

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

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

MINUTES

Present:

Parish Councillors: -

M Palmer (Chairman)

A Andrew

S Proctor

D Courtman

F Scott

R Simpkins

C Wardle (Ward Cllr MKCC)

Clerk: G Merry

1 member of Public

23.013 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Price. Cllrs Gregory and Duffield were absent.

23.014 Minutes of previous meeting held 09/01/23.

The minutes which had previously been circulated were PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED.

23.015 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations.

23.016 Public Participation

- i. A member of the public requested an additional dog waste bin, adjacent to Williams Close but on the Main Road and also by Stocking Green Farm. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting. The clerk advised these had not been budgeted for, as council had previously agreed not to increase dog bins.

23.017 Council

- i. **Clerk's Report:** January closed with expenditure at £209,475 (160 % of budget) and Income at £181,505 (138% of budget). At this point in the financial year, it is better to look at the totals rather than individual budgets. Looking ahead to year-end, the clerk had circulated a projection, forecasting what these totals also indicate, i.e. that council will not quite break even on what was budgeted, due to the amount of earmarked reserves used to fund projects (approx. £40,000), as it had set out to do. The overall picture for the council, is still healthy with £237,585 in our savings account and £71,182 in the current account. This month, committees and working parties have been active, with allotment meetings, allotments tenant's meeting and the Rec. ground Liaison group all meeting. These have been productive and the minutes had been circulated.
- ii. **Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting:** The clerk advised that the APM must be held between March 1st - June 1st and because Cllr Palmer was not attending the April meeting, along with elections in May, the APM would need to be in March. She advised this should be a presentation of what the council has implemented for the year and also this time, the 4-year

term and although there should be a public Q&A, it should not turn into a complaining session. The format was discussed and agreed and the clerk agreed to prepare publicity material to go on display.

- iii. **Working Parties:** Cllr Andrew suggested that the membership of working parties could be looked at and it was agreed this would happen at the AMPC in May, after the elections.
- iv. **Policies:** The clerk had circulated the SLCC model Vexatious Complaints Policy and Social Media Policy. She explained that she still experiences regular complaints from one resident, the nature of which fit the definition of vexatious. Previous attempts to signpost these to the relevant authorities had led to abusive emails. It was discussed and agreed that, rather than implementing a policy, the person concerned would be treated as vexatious and the clerk could ignore all communications from them. Social media was discussed and all present confirmed they had read the recommendations. Cllrs Scott and Andrew suggested a Facebook group would be more effective in reaching members of the public, than the current Facebook page. The clerk was happy to do this but advised of the potential legal consequences stemming from incorrect statements made on social media. Cllr Palmer raised concerns about individual councilors posting on social media, not necessarily speaking on behalf of the PC. It was agreed to return this matter to the agenda.
- v. **Footpaths, Highways and Crime Updates:** Cllr Courtman stated that some PROWs would be temporarily closed in and around the Hayfield Homes site, for safety reasons. The SID figures showed that the new SID, combined with the new speed bumps was showing a reduction in speeding on Forest Road but a vehicle had still been recorded at 78mph. Hartwell Road figures were poor, with 50-60% of vehicles exceeding the speed limit. Cllr Proctor enquired whether the display on the SID could be changed and Cllr Courtman offered to find out. Cllr Simpkins reported that MKC had ticketed 3 suspected abandoned vehicles in Williams Close.
- vi. **Parish Newsletter/Clarion:** Cllr Andrew reported issues in communicating with the Clarion team and suggested that the PC creates its own village newsletter, including an online version, to go out 3 times a year. Herself and Cllr Scott would be willing to put this together and would manage distribution through existing volunteers. It was agreed this would go on to the next agenda, with a view to bringing out the first edition after the May elections.
(Cllr Palmer left at 19.45 and Cllr Courtman took the chair)
- vii. **Reports from Cllrs:** Cllr Simpkins reported that he had so far met with 3 landscape maintenance companies, to conduct village site visits and was also handling these on behalf of Castlethorpe. Cllr Andrew reminded all that the 'Bins on Tour' event will be held on 20/2/23 in the community hall.

