

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Hanslope Parish Council held on Monday 12th April 2021 at 7.30pm - remotely.

(in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020).

Present:

Parish Councillors: -

M Palmer (Chair)

J Cass

R Simpkins

J Gregory

A Geary (Ward Cllr – MKC)

Clerk: G Merry

D Courtman

S Proctor

E Price

J Richardson – Local PCSO

2 Members of the Public

21.041 Apologies:

There were no apologies

21.042 To Approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 8th March 2021

The minutes had been circulated and were PROPOSED by Cllr Price, SECONDED by Cllr Courtman, AGREED and SIGNED.

21.043 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

21.044 Public Time:

No items

21.045 Council:

- i. **Clerk's Report:** The financial year closed with total income at £156,565 and expenditure at £128,679. Significantly more is spent on maintenance for the village and projects, than on admin and salaries. Balance sheet worth stands at £296,445 at year end, so a healthy reserve to carry forward to the projects identified for the year ahead. The CCTV system is now loaded onto the PC's phone and laptop, meaning cameras may be viewed in real time. CCTV is only as good as reports made and any reports must include times and dates, for footage to be viewed and potentially acted on.
- ii. **Return to face-to face meetings and arrangements for May meeting:** The clerk had circulated the government's ruling that councils must return to in-person meetings from 7/5/21. Options were discussed i.e. delegating decisions to the clerk and only holding informal remote meetings; moving meetings to the community hall where social distancing can be more easily achieved; developing a hybrid option of installing broadband at the Pavilion and monitors, so members could attend remotely. It was discussed and agreed that for May, the council would bring forward its meeting to Thursday May 6th. Arrangements beyond May would require further discussion.
- iii. **MKC move to wheelie bins:** The consultation had not been well-circulated and had been missed. The conflict of interest for MKC was discussed whereby, this initiative would be implemented regardless of future claims for injury, as a result of pavements being blocked. Cllr Geary confirmed the project would be implemented regardless.
- iv. **The Great British Spring Clean – 28/5/21-28/6/21:** The insurance company had stated this must be run as a parish council initiative and under parish council control, for participants to

be covered. It was discussed and agreed that the PC would support this initiative and the date agreed for Sunday 13th June – am.

- v. **London Bridge and Forth Bridge:** The clerk had circulated the protocol information which had now been superseded by the death of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. It was discussed and agreed that members of the public would be directed to the online book of condolence, for reasons of COVID safety. Cllr Courtman suggested the proposed bench to be installed by the village pond, could be a memorial bench, along with a decorative bush in memory of the Duke. This was agreed and the clerk stated she was required to feedback the PC's actions to the High Sheriff for Buckinghamshire.
- vi. **Highways and Traffic Update:** Cllr Cass felt the PC should write to Highways, to the effect that the PC was not informed about the several closures of Castlethorpe Road, currently being experienced by residents. The clerk agreed to compose and send the letter. Parking was briefly discussed, and it was felt that the PCSO does his best. However, pavement parking is not always illegal, so the PCSO cannot apply enforcement. There are now more cars in the village than spaces available and this will consequently be an area of conflict.
- vii. **Flooding – risk assessment working party:** Cllr Geary advised that he had not yet been able to action this with MKC but would be doing so. Cllr Courtman felt there was a need to address blocked gullies and Cllr Gregory reported that some appeared to have been cleared. (Cllr Geary left at 20.06)
- viii. **School Land Transfer to PC:** Cllr Proctor had circulated emails and documents from the solicitor as follows: Copy of Land Registration; Transfer document; School expansion transfer plan; Lease plan for approval and draft lease; Details of potential chancel repair liability. These were discussed and agreed. However, the PC will not accept the chancel repair liability. Cllr Proctor agreed to report back to the solicitor.
- ix. **Reports from Outside Bodies:** There were no reports and Cllr Palmer asked if anyone could attend the MKALC parish's meeting on 14/4/21. Cllr Gregory agreed to attend.

