

**Minutes of the Meeting of Hanslope Parish Council, held on 14th February
2022 at 7pm
at the Community Hall, Recreation Ground, Hanslope.**

Present:

Parish Councillors: -

M Palmer (Chairman)

R Simpkins

G Duffield

E Price

D Courtman

A Andrew

J Cass

J Gregory

Clerk: G Merry

2 Members of Public

22.009 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Proctor and Cllr C Wardle (MKC Ward Cllr).

22.010 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th January 2022:

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

22.011 Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations

22.012 Public Participation

- i. A member of the public presented 250 signatures in favour of a skatepark, in response to a Facebook posting. He offered to help with any feasibility study. Cllr Palmer stated this would be discussed later on the agenda.
- ii. A member of the public expressed concern that the signpost for the corner of Castlethorpe Road and Gold Street/Long Street, had still not been installed. He went on to state his dissatisfaction at the manner in which Gigaclear (fibre optic broadband) had been permitted to install unsightly junction boxes, in various locations in the village and had left walkways and verges in a mess. While he appreciated it was MK council who had permitted the work, he asked when this would end and was concerned there was no redress. Cllr Palmer responded that the PC is equally frustrated and that the clerk was investigating who at MKC is responsible for project oversight and ensuring quality.

22.013 Council

- i. **Clerk's Report:** Balances for January were £371,444 in income (282% of budget) and £380,873 in expenditure (305% of budget). The % of figures cease to be relevant at this point in the year, as both are skewed by S106 payments in and out, which did not form part of the original budget. More relevant is the budget projection to year-end which had been circulated. This month the interim audit took place, and the report had been circulated. The office has been busy with projects, meetings, enquires and complaints. It is important that complaints are logged centrally with the clerk, so there is a record, as this helps with prioritising actions and workload. 2 allotment meetings took place. One was the annual tenant's meeting which was poorly attended and the other an allotment committee meeting, the minutes of which will be circulated in due course.
- ii. **Litter Picker:** Cllr Palmer outlined the process by which the new litter picker had been appointed and there were no questions.
MOTION: To retroactively agree the appointment of the new litter picker, Mrs Anne Washington PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED.

- iii. **Traffic, Speeding, Highways and Community Speedwatch:** Cllr Courtman reported the SID results: Castlethorpe Road – maximum speed recorded = 60 mph in a 30 zone; Average speed = 37mph and 52.6 vehicles over the speed limit. Park Road: Maximum speed – 65 mph in a 30 zone, 50% of vehicles over the speed limit (50% of 4203 cars). Forest Road: maximum speed = 70 mph in a 40 zone with 60% over the speed limit. The PC’s application for white ‘village gates’ may be approved, and this may help combat speeding. Cllr Cass had met with a resident, MKC’s Road Safety Officer and a representative from the British Horse Society, to look at areas of concern in the village, where horses/riders are now routinely being passed dangerously close and too fast. The representative from the BHS had stated there could be case for reducing the speed limit in the village based on evidence from this. The move to Community Speedwatch was discussed. Cllr Courtman felt this would be unworkable due to the reliance on volunteers and the time involved. However, Cllr Andrew felt there would be people willing to come forward. It was agreed that the PC would remain with the SID operation for the time being and purchase the necessary batteries. The clerk advised Cllr Bowyer (Ward) had offered some funding for this. Cllr Andrew would look further at potential volunteers for CSW, after the Jubilee celebrations in June. Cllr Gregory suggested a speeding awareness campaign with the school and also that the speeding statistics are published on the website as a cautionary measure, along with a statement of measures the PC are taking. Cllr Courtman confirmed the SID results are sent to TVP.
- iv. **Parking:** The working party had proposed CPZs at Eastfield Drive and at Long Street adjacent to Munday’s Meadow, where people park on the verges, and this was agreed. Cllr Cass advised the parking regulations in the new Highways Code.
- v. **Tathall End Flood Report:** Cllr Palmer had advised that MKC had produced a comprehensive flood report without informing or consulting the PC. It was agreed this was frustrating, but no action would be taken.
- vi. **Crime Figures:** Cllr Courtman had not received the crime figures from the PCSO in time for the meeting. She advised that the PCSO is being re-deployed to another area and Hanslope would revert to sharing a previous PCSO with 5 other villages.
- vii. **Training and reports from outside courses etc:** Cllrs Price, Cass and Duffield had attended the councillor’s Code of Conduct training and Cllr Price circulated a report on this, which all agreed to read.

