance continuing this job on a permanent basis PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED.

- v. **Williams Close - other areas requiring immediate attention, prior to contract starting 1/3/24:** Some of the areas agreed at 23.134 ii, needed maintenance now and these were discussed and agreed as follows:

MOTION: To agree Tove Landscapes quotes: -

- 53-59 Williams – clearance of communal area @ £400 + VAT



- 53-59 Williams – Rera garden clearance @ £200 + VAT

PROPOSED By Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Wallond and AGREED

23.135 S106 Projects:

- Public Art Proposal:** The clerk had submitted the proposal/application and it was hoped this would be considered at the November Infrastructure Board. Cllr Wallond suggested working into the eventual specification, that the artwork is removable. In the event the owner decides to develop the site, the mural can then be relocated.
- Dr's Surgery:** There will be a meeting on 16/11/23 of all involved, with the aim of progressing the project through to planning application stage. Cllr Andrew expressed concern that planning may be turned down, as it may be felt there was insufficient parking and she will report back.
- Solar Panels:** Cllr Simpkins now has 3 quotes and is due to meet with the Senior Sustainability Officer at MKCC for advice on which approach would work best.
- Working party for development of Longer-term Plan:** No progress.

23.136 Allotment updates: No updates

23.137 Date of Next Meeting: 11th December 2023 at 7pm

Signed: *D.G. Courtman* Date: *11th Dec 2023*