

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Hanslope Parish Council, held  
on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7pm  
at the Community Hall, Recreation Ground, Hanslope.**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors: -

M Palmer (Chairman)

E Price

A Andrew

S Proctor

D Courtman

R Simpkins

G Duffield

J Cass

Cllr C Wardle (MKC Ward)

Clerk: G Merry

1 Member of Public

**21.122 Apologies for Absence:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Gregory.

**21.123 Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 11th October 2021:**

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

**21.124 Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Andrew declared an interest in item 21.130 iv and Cllr Cass declared an interest in item 21.128 v.

**21.125 Public Time:**

- i. A member of the football club expressed frustration that the drainage work to the pitch had caused it to become unplayable, and the club were having to spend money they could not afford on renting elsewhere. The club are grateful that the PC has not charged pitch fees for some time. However, this unforeseen expenditure had come at the worst time when funds were already low. It was felt that all concerned had been misled by the contractor. Cllr Palmer responded that the PC is equally frustrated with this and would await the outcome of the independent pitch evaluation, currently being pursued by the FC. It was requested that the PC take this situation into consideration when discussing pitch permits for the forthcoming year. Costs of hiring external venues were discussed.
- ii. A member of the cricket club explained that insufficient young people are not joining to replace retiring members and an arrangement had been proposed whereby Stony Stratford 5<sup>th</sup> team, can have use of the pitch in the season, in return for the loan of players to Hanslope. The member of the public offered to answer any of Cllr's concerns on this item.

**21.126 Council:**

- i. **Clerk's Report:** At 31/10/21, income stood at £144,026 (110% of budget) and expenditure at £111,601 (89% of budget). £10,000 can be added in from earmarked reserves, for the scout hall refurbishment, so what looks like an overspend balances out. Although it cost more than expected to get the Hall up to standard, bookings are starting to happen now with 2 more bookings this month. It has been a challenging month with some setbacks on the Rec. Ground, due to the drainage work taking place and also slight issues over the CCTV, now resolved. S106 officers have authorised the reimbursement for the allotment work and have requested the first invoice for the MUGA. SUSTRANS had requested to meet re. the proposed cycleways between Hanslope and Castlethorpe. Cllrs were asked for their availability, and it was agreed Cllrs Palmer, Proctor and Courtman would attend.

- ii. **Highways and traffic update:** Cllr Wardle reported that Highways still have no budget code for installation of the zebra crossing but have indicated it will be installed in the Easter holidays. Cllr Courtman reported that the SID had been operated in Hartwell Road and had recorded an increase in cars, with over 3000 exceeding the speed limit. It was agreed that the village urgently needs the proposed white 'gates'. The continued road closures in the village were discussed.
- iii. **Parking Issues:** The working party advised the following areas for proposed Controlled Parking Zone applications: Semi-circular grass area on Western Drive; verge from Munday's Meadow to Folly Farm; verge near 'Anglian Water' allotment gate; the Market Square adjacent to the bus stop and on the corners where it is difficult for the bus to get through. The junction of High St and Castlethorpe Road, opposite the Watts Arms, was also added, with yellow lines possibly needed. The group would firm up the list for the next meeting and it was also agreed that some local consultation would be needed, to reinforce each case. The clerk agreed to start a folder of evidence.  
**MOTION:** Deferred until more information is available
- iv. **Remembrance Day:** Cllr Palmer reported that he lays a wreath at the memorial tree on Park Road on the 11th and then attends the remembrance service at St James on the Sunday and lays a second wreath. All are welcome to attend these acts of remembrance.
- v. **Reports from outside bodies, training courses etc:** The clerk had previously circulated notes from a meeting between the MK clerks and the new interim Head of Highways. Cllr Andrew reported that she will be attending 3 training courses and will report back.

#### 21.127 Planning:

- i. **Update on planning applications and agreement on PC responses:**  
21/00262/FUL: The clerk had circulated a response to the PCs complaint, from the Head of Planning and it was agreed this had been disappointing. It was stated again that this section of road is extremely dangerous, and the traffic modelling conducted was considered flawed. Courses of action were discussed and in particular, the likely success of a Statutory Review. It was discussed and agreed, this would be a risky strategy with little chance of success. The best course of action would be to pursue speeding mitigation measures and the clerk was asked to arrange an in-person meeting with the new Head of Highways, to discuss both this and other overlooked matters such as the zebra crossing and the white gates. The option of commissioning a traffic survey would be kept in mind.  
The Planning Inspector's' decision on 20/02959/OUT – Newport Road – was awaited.
- ii. **Enforcement:** No action yet from enforcement re. advertising banners in the conservation area.