23.018 Planning

i. New Planning Applications: The list of current applications was circulated and the following were the only new ones for the month:

| Application No. | Address | Details | Consultee deadline | PC Decision 13/2/23 |
|-----------------|---|--|--------------------|---|
| 23/00086/HOU | The White House, Malt Mill Farm | 2 storey rear ext., single story front ext., 2 storey back ext., plus pool in outbuilding, internal/external alterations | 16/02/2023 | No objection but will comment that all PROWs should be maintained |
| 22/03149/CLUP | High Barn Studio Hungate End Farm Higham Cross Road | Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed Change of Use from an Office (Class E) to a Gym | Notification only | No comments |

| | | | | |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------------|
| 21/03369/FUL | The Globe, 50 Hartwell Road, MK19 7BZ | Proposed conversion and extension of vacant public house into 2-dwellinghouses and the erection of 1 detached dwelling to the rear of the site and associated car parking and landscaping | APPEAL LODGED | To remain on agenda |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|---------------------|

Decisions from the PC were agreed as above. Re. the 'Globe' appeal, Cllr Proctor confirmed that representations can be made and all previous comments/objections will be read by the inspector. The planning group agreed to look at the appeal paperwork before the next meeting.

ii. Revision of Neighbourhood Plan: Cllr Courtman reported that a couple of meetings had been held and tasks had been delegated. The clerk requested the notes from these meetings as she is required to publish them. Cllr Proctor asked for the target date for the revised plan and it was suggested Cllr Price would update everyone next time.

23.019 Finance

- i. **Reconciliations and Financial Situation Report:** Cllr Price had checked the reconciliation reports to 31/01/23, and the clerk had circulated a year-end projection. This indicated a potential overspend of £98,044 of budget but a surplus of £90,778 on income. The difference was due to spending from reserves.
- ii. **Invoice for Christmas Lights:** The clerk had spoken with the contractor who confirmed he had not been asked to increase his insurance cover. The breakdown of the invoice was as agreed at the 1/12/22 meeting: £500 for new lights and £1500 for installation and removal. This had all taken place, even though it had not been possible to activate the lights and as such, the invoice was approved for payment.
- iii. **Grant Applications:** There were 2 applications: £264 for the 'Warm Hub', to cover the March rent and £760 from the Village Hall, to cover replacement of the knocked down fence. Both were approved.
- iv. **Payments to be Agreed:** The list of payments had been circulated as follows. Additionally, a bill for water rates had just come in @ £2370.12, which was excessive for the period stated: Nov 2 -Feb '23. It was agreed the clerk would find out why it was so high before paying it (After Note: The meter had not been read since before the summer, when large amounts of water were used to water the pitches during the drought. This bill was from a subsequent reading covering those summer months): -

| Date | Invoice from | For | Net | Vat | Total |
|------------|------------------------------------|---|------------|----------|------------|
| 03/01/2023 | A Elia (Hanslope Events Group) | Installation and removal of Christmas Lights, & | £ 2,000.00 | | £ 2,000.00 |
| 28/01/2023 | RTM Landscapes | Jan Landscaping | £ 1,028.13 | £ 205.63 | £ 1,233.76 |
| 01/02/2023 | All Round Property (Daryl English) | Playground gate repair | £ 45.00 | | £ 45.00 |
| 01/02/2023 | Marcus Young Landscapes | Jan bins and dog bins | £ 660.55 | £ 132.11 | £ 792.66 |
| 02/02/2023 | Sign Wizzard | 1 x sign | £ 38.14 | £ 7.63 | £ 45.77 |
| 02/02/2023 | Anne Washington | Jan caretaking | £ 498.00 | | £ 498.00 |
| 07/02/2023 | Tina Charteress | Interim Audit | £ 200.00 | | £ 200.00 |