22.014 Planning:

- i. **Update on planning applications** – Cllr Cass updated from the working group as follows:
 - 22/00079/FUL - 47 St James Close, MK19 7LF - Front and side extension - NO OBJECTION
 - 22/00205/FULMMA - 54 Hartwell Road, MK19 7BZ - Variation of condition - NO OBJECTION
 - 22/00257/FUL - Walnut Cottage 35-36 Tathall End, MK19 7NF - 2 storey rear extension - NO OBJECTION
 - 22/00314/FUL - 25 Nevill Close MK19 7NY - 1st storey side extension plus gable roof - NO OBJECTION

The working group proposed that a standard letter is sent for smaller applications, requesting a condition is placed that pavements and footpaths must not be blocked with building materials or vehicles, and this was agreed.

20/03339/FUL – ‘The Globe’ appeal. The appeal is with the inspector and consultation is by written representations only. The working group proposed sending new objections and Cllr Cass was preparing the wording. She outlined what these were, and this was agreed. Cllr Cass advised that the new Hayfield Estate had some affordable housing available (2 units) and people with a ‘strong local connection’ could apply but these were

only reserved for 6 months. It was agreed the information would be published on the PC's website. An enforcement notice had been issued for 43 Western Drive.

MOTION: To agree the parish council's response to any new applications as above – PROPOSED by Cllr Cass and AGREED

- ii. **Revision of Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Andrew had attended NHP training and advised that the HNP is due for revision having been in place for 2 years. It was discussed and agreed to engage Neil Homer as consultants again for this and the working party would comprise Cllrs Andrew, Price, Cass and Courtman.

22.015 Finance:

- i. **Reconciliations and financial situation report to 31/01/22:** As stated at 22.013 i. Cllr Price had carried out the reconciliations of invoices to payment and account balance reconciliations.
- ii. **Internal Audit Report:** The clerk had circulated the report and there were no questions. She stated that an internal control procedure is in place, but this would need to be published each month. The clerk was thanked for her work in keeping the finances in good order.
- iii. **Budget Projection to year end:** The clerk had circulated this (appended) which showed a projected surplus of approx. £45,654.00, mainly due to the expected VAT refund of £31,672.00, as a result of the MUGA purchase. The clerk advised that the PC is not VAT registered and is permitted to reclaim VAT, providing charges levied on amenities do not exceed a certain threshold. The MUGA is to remain open access.
- iv. **Earmarked Reserves:** The clerk circulated an updated EMR list, in the light of new information. She advised again that efforts must be made to get the reserves down by implementing the various projects, as stated in the interim audit report. She had added suggested timeframes for completion of projects over the next 3 years and these were agreed.
- v. **Approval of Payments:** The list as follows had been circulated and there were no questions:

Date	Invoice from	For	Net	Vat	Total
17/01/2022	Locked and Secure Ltd	CCTV Data Package renewal - one year	£ 360.00	£ 72.00	£ 432.00
30/01/2022	RTM Landscaping	Jan Landscaping	£ 979.17	£ 195.83	£ 1,175.00
01/02/2022	John Sharpe	Jan caretaking	£ 414.00		£ 414.00
01/02/2022	Marcus Young Environmental	Jan bins and dog bins	£ 484.50	£ 96.90	£ 581.40
04/02/2022	Tina Charteress	Interim internal audit	£ 200.00		£ 200.00
08/01/2022	G Merry	Expenses reimbursement			£ 28.31
08/01/2022	Tove Landscapes (Lotte)	Jan Rec Ground Maintenance	£788.33	£157.67	£ 946.00
10/02/2022	Brian Cass	Reimburse Allotment expenses (MOT sub-base, screws/paint, compost)	£54.99		£54.99
13/02/2022	RTM Landscapes	Clearance of fallen branch - high winds - 7/2/22	£ 135.00	27	£ 162.00
12/02/2022	All Round Property Maintenance	Part 1 - allotment work	£ 1,370.00		£ 1,370.00
Expected	Locked and Secure Ltd	Balance on MUGA CCTV	£987.00	£197.40	£1,184.40

PAID					
10/01/2022	Zoom	Monthly subs	£ 12.64	£ 1.75	£ 14.39
11/01/2022	Networld Sports	2 x boot cleaners	£ 439.98	£ 38.95	£ 478.93
20/01/2022	Adobe	Monthly subs	£ 12.64	£ 2.63	£ 15.27
24/01/2022	Amazon	Shoe covers	£ 13.55	£ 2.71	£ 16.26
27/01/2022	Mole Country Stores	Allotment items	£ 1,040.52	£ 208.10	£ 1,248.62
03/02/2022	B&Q	Brooms for MUGA			£ 37.00
07/02/2022	Tara Davies	Pavilion & Hall cleaning January			£ 150.00
07/02/2022	EON	Hall – Gas	£ 59.00	£ 2.95	£ 61.95

MOTION: To approve the invoices as presented, PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

