

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Hanslope Parish Council, held
on 13th December 2021 at 7pm
at the Community Hall, Recreation Ground, Hanslope.**

Present:

Parish Councillors: -

M Palmer (Chairman)

R Simpkins

G Duffield

J Cass

Absent: J Gregory

D Courtman

A Andrew

S Proctor

Cllr C Wardle (MKC Ward)

Clerk: G Merry

1 Member of Public

21.133 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Price.

21.134 Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 8th November 2021:

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

21.135 Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations

21.136 Public Time:

A member of the public requested the council consider provision of a skatepark to go on the next agenda. He circulated detailed information and outlined the benefits, concerns, siting, funding and discussed the potential to form a committee to look into feasibility. Cllr Palmer thanked him for this comprehensive presentation and stated the matter would go onto the next PC agenda.

21.137 Council:

- i. **Clerk's Report:** Income to the end of November stood at £153,027 (116% of budget) and expenditure at £209,282 (168% of budget). This figure is inflated by the £70K paid out for the 1st MUGA instalment and the £20K for the allotment project, both of which are still to come back from MKC. Added to this will be the 2nd MUGA instalment, also at £70K. The clerk stated that MK council have let Hanslope PC down as an organisation. Promising it would not be out of pocket, and monies had not only been agreed but would be paid straight away, even up-front. This has been disingenuous on their part, being told one thing by some officers and then a different process is being implemented. The clerk has been pushing for prompt and in the case for the MUGA, up-front payments for months, only now finding a sizable funding agreement must be signed before money can even be authorised, far less paid. This has now been signed for the allotment payment, despite being requested in October and the legal agreement for the MUGA payments is awaited. This is essentially a cashflow issue, albeit to the tune of £160K and will rectify itself when the money comes in, but concern was expressed as to what would have happened to a small PC, not carrying the sort of reserves HPC has. The clerk advised that despite this, over £200K is still in reserves and must be reduced, and there were some interesting projects for discussion. It was agreed that a formal complaint should be made to MKC, and Cllr Wardle offered to find out to whom this should be sent.
- ii. **Highways and traffic update:** There had been no progress on the finger post sign from the Gold St/Long Street junction and it was agreed Cllr Palmer would collect it from the

blacksmith, so that another supplier could complete the work. Cllr Courtman discussed speeding figures from the S.I.D. as submitted at the meeting with the Head of Highways. Clashing road closures for Jan/Feb were discussed and it was advised that the Rec. Ground car park is for Rec. Ground users only.

- iii. **Crime Update:** There had been no update submitted by the PCSO.
- iv. **Parking Issues:** The working party had presented a list of 6 areas to potentially go to consultation and these were discussed. It was felt that educating the public was more beneficial than imposing restrictions, especially in cases where only one car may have been parking inconsiderately. The clerk reminded all, that the PC has no powers of enforcement and cannot install signage. It was agreed to request re-application of the double yellow lines by the bus stop at the top of market square, as frequently parked cars mean the bus cannot get through at that point. Decisions on the other areas would be deferred until the next meeting.
MOTION: Deferred until the January meeting.
- v. **Reports from outside bodies, training courses etc:** Cllr Andrew had attended training courses for councillor induction and on Neighbourhood Planning, both of which had been valuable. She would advise on the latter under 21.127. ii.

21.138 Planning:

- i. **Update on planning applications and agreement on PC responses:**
 - 21/03408/FUL - Cuckoo Hill Farm, MK19 7HQ - Some changes had been made from the original application. It was discussed and agreed that the PC's original comments would apply again in this case. I.e. that this development lies outside the development boundary, as defined in the Hanslope NDP. It was agreed to re-submit the comments.
 - 21/03369/FUL - The Globe, 50 Hartwell Road MK19 7BZ - It was discussed and agreed that the original comments would stand i.e. that the parish council supported the Globe being re-opened as a pub and as this is no longer the plan, the PC cannot support. Cllr Cass reported that 20/03339/FUL for 30 houses has gone to appeal but there is no start date, as an inspector has not yet been appointed.
 - It was agreed that 21/03450/PANAGC - Rose Lane Farm, Forest Road, MK19 7DE, would be discussed at the end of the meeting.
- ii. **Neighbourhood Plan:** Deferred to next meeting.