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|--|------------|----------|------------|
| 07/02/2023 | Tove Landscaping | Jan Rec Ground Maintenance | £ 788.33 | £ 157.67 | £ 946.00 |
| 09/02/2023 | G Merry | Jan Expenses (phone) | £ 8.33 | | £ 8.33 |
| Feb | Tara Davies | Jan pavilion/hall cleaning | | | £ - |
| Feb | SWCAA | Allotment memberships @ £3.50 x ? | | approx. | £ 262.50 |
| Grant Applications | | | | | £ - |
| Feb | Volunteers from St James the Great | Grant to cover March Hall rental for Warm Spaces Hub | £ 264.00 | | £ 264.00 |
| PAID - | | | | | |
| 11/01/2023 | Defib Store | Defib replacement PAD pack | £ 113.99 | £ 22.80 | £ 136.79 |
| 11/01/2023 | Mo Sounds | Deposit for screen for Coronation | £ 2,597.50 | £ 519.50 | £ 3,117.00 |
| 19/01/2023 | British Gas | Hall gas Dec-Jan | £ 130.28 | £ 6.51 | £ 136.79 |
| 20/01/2023 | Adobe | Subscription | £ 12.64 | £ 2.53 | £ 15.17 |
| 24/01/2023 | Amazon | Printer ink | £ 17.14 | £ 3.43 | £ 20.57 |
| 24/01/2023 | Post Office | Stamps | £ 7.60 | | £ 7.60 |
| 30/01/2023 | B.T. | Broadband and line rental | £ 103.33 | £ 20.67 | £ 124.00 |
| 30/01/2023 | G Merry | Jan Salary | £ 1,502.82 | | £ 1,502.82 |
| 30/01/2023 | HMRC | Jan tax and NI | £ 328.94 | | £ 328.94 |
| 30/01/2023 | LGPS | Jan pension | £ 523.09 | | £ 523.09 |
| 30/01/2023 | Tara Davies | Dec & Jan Hall & Pavilion cleaning | £ 225.00 | | £ 225.00 |

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

23.020 Recreation Ground

- i. **Outdoor Gym:** A user had highlighted some concerns with the installation and Proludic had been back to check these, including securing the pull-up bars. Cllr Andrew advised all was now satisfactory.
- ii. **Private Enforcement:** Cllr Andrew had noticed some parish councils have contracted private enforcement and had circulated an example from a company used by Stantonbury PC. The operative can issue FPNs but it was also about the deterrent value of having that presence. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda.
- iii. **MKPA Summer Play Sessions:** MKPA had advised the cost would be £440 per half day session this year, plus an extra £100 for the Wikidizer and £55 per Zorb ball, There would be an additional staffing cost for the latter. The clerk advised there was £4250 in the budget for this. It was agreed to host 5 regular sessions, plus 2 sessions with the Wikidizer and Zorbs @£3390 plus staff cost x 2 sessions.

MOTION: To agree the number of play sessions as above PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED

23.021 Village Projects

- i. **Flower Bed/Planter:** The clerk explained that Highways required any contractor to have NRSWA certification to work on the footway and the PC would also have to apply for a streetworks permit, as the contractors would be digging down. Cllr Simpkins suggested as this

is the case, the PC may as well pay to run the underground ducting needed for the Christmas lights. It was agreed to pay for the requisite permits and the clerk agreed to find out more.

- ii. **Christmas Lights:** The clerk had written to the Head of Highways reminding him of his offer to have the junction boxes moved at MKC's expense, and asking when this could take place. She had not received a response but would keep trying. Then it would be a matter of completing the MKC form and undertaking quoting for installation etc.
- iii. **Grit Boxes:** A few residents had requested grit boxes, particularly on the new estates and the clerk had circulated MKC's directive on this. PCs were required to apply for the boxes at their expense, at £474 per box (inc. grit). It was agreed that Cllr Scott would find out where there were boxes in the village currently, and then a decision could be taken.
- iv. **Funded Habitat Opportunities:** The Newt Conservation Partnership had circulated details of grants that can be applied for, for regeneration of ponds and other wildlife areas. However, it was discussed and agreed that this would not necessarily be sustainable for the PC, as encouraging Great Crested Newts, resulted in increased maintenance issues.
- v. **Village Litter Pick:** Cllr Proctor suggested this is scheduled before the spring/summer growth season, as it is easier to see the litter. It was agreed to hold this on Sunday April 16th and the clerk agreed to request the loan of litter pickers again from other parishes.
- vi. **Williams Close Hedges:** The regular hedge work behind the older people's bungalows was discussed and agreed, although it was agreed this would still need to be considered each time. Additionally, another hedge in the car park area of Williams Close, had been brought to the council's attention and had not been trimmed in years. A quote for £350 had been obtained from the contractor and this was also agreed. The hedge would then be brought into the annual contract.