22.016 Recreation Ground

- i. **Outdoor Gym Update:** Cllr Andrew reported that the contract is now out to tender and closes on March 22nd, with tender assessments scheduled for w/c March 28th and a decision to be made at the April PC meeting. A working group to look at the tenders was agreed as Cllrs Andrew, Gregory and Palmer. It had been advised that planning permission would be needed, and the clerk had circulated 2 quotes from companies to prepare the site plans and submit the application. These were discussed and it was agreed to engage MSquare of Market Harborough @ £900 plus VAT + £462 Planning Fee.
- ii. **Football/Cricket Charges:** The football club had given with their view on the proposed charges and had requested the £900 annual permit fee is reduced to £700. It was discussed and agreed that the £900 was a fair charge and less than many local grounds charged. It was agreed to retain the fee as previously agreed and the club would still be responsible for cleaning costs. The matter of cricket ground mowing was discussed, and the clerk stated she had not received any reports of this not being carried out on time. Cllr Simpkins agreed to broker a discussion between the contractor and the club, to ensure mowing is scheduled appropriately.
- iii. **Skatepark:** Cllr Palmer stated that the PC is aware of its responsibilities in providing young people with facilities. However the issue would be location and the discussion was re. undertaking a feasibility study to look into locations, as well as funding, type of facilities, health & safety, planning rules etc. Cllr Andrew expressed her support for the idea and advised that all comments on the recent Facebook posting had been in favour of the skatepark, with no negative comments. Cllr Courtman cautioned that land on new estates would not be handed over to the PC for 2 years. She further stated that the fact that skateboarding is an Olympic sport would not be a consideration at planning stage. It was agreed that councillors should approach this issue without personal bias. It was discussed and agreed to carry out the feasibility study, with Cllrs Andrew, Gregory and Simpkins volunteering to carry this out. The clerk advised that a member of the public could be invited to join a working party.

MOTION: To agree to support a feasibility study into the future installation of a skatepark in the village PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED.

- iv. **MK Play Association:** The clerk advised that 6 sessions are normally held throughout the summer holidays and last year, there had been a session with equipment for older

children. She advised that £3,500 was in the budget and circulated MKPA's costs for this year. It was agreed to hold 5 regular sessions @ £400 plus 2 sessions with the extra equipment for older children (Wikidizer and Zorb Balls) @ £600/session Totalling £3,200

MOTION: To agree expenditure for the summer play sessions as above PROPOSED by Cllr Gregory SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED.

22.017 Village Projects:

- i. **Fingerpost** – Castlethorpe Road/Gold Street: Cllr Palmer reported this is now back with the blacksmith following sandblasting, and the groundwork contractor has been instructed to install the post.
- ii. **Remedial Pond Work:** Cllr Simpkins had circulated the original maintenance plan for the pond and had asked the contractor to advise on the work needed. This had been circulated, at a cost of £696. Cllr Simpkins reminded all, that as the appointed contractor, further quotes are not required as this falls under Financial Regulation 11.1 iv.

MOTION: To action the necessary pond work at the above quote PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED.

- iii. **Defibrillator for Northern End of Village:** Cllr Courtman advised that the Long Street end of the village is now regularly 'cut off', due to roadworks & road closures, flooding etc and it would be sensible to have a defibrillator installed at that end. The installation was agreed, and Cllr Courtman agreed to look at potential locations.

MOTION: To agree to fund the installation of the defibrillator PROPOSED by Cllr Courtman SECONDED by Cllr Palmer and AGREED.

- iv. **Jubilee Events and tree planting:** Tree planting was part of the Jubilee celebrations and funding could be applied for, but Cllr Andrew advised this did was not currently included in the event plans. Cllr Palmer advised that new trees had already been planted in the village, especially in the new estates. It was discussed and agreed to plant 2 horse chestnuts at the entrance to the allotments and Cllr Palmer would supply these. Cllr Andrew advised that a full jubilee event programme would be circulated by the March meeting. Costs would be covered by sponsorship and ticket sales. However, items such as table/chair hire needed up-front deposits @ £440, and it was agreed the PC would cover these.

- v. **Weed Treatment's:** It was discussed and agreed to retain the current contractor and implement spraying of the full village, as well as the main routes.

MOTION: To agree the to the continued contract for weed spraying in the village PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED.

- vi. **Footpath Maintenance:** 1. From Castlethorpe Road to the Bloor estate and 2. Adjacent to Hales Folly Farm. It was advised that both are adjacent to new developments, where the developer had not purchased this section of land and therefore no one was now responsible for maintenance and mowing. It was agreed that this duty would fall to the PC and should be added to the current landscaping contract. It was agreed the PC would have to cover the cost of this.

MOTION: To agree the adoption of maintenance of the above footpaths and add to the current contract PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED.