21.139: Finance:

- i **Reconciliations and financial situation report to 30/11/21:** Cllr Price had checked the reconciliation reports for November and the figures balanced. The clerk had circulated the accounts and there were no questions.
- ii **Budget 2022-23:** The clerk had circulated an updated draft budget, and this would be finalised and agreed at the January meeting, once decisions were made affecting projected receipts and payments.
- iii **3-year contract with RBS software:** The clerk stated that the year-end service from the current provider, RBS software was invaluable, and agreeing to the 3-year contract would give preferential dates for this.
MOTION: To agree to the 3-year contract with RBS for year-end services and ongoing support PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.
- iv **Grant Applications:** None.
- v **Approval of Payments:** The list as follows had been circulated and there were no queries:

Date	Invoice from	For	Net	Vat	Total
17/11/2021	SLCC	Annual Membership	£ 186.00	£ -	£ 186.00
17/11/2021	Property Care Bucks Ltd	Supply and fit LED light to car park	£ 430.00	£ 86.00	£ 516.00
24/11/2021	BMKALC	Neighbourhood Planning course (AA)	£ 60.00		£ 60.00
25/11/2021	Sign Wizzard	2 x car park signs plus redraw and supply of logo	£ 104.99	£ 21.00	£ 125.99
30/11/2021	Murray's Printers	1500 Clarion booklets	£ 620.00	£ -	£ 620.00
30/11/2021	BMKALC	Councillor Induction Course & Cllr Skills Course (AA)	£ 76.00		£ 76.00
30/11/2021	RTM Landscaping	Nov Landscaping	£ 979.17	£ 195.83	£ 1,175.00
01/12/2021	John Sharpe	Nov caretaking	£ 451.00		£ 451.00
01/12/2021	ICO	Annual Membership/Data Protection Renewal	£ 40.00		£ 40.00
01/12/2021	Marcus Young Environmental	Nov bins and dog bins	£ 484.50	£ 96.90	£ 581.40
06/12/2021	Play Innovation	MUGA project - second payment	£ 70,000.00	£ 14,000.00	£ 84,000.00
08/11/2021	G Merry	Expenses reimbursement			£ 73.90
PAID					
15/11/2021	EON	Sept/Oct Gas - Comm hall	£ 58.79	£ 2.94	£ 61.73
15/11/2021	EON	Sept/Oct Elec - Comm hall	£ 47.16	£ 2.36	£ 49.52
22/11/2021	Adobe	Monthly subs	£ 12.64	£ 2.63	£ 15.17
23/11/2021	Amazon	Printer Ink	£ 32.15	£ 6.43	£ 38.58
26/11/2021	British Gas	Gas – Pavilion	£ 36.23	£1.81	£ 38.04
26/11/2021	British Gas	Elec Pavilion – 603150042	£ 54.32	£2.71	£ 57.03
26/11/2021	British Gas	Elec Pavilion – 603150043	£ 2.75	£ 0.13	£ 2.88
26/11/2021	G Merry	Nov Salary	██████████	██████████	██████████
26/11/2021	HMRC	Nov Tax and NI	██████████	██████████	██████████
26/11/2021	Bucks CC	LGPS - Nov pension contribution	██████████	██████████	██████████
29/11/2021	Propertycare Bucks Ltd	Supply 240m lights plus 2 transformers	£ 1,083.33	£ 216.67	£ 1,300.00
01/12/2021	Stan & Van Ltd (Stanimir Petrov)	Clearance of attic cupboards plus waste disposal charges	£ 510.00		£ 510.00
01/12/2021	Daryl English	Tree Trimming - Rec Ground	£ 350.00		£ 350.00
01/12/2021	Wave (Anglian Water)	Rec ground, Hall and Pavilion - Aug-Nov 2021	£ 153.70		£ 153.70