#### 21.128: Finance:

- i. **Reconciliations and financial situation report to 31/10/21:** Cllr Price had checked the reconciliation reports for October and was happy the figures balanced. The clerk had circulated the accounts and suggested a budget virement of £5000 from 'village projects' to 'recreation ground' as this as currently overspent, and this was agreed.
- ii. **Earmarked Reserves:** The clerk had reworked and circulated the EMR list and advised that the total was still high at £231,000. She stated this would be picked up again at audit and the council should look to get this down, by implementing projects and consider not raising the precept. Cllr Andrew asked for the idea of an outdoor gym to be on the next agenda.
- iii. **Budget 2022-23:** The clerk had circulated a draft budget and outlined that fixed costs had been increased due to the current financial situation with prices increasing. She and Cllr Price had researched and circulated fuel prices and recommend a 20% increase for

Gas and Electricity. 2022 prices had been obtained and it was recommended signing a one-year, fixed price contract with both EON and British Gas, to be reviewed after a year. This was agreed. Cllr Proctor advised that he is awaiting details of Public Open Space transfer from the Bloors estate. However, the PC was not 'nominated' so Bloors are not legally obliged to transfer the POS. The Wheatfields estate will be transferred to the PC but probably not until 2023 and there will be a one-off maintenance grant at transfer. For these reasons, there was no urgency to increase budget against the cost of adopting these areas. The clerk advised that due to past over-budgeting and inability to implement all planned projects, the budget was currently looking at being slightly reduced. She also explained that the precept demand must be based on the agreed budget and advised on an increase in the tax base of 120 new homes. She confirmed that the precept is divided between those households and so an increase in homes without an increase in precept, would result in a net reduction in council tax for households. The wisdom or otherwise of reducing the budget was discussed briefly but the budget will be further considered next month, and the clerk invited input.

- iv **Grant Applications:** A grant application had been received from the Hanslope Events Group, for new additional Christmas lights and their installation this year, @ £2800 This was a discussed and agreed.
- v **Approval of Payments:** The list below had been circulated and there were no queries:

Date	Invoice from	For	Net	Vat	Total
01/10/2021	Marcus Young Environmental	Bins and dog bins - Sept	£ 544.50	£ 108.90	£ 653.40
04/10/2021	MK Council	Business rates - Comm hall	£ 197.75		£ 197.75
13/10/2021	Daryl English - All Round Property	Williams Close Hedge Trimming	£ 1,050.00		£ 1,050.00
17/10/2021	Tove Landscapes	Replacement playing surface - Cricket strip	£ 3,695.70	£ 739.14	£ 4,434.84
30/10/2021	RTM Landscaping	Oct Landscaping	£ 979.17	£ 195.83	£ 1,175.00
01/11/2021	Roy Courtman	Document storage July-Sept	£ 45.00	£ 9.00	£ 54.00
01/11/2021	Roy Courtman	SID operation	£ 240.00	£ 48.00	£ 288.00
01/11/2021	John Sharpe	Oct caretaking	£ 468.00		£ 468.00
01/11/2021	Marcus Young Environmental	Bins and dog bins – Oct	£ 565.00	£ 113.00	£ 678.00
01/11/2021	Tove Landscapes	Oct Landscaping - Rec. Ground	£ 788.33	£ 157.67	£ 946.00
03/11/2021	Sign Wizzard	Allotment gate signs	£ 50.29	£ 10.06	£ 60.35
05/11/2021	Play Innovation	Stage 1 payment for MUGA (as requested by S106 officer)	£ 70,000.00	£ 14,000.00	£ 84,000.00
08/11/2021	Tara Davies	Cleaning - Hall and Pavilion	£ 150.00		£ 150.00
08/11/2021	G Merry	Expenses reimbursement			£ 44.63
<b>Grant Applications</b>					
08/11/2021	Drew Archer/Events Group	Christmas Lights	£ 1,300.00		
08/11/2021	Drew Archer/Events Group	Christmas Lights Labour and installation	£ 1,500.00		
		<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>£ 2,800.00</b>		
<b>PAID</b>					
19/10/2021	The Poppy Shop (RBL)	2 x wreaths			£ 39.97
20/10/2021	Adobe	Monthly subs	£ 12.64	£ 2.63	£ 15.17

22/10/2021	Brian Cass	Allotment expenses reimbursement			£ 257.80
29/10/2021	British Gas	Gas – Pavilion	£ 15.50	£0.77	£ 16.27
29/10/2021	British Gas	Elec Pavilion	£ 41.94	£ 2.09	£ 44.03
29/10/2021	Locked and Secure	Down payment on CCTV – MUGA	£ 987.00	£ 197.40	£ 1,184.40
29/10/2021	G Merry	Oct Salary			
29/10/2021	HMRC	Oct Tax and NI			
29/10/2021	Bucks CC	LGPS - Oct pension contribution			