MOTION: To agree to undertake the regular hedge trimming work in Feb/March @ £350
PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Scott and AGREED

MOTION: To agree to undertake the car park hedge trim @ £350 PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins
SECONDED by Cllr Scott and AGREED

- vii) **Update on Transfer of Bloor Estate POS and Car Park:** Cllr Proctor reported that Bloor had advised that the planting work in the Public Open Space was almost complete and then it could be transferred. Works agreed to be undertaken by Bloor prior to transfer of the car park areas, were scheduled to be undertaken over the next few weeks by Carters. Cllr Proctor will provide the clerk with some proposed wording, as Bloor wishes the PC to confirm that it is content with the proposed works. It is proposed the car park areas are transferred to the PC once the works have been completed satisfactorily. The developer will need to make 2 payments at transfer: 1 for the first year of maintenance and 2. A commuted sum to cover future years and this is likely to be in the region of £420K. The developer will also pay the PC's legal costs and the solicitor will progress this matter on the PC's behalf. Cllr Simpkins stated the PC will be responsible for maintaining and managing the playground but not the pond, which will remain under the management company. It was discussed that maintenance of the POS will need to be incorporated into the landscape maintenance contract, currently out for tender and Cllr Simpkins agreed to prepare the paperwork. However, the specification had already been published so the tendering process would continue, with the additional areas added in further into the process. Cllr Courtman circulated a copy of the full maintenance plan and an electronic copy has been requested from Bloor.

23.022: S106 Projects:

- i. **Updates:** No updates



- ii. **Solar Panel Allocation:** Cllr Simpkins advised that there would be £350,000 available in S106, for Zero Carbon initiatives, with £4011 available now. He offered to find a consultant who could advise re. installing solar panels on PC owned buildings and Cllr Proctor gave him the name of someone locally. This would go onto the next agenda for update.
- iii. **Public Art:** This had not yet progressed and would go on the next agenda.

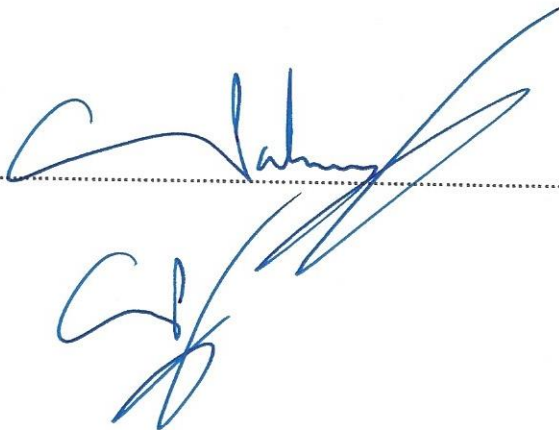
23.023: Allotments:

- i. **Updates:** Cllr Simpkins reported that the Open Day has been rescheduled for 1/4/23 from 10-12 and invited all to attend. The clerk had circulated the minutes from the January committee meeting and the Annual Tenant's meeting.
- ii. **Buying and Selling Compost:** The committee had been interested in buying compost in bulk and offering it to the allotment holders at cost. The clerk had been advised by the auditor that this function did not fall under PC powers. Cllr Simpkins advised that this would be done through the Gardening Club instead.
- iii. **Authorising New Work:** The Committee had proposed replacing the south-east fence belonging to the neighbouring farmer @ £300/day x 3 or 4 days. This was approved, conditional on obtaining permission from the farmer.

MOTION: To agree to the replacement of the 'back' fence, providing permission is in place
PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins **SECONDED** by Cllr Proctor and **AGREED**.

23.024: Date of Next Meeting: March 13th 2023: APM at 7pm in the Hall and PC meeting at 8pm in the Pavilion.

Signed:



Date:

13 MARCH 2023