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

21.140 Recreation Ground:

- i. **Football and Cricket pitch permits 2022-23:** The clerk had circulated a suitable legal agreement which was approved. Cllr Andrew had worked on suggested charges for the teams, based on research from similar parishes and a percentage share of the average bills for maintaining the pitches, running the Pavilion/changing rooms etc. These were discussed and agreed as follows: -
 - Hanslope FC - £900

- Hornets - £350
- Cricket Club - £500
- Stony Stratford - £500

The clerk was asked to convey this to the clubs for their feedback before implementing. It was discussed and agreed to implement the charges from the 2022 season but with a 50% discount in recognition of the difficult year all were having. The full charges would then start for the 2023-24 season. Stony Stratford would be charged in full from 2022 and it was agreed that due to lack of capacity, no other outside hirings would be permitted.

MOTION: To agree annual permit charges as above PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED

- ii. **Request from Hanslope FC to cover cost of pitch repairs:** Hanslope FC had obtained a quote for £1500 + VAT, for the repairs needed to the pitch and had asked for the PC to cover this. This was agreed on the proviso that the work is only carried out after the second phase of planned drainage work is completed in the spring.

MOTION: To agree to cover the costs @ £1500 +VAT as above, PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Duffield and AGREED

- iii. **Request from Hornets re. memorial bench:** The Hornets had submitted a written request for permission to install a bench, in memory of a former player and coach who had tragically died at young age. It was discussed and agreed that this would be supported, providing the bench is in-keeping with those already in the Rec. and the PC must be consulted on location and design. In addition, the family of the deceased must be in agreement with the installation.

MOTION: To agree the response to the Hornets as above PROPOSED by Cllr Courtman SECONDED by Cllr Cass and AGREED

- iv. **Outdoor adult gym:** Cllr Andrew had consulted with other parishes and also with some providers to put together an initial proposal and this was circulated. She talked through the issues including accessibility and that this facility would be aimed at a slightly older demographic. It was agreed the funding would come from earmarked reserves where up to £40,000 had been allocated, although it was unlikely to cost more than £15-£18K. It was agreed that in due course, installation of equipment in one of the new estates could also be looked at, or a 'Trim Trail' taking in other areas of the village. Initial installation in the Rec. Ground was agreed and Cllr Andrew agreed to work this into a spec. for agreement at the next meeting.

MOTION: To agree to the installation of outdoor adult gym equipment, as above PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Cass and AGREED

- v. **MUGA Floodlighting arrangements:** The clerk advised that the previous arrangement had been for the floodlights to only be operated when in use by an approved user, who had access to the controls. However, since the new MUGA was open access for all, and planning permission allowed for floodlighting until 10pm, there was an argument for having them on a timer to allow for evening usage. The pros and cons of each option were discussed, and it was agreed that the lights would be off by default and only operated by user groups with access. This would be reviewed next Autumn.

MOTION: To agree the evening use of the MUGA floodlights will be by authorised user groups only PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED.

21.141 Village Projects

- i **Streetlighting:** Cllr Cass reported that in addition to MK Council replacing village streetlights with LEDs, the developer on Castlethorpe Road had installed new LED lights

on telegraph poles. These had been overly bright and on complaining, Cllr Cass had been told that the Council knew nothing of the new installation and had requested these to be decommissioned. Cllr Cass outlined the need for clarity on this situation and it was agreed the clerk would write to MKC re. their policy in this matter.

- ii **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee update:** Cllr Andrew reported that the organising committee had been able to obtain sponsorship from local organisations covering all expenses, except for the bagpiper to ‘pipe in’ the beacon @ £350. It was agreed the PC would cover this and would meet the up front £90 requested by the piper.

MOTION: To agree the cost of the piper, and to an up-front deposit of £90 PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED.