21.046 Planning:

- i. **Update:** Cllr Cass reported on the following applications:
 - 20/02959/OUT** - 65 Newport Road, MK19 7ND - 9 new dwellings plus access rd. and associated works. Has now been refused.
 - 20/03300/FUL** - 9 Long Street, Mk19 7BL - Removal conservatory & store - replace with single-storey extension. Determination awaited.
 - 20/03339/FUL** - The Globe, Hartwell Road (re-submission of 20/01282/FUL) - Entry-level housing exception scheme - 30 dwellings. Decision extended to 27/4/21 with new documents submitted by the applicants. Cllrs Cass and Price had prepared a letter to the case officer and asked whether this needed to be circulated for agreement. It was discussed and agreed that the decision had already been taken to object to the development, so further circulation was not needed. Cllrs Cass and Price went through the grounds for objection, and these were agreed.
 - 21/00805/TCA** - St James Church MK19 7LR - Pollarding back of large ash tree. Cllr Palmer reported that the trees needed pollarding due to fire damage and all were happy with this.
- ii. **Enforcement:** 21/00262/FUL - Eventing Centre, Malt Mill Farm, Castlethorpe Rd. It was discussed that development was already taking place on this site and Cllrs Cass and Price agreed to gather evidence to pass on to enforcement.

21.047: Finance:

- i. **Reconciliations and Financial Situation Report:** Reconciliation and invoice checks had been carried out by Cllr Price. The clerk had circulated accounts to March 31st 2021, with payments and receipts reported as per 21.045 i. The clerk advised that year-end with RBS would take place on 29/4/21 and the internal audit in early May. There were no questions.
- ii. **Ellis Whittam:** It had previously been discussed that the contract with Ellis Whittam runs out this year and the clerk had advised against renewal, as all employment and contractual advice could be obtained from the SLCC or BALC. This was discussed and agreed.
MOTION: to agree not to renew the contract with Ellis Whittam at £1750/year, PROPOSED by Cllr Price SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.
- iii. **Approval of Payments:** The clerk had circulated the list of payments to be agreed for Mar/April (below) and these were reviewed. Cllr Proctor enquired re. printing invoice and the clerk explained this had been for large documents re. the new planning reforms and that the size would have been too large for the home printer.

Date	Invoice from	For	Net	Vat	Total
12/03/2021	Tove Landscapes (Lotte)	Landscape Maintenance - March	£ 788.33	£ 157.67	£ 946.00
18/03/2021	Almars	Printing Planning Docs	£ 64.50		£ 64.50
19/03/2021	Milton Keynes Council	Business Rates - Scout Hall July 2020-Mar 2021	£ 833.47		£ 833.47
19/03/2021	Milton Keynes Council	Business Rates - Scout Hall Apr 2021- Mar 2022	£ 833.47		£ 833.47
30/03/2021	EON	Elec - Scout Hall	£ 25.08	£ 1.25	£ 26.33
31/03/2021	Barbara Osborne Business Services	Payroll - Jan-March 2021	£ 81.00		£ 81.00
31/03/2020	RTM Landscapes Ltd	Landscaping – March	£ 979.17	£ 195.83	£ 1,175.00
31/03/2020	John Sharpe	March Caretaking	£ 370.00		£ 370.00
01/04/2021	Marcus Young Environmental Services	Bins and dog Bins – March	£ 497.00	£ 99.40	£ 596.40
05/04/2021	Tove Landscapes (Lotte)	April Rec Ground Maintenance	£ 788.33	£ 157.67	£ 946.00
01/04/2021	Simon Bates	Herbicide application - village	£ 800.00	£ -	£ 800.00
01/04/2021	Roy Courtman	Document Storage	£ 45.00	£ 9.00	£ 54.00
01/04/2021	Roy Courtman	Operation of SID	£ 240.00	£ 48.00	£ 288.00
12/04/2021	G Merry	Expense's reimbursement			£ 42.33
08/04/2021	British Gas	Pavilion Elec: Feb/March	£ 21.95	£ 1.09	£ 23.04
08/04/2021	British Gas	Pavilion: Gas: Feb/March	£ 26.79	£ 1.33	£ 28.12
07/04/2021	Pat Cook (suggested)	Purchase 2nd hand rotovator for allotments (committee happy)	£ 120.00		£ 120.00
PAID					
15/03/2021	Microsoft	9 User Licenses – annual	£ 410.40	£ 82.08	£ 492.48
22/03/2021	Adobe	Monthly subscription	£ 12.64	£ 2.53	£ 15.17
22/03/2021	EON	Scout Hall – Elec	£ 139.75	£ 1.62	£ 141.37
19/03/2021	Wave (Anglian Water)	Nov 20 - Feb21 – Pavilion	£ 48.45		£ 48.45
25/03/2021	G Merry	March Salary			

25/03/2021	HMRC	March Tax and NI			
25/03/2021	Bucks CC	LGPS - March pension contribution			
29/03/2021	Amazon	Stationery	£ 13.90		£ 13.90

MOTION: to agree the payments for March/April as above, PROPOSED by Cllr Price SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED.

21.048 Recreation Ground:

- i **Pavilion Updates:** The organisers had suggested either 26/6/21 in the evening, or 27/6/21 in the afternoon and the latter was agreed. The clerk would email the rules for use of the Pavilion, to the organisers.

MOTION: to agree the picnic in the park can take place on 27/6/21 PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer, SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

- ii **Repairs to cricket square:** There was damage to the artificial turf forming the cricket square and the clerk had obtained 2 quotes for its repair. These were discussed and Cllr Simpkins added that the cricket club preferred the option with wooden inserts, to reinforce the area better. This was agreed and Cllr Gregory stated he would like to hear the club's plans to recruit and broaden membership.

MOTION: to agree the quote for repairs to the cricket square @ £2,726 + VAT PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED.

- iii **Community Hall lettings, risk assessments and roadmap for re-opening:** The clerk reported that there had been no response from either scouts or guides to formal letters, so it was unclear when they would restart or when/if they were prepared to attend to clear out unwanted items. It was agreed the clearance was long overdue and the council must take action itself. The clerk would circulate dates for the skip to be hired and Cllrs Palmer, Proctor, Simpkins and Gregory agreed to attend and help out. The clerk had circulated the rents previously paid by scouts, guides and brownies and also those charged by the village hall. It was discussed and agreed that rents charged must not compete or conflict with those of the village hall.

- iv **Community Hall Renovations:** The clerk had received 3 sets of quotes for the work needed and these had been circulated. It was discussed that the quotes had varying levels of detail and it was not clear from 2 of them, that all the issues on the spec. would be addressed. It was discussed whether to request more detail. However, it was felt that the work was long overdue and therefore the detailed quote would be accepted.

MOTION: To agree the quotes and contractor for the community hall work @ £9630 + VAT, PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Cass and AGREED

21.049 Village Projects

- i. **Long Street/Gold Street Sign:** Cllr Palmer reported that the sign is still with the blacksmith and he will continue to chase this up. Concern was expressed over the length of time this was taking.
- ii. **Pop-up Library:** Cllr Palmer asked whether the PC was still interested in developing this idea and it was agreed that it is still a worthwhile venture for the village. However, until there is a full complement of Cllrs, it would be put on hold for the time being.
- iii. **Landscape Contract:** Cllr Simpkins stated that a hedge alongside the Bloors development off Castlethorpe Road, used to be maintained by the farmer until the land was sold. It now fell to the PC to maintain, and the contractors had quoted £120 per trim (once a year) for the

work. It was discussed and agreed this would be absorbed into the existing landscaping contract.

MOTION: to agree the additional cost as above for this hedge PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Gregory and AGREED.

- iv. **Bins and Dog Bins:** The contractor had supplied a list and quotes for 13 extra/replacement dog waste bins @ £2406 + VAT, including supply and installation. Emptying would be an extra £30 per bin per week, and this was also agreed. These would be added to the contract which was up for renewal/tender at the end of this year.

MOTION: To agree the budget and quotes for the new bins – as above – PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Palmer and AGREED.