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

#### 21.129 Recreation Ground:

- i. **Community Hall Updates:** The scouts have confirmed they do not want the items stored in the attic area, and the guides have shown no inclination to sort out what is theirs. The clerk suggested paying a clearance company to clear everything and take to the tip. This was discussed and agreed and due to the amount, a day rate would be needed.
- ii. **Maintenance Update:** The pruning of the trees behind the scout hall has been completed but there has been no update from Thames Water re. the drains. Lighting for the 'overflow' car park is needed, and the clerk agreed to look into this.
- iii. **Signage Requirements:** There had been some incidences of vehicles parking at the Rec. yet are not Rec. users. It was agreed the clerk should implement signage stating no parking to non-Rec users and no trading, starting with one sign at the entrance and one on the fence for now. Dog fouling was discussed but penalties cannot be enforced. The clerk will continue the Facebook campaign with regard to the health & medical consequences of dog fouling.
- iv. **Football – pitch permits 2022 onwards:** The clerk explained that as a potential income stream, the historic absence of pitch payments needs to be considered at budget time. She advised on the current cost of ground maintenance, bin emptying etc on which this calculation should be based. Both sides of this were debated at length, from the effects on the football club's finances at this difficult time, and the fact that the PC does not currently need the income and this can be a way of supporting a village group, Compared with this, the view that it is unusual not to levy charges and the football and cricket club were advised last year that charges would be implemented, as their usage presents a cost to the council. It was agreed that in principle, charges will be implemented from 2022. However, a nominal charge only will be considered for the financial year 2022-23. Cllr Andrew offered to look at this further, in time for the next meeting.  
**MOTION:** To agree to implementation of annual permits and charges (with the proviso as outlined) PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Cass and AGREED
- v. **Cricket Updates:** The cricket club had proposed a ground-sharing arrangement with Stony Stratford cricket club (details appended). The proposed arrangements were discussed and agreed in full. It was also agreed that the cricket club would be subject to any permit charges, but local clubs would pay a lesser rate than outside clubs.  
**MOTION:** To agree the use of cricket pitch within the season by Stony Stratford CC, (as outlined in Appendix) PROPOSED by Cllr Courtman SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

The member of the Cricket Club present requested a year's grace from charges but advised that Stony Stratford were fully expecting to pay something.

### 21.130 Village Projects

- i **Long St/Gold Street Sign – update:** No progress
- ii **Broadband update:** Cllr Simpkins reported from a meeting with a high-speed broadband provider, currently licensed to install in the village. Installation is currently being rolled out and also in neighbouring villages. Cllr Courtman expressed concern that residents may not be clear that there was no obligation to sign up with this company, and other providers were available. The clerk stated that as this is a commercial organisation, this was not something the PC should get involved with.
- iii **Williams Close Hedge:** The history of this matter was outlined and the fact no agency was prepared to attend to the hedge, which grows significantly every year. It was pointed out this is no different from other hedges the PC has adopted through devolved services option. The homes concerned are elderly people's bungalows, whose residents cannot tackle such a large job. It was discussed and agreed to continue the service twice-yearly, to be reviewed in a year's time. Additionally, the contract will be extended to address more of the hedge where this can be accessed.  
**MOTION:** To agree to continue the hedge trimming service for another year, then review, PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.
- iv **Queen's Jubilee 2022:** Cllr Andrew reported that a committee has been formed of which she is chair, and the event is coming together. The issue has been that banks are no longer opening community organisation accounts without a full constitution in place etc. Additionally, event insurance would need to be obtained which may be prohibitive. For these reasons it was requested that the project is brought under the management and financial control of the parish council. This was discussed and agreed, although the PC will play a hands-off role in the organisation of the event. Cllr Andrew agreed to submit a budget for the next meeting as well as a grant application and would report back monthly. This way there would also be full transparency over costs.  
**MOTION:** To agree to the council assuming legal and budgetary responsibility for the event, PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED By Cllr Simpkins and AGREED
- v **Christmas Lights:** This had been agreed at 21.128 iv. Cllr Price asked that the group ensure the lights work well this year. Cllr Andrew will coordinate with the events group re. a switch on date.

### 21.131 S106 Projects

- i **MUGA** Cllrs Palmer and Simpkins reported the build is approximately halfway to completion, with phase 1 of the drainage work complete and phase 2 to be carried out after the end of the football season. The MUGA foundations are in, and the fencing is awaited. They will continue to oversee the project.
- ii **Dr's Surgery Project:** Cllr Palmer reported that the S106 application for installation of a 24-hour drug collection facility, will be prepared by the practice manager with assistance from the clerk who will then submit the application.

### 21.132 Allotments – Update:

The committee chairman had circulated as follows and there were no comments:

- Converted shipping container now in place
- Composting toilet in place and could be operational in near future, but will probably be opened to tenants in spring 2022
- Mower and rotavators available for hire by tenants (charges still to be determined)
- New gates in place which will prevent vehicular access