- iii **Pond Newt Surveys:** Cllr Simpkins had been advised by the Ecological Unit of MK Council Planning, that surveys must be carried out to determine if there were Great Crested Newts - a protected species - before pond maintenance could be carried out. Initial survey quotes had been obtained at £1,895. Cllr Proctor stated that the PC had adopted the 2 ponds and therefore must act in line with the council’s Biodiversity Policy. The PC may need to carry out the surveys in order to obtain a license to carry out further maintenance work. Concern was expressed at the potentially escalating cost of this, and Cllr Simpkins suggested he contact the Planning Department to point out there is a Biodiversity Management Plan in place, and this has thus far been complied with. The response to this should be awaited before the PC agrees to any expenditure.

MOTION: To agree the cost of undertaking the surveys, DEFERRED until a response is received from the planning department.

21.142 S106 Projects

- i **Public Art:** Cllr Simpkins had circulated details on MKC’s process for applying for and installing Public Art, using S106 monies. A committee should be formed to discuss suitable options for the village and installations are required to be on or ‘in the vicinity’ of the development site. There was a significant amount available from S106 for this, for Hanslope and it was agreed that a committee would be formed, comprising parish council and non-parish council members. Cllrs Cass and Courtman agreed to start this and invite other members up to a maximum of 7, with the aim of developing a proposal.
- ii **Other Updates:** The MUGA fences were in progress and the working group had agreed this facility must be kept closed until the spring, to prevent mud being introduced to the new carpet. It was agreed a boot scraper would also be installed. An opening event would be planned for the spring.

(At 9.12 it was agreed to extend the meeting for another 30 minutes)

21.143 Allotments – Update:

- i. **Ad Hoc Jobs Needed – Quotes:** The clerk had circulated the minutes from the November committee meeting, where it had been agreed that quotes should be sought for a list of winter jobs needed. The clerk had circulated quotes from 2 contractors, and these were compared. It was agreed to accept the quotes from contractor 2:-

ITEM	CONTRACTOR 1 prices will have VAT added	CONTRACTOR 2 no VAT	MATERIALS
Install Boot Scraper	£45.00	£50	Already bought
Install posts (posts to be bought)	£5 each	Day rate @ £150 or £270 for 2 people	approx. 60 posts @ £5-40 each inc VAT = £324-00
Measure Plots	£300	Day rate @ £150 or £270 for 2 people	
Install boarding for car park area	£1500	£800	posts and fixings £317-94 inc vat
Infill rutted areas of ridings	£300/day	£450-550 for labour	£335-96 for 6x 800kg bags inc vat
Coppice hazel tree Disposal	£45 £20	£75 inc. waste removal	
Install 2 x noticeboards	£300 for both	£190 for both	

Postmix	£48.96	Included	
Fencing repairs	£300/day x 3 days = £900	£540	post plus netting and wire £468-99
Machinery hire	£400		inc vat
Clearance - plot 12	£190	£540	

MOTION: To agree the above quotes from contractor 2 for the allotment jobs, PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED

- ii. **Retention of regular contractor:** The committee had agreed that a regular contractor should be sought, to be contracted to undertake ad hoc jobs at the allotments, negating the need to obtain quotes every time. This was agreed and the clerk would work on a suitable contract.

MOTION: To agree in principle to a preferred contractor for ongoing allotment maintenance work PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

- iii. **New Noticeboards:** The committee had requested 2 new noticeboards for the allotments, and these were likely to cost in the region of £454 each. However, the exact specification had not yet been agreed so it was agreed to purchase these up to a maximum of £550 each.

MOTION: To agree to supply the 2 new noticeboards as detailed PROPOSED by Cllr Cass SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

21.144 Date of Next Meeting: Monday January 10th, 2021, at 7pm.

At 9.25pm Cllr Courtman left the meeting and the following matter was discussed:

21.138 Planning:

Update on planning applications and agreement on PC responses:

21/03450/PANAGC - Rose Lane Farm, Forest Road, MK19 7DE - Change of use from agricultural barn to 3-bed dwelling plus associated operational development. It was discussed and agreed that no comments would be submitted, as this is permitted development for agriculture, under the Town and Country Planning Act

Signed Date