- v. **Benches update:** Installation of the bench at the Dr's surgery would take place on 28/4/21. A memorial bench had been agreed for the village pond at 21.045 v. The clerk agreed to circulate designs and costs.

MOTION: to agree to purchase (cost tba) and install @ £500, a bench at the village pond PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

- vi. **Adoption of Landscape Maintenance on Bloor's estate - offer to fence:** It had been confirmed that the offer was to replace the current knee rail with a substantial fence, as a way to reduce light spill. Photos had been circulated and those who wished to, had visited the site. Cllr Palmer stated fencing the area off would create a 'dead' area instead of what was supposed to be an open, landscaped feature. Fencing-in would likely attract more fly-tipping and potentially anti-social behaviour. He proposed that any fence, should be placed at the end of the complainant's gardens, reducing light spill and other disruptions but allowing the area to remain open. Cllr Price stated that Bloors were not offering this and if a fence were placed there, the residents would be saddled with maintaining it themselves. There may be a further issue with any gap between fence and current hedge line at the house boundaries, where access for maintenance would be impossible. The pros and cons of this were discussed and Cllr Proctor reminded all that the PC had legally agreed to adopt maintenance of the common areas on the new estate. It was discussed and agreed not to install the fence and the clerk agreed to ask Bloors if they would consider erecting the fence at the end of the gardens. Cllr Price asked for a recorded vote:

MOTION: To discuss Bloor's offer to fence the area and agree this SHOULD NOT take place:

Cllr Proctor – agree (i.e. against erection of fence)

Cllr Cass – agree

Cllr Simpkins – agree

Cllr Gregory – agree

Cllr Palmer – agree

Cllr Courtman – agree

Cllr Price – disagree (i.e. pro-fence)

21.050 S106 Projects

- i. **Allotment Project:** Cllr Cass reported that Highways had indicated they would be objecting to the application on the grounds of lack of detail re. paving the driveway and verges. For this reason, the planning officer had advised the application would be refused and suggested the PC remove those items. Cllr Cass and the clerk had agreed this course of action and were drawing up new documents without these items, in order to keep the application valid. In due course, consultation with Highways would be needed about the driveway. However, increased parking may be possible within the site and the committee were looking into this.

MOTION: To agree to pay for Highways/transportation advice re. proposed car parking area on verge – **MOTION** shelved for time being.

ii. **MUGA Project:** The PC had been unable to place a formal order, due to not having planning permission yet and therefore the suppliers had advised increased costs, due to the global increase in steel prices. The MUGA quote was now £150,212 + VAT and this was accepted on the proviso that no further increases would be agreed. The supplier had also submitted quotes for the extra items requested as follows:

- Hut – new design now meeting PC’s specification @ £25,000
- CCTV ducting - @ £3,500
- Lighting controls @ £1,250
- Drainage measures for football pitch @ £21,135
- Cricket Champ game for old unused strip - @ £14,999

These were all agreed. However, the last 2 would only be possible on the agreement of MK Council’s S106 officers, as this took the budget above what had previously been discussed. Cllr Gregory advised that the football club may be able to get a grant to help with drainage costs, but this would only be in the region of £3000. The clerk agreed to discuss the increased budget with Planning Obligations before proceeding (**AFTER NOTE: The planning case officer expressed concerns re. the runoff distance required for the Cricket Champ game and indicated this would delay planning determination further, whilst a consultation took place. For this reason, the clerk withdrew Cricket Champ from the current proposal with a view to applying separately at a later date).**

MOTION: to agree the cost of the extra items, as detailed above PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

21.051 Allotments Update: The chair of the allotment committee had sent the following report:

- The field is still fully let, and there is a short waiting list.
- Parts of the field have been very wet for most of the winter and there have been a few incidents of people driving vehicles on there despite the sign telling them not to.
- A number of trees, including the line of lime trees near the stables have been trimmed and tidied.
- It is planned to carry out the first inspection of the year in the week commencing 26 April.

21.052 Date of Next Meeting: The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council - remotely on 6th May at 7pm

Signed Date