- vii. **Community Orchard:** Some residents were keen to have a community orchard and Cllr Simpkins had contacted them with a view to looking at potential locations. This was generally supported although would be unlikely to happen until the PC adopts the new estate POS (Public Open Spaces).

Cllr Bowyer (Ward) arrived at 20.46)

22.018 S106 Projects

- i. **Car Park Surfacing:** This had been tendered and awarded in 2020 @ £10,104.54. It had been agreed to leave implementation until after the MUGA was installed. It was agreed to now reactivate this project, to be paid for from EMRs and the clerk agreed to obtain an updated quote.
MOTION: To agree to implement the surfacing as above PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer and AGREED.

- ii. **MUGA:** The clerk advised that Play Innovation had offered to ‘make good’ the area where the trackway had indented the ground, for no extra cost. Cllr Simpkins had also obtained a quote for seeding and making good this area in addition to the areas around the MUGA, from the Rec. Ground contractor, at a cost of £2160. There was some disagreement as to whether Play Innovation’s contract included re-seeding the areas around the MUGA and the clerk offered to check. It was discussed and agreed to confirm what Play Innovation will do and to ask them to carry out all the work. Phase 2 of the pitch drainage work was due to take place after the football season ends and it was agreed this should still happen. Cllr Gregory will advise when the season is finishing.
- iii. **Doctor’s Surgery:** Cllrs Palmer and Price had met with the surgery managers who were progressing the idea for an extension and 24-hour dispensary. Cllr Palmer had offered to help them prepare the project plan and engage an architect.

20.019 Date of Next Meeting: Monday March 14th, 2022, at 7pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting (Open Meeting) will be on April 11th in the Community Hall.

Signed Date

Budget Projection to year end 2021-22					
Expenditure					
	Budget	Actuals as at	February	Projected	Year-End
	2020-21	31/01/2022	Bills	March bills	Projection
Salary, Tax/NI, LGPS	£ 24,055.00	£ 18,520.00	£ 1,662.00	£ 1,662.00	£ 2,211.00
Expenses	£ 400.00	£ -			£ 400.00
Insurance	£ 3,500.00	£ 2,502.00			£ 998.00
Stationery/postage	£ 500.00	£ 204.00		£ 60.00	£ 236.00
Computer	£ 1,044.00	£ 813.00	£ 28.00	£ 28.00	£ 175.00
Phone & Broadband	£ 500.00	£ 265.00	£ 30.00	£ 10.00	£ 195.00
General admin & Office	£ 730.00	£ 359.00	£ 17.00	£ 17.00	£ 337.00
Payroll & Professional Fees	£ 3,350.00	£ 329.00			£ 3,021.00
Training	£ 500.00	£ 204.00			£ 296.00
Audit and Election	£ 1,650.00	£ 1,060.00	£ 200.00		£ 390.00
Subs	£ 840.00	£ 780.00			£ 60.00
Miscellaneous	£ 1,600.00	£ 40.00			£ 1,560.00
Publicity & Communication	£ 1,580.00	£ 620.00			£ 960.00
Contractors	£ 36,108.00	£ 29,144.00	£ 2,866.00	£ 2,932.00	£ 1,166.00
Allotments	£ 3,350.00	£ 2,420.00		£ 600.00	£ 330.00
SID	£ 1,500.00	£ 960.00			£ 540.00
Recreation Ground	£ 6,456.00	£ 27,985.00	£ 360.00	£ 500.00	-£ 22,389.00
Projects - village	£ 15,230.00	£ 11,911.00		£ 9,165.00	-£ 5,846.00
S137	£ 6,350.00	£ 8,263.00		£ 2,000.00	-£ 3,913.00
Contingency & Reserve Towards Devolved Services	£ 10,617.00	£ -		£ 7,165.00	£ 3,452.00
Planning and Neighbourhood Plan	£ 5,000.00	£ -			£ 5,000.00
Total	£ 124,860.00	£ 106,379.00	£ 5,163.00	£ 24,139.00	-£ 10,821.00
Income					
Precept	£ 124,860.00	£ 124,860.00			£ -
Misc. Income		£ 7,879.00			-£ 7,879.00
Rents		£ 584.00	£ 922.00	£ 200.00	-£ 1,706.00
Grants	£ 5,732.00	£ 5,969.00			-£ 237.00
Allotments	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,990.00	£ 60.00		-£ 1,050.00
VAT refunds		£ 13,931.00	£ 31,672.00		£ 45,603.00
Total	£ 131,592.00	£ 155,213.00	£ 32,654.00	£ 200.00	-£ 56,475.00
Projected Outturn for the year (Projected income less projected expenditure Totals)					£ 45,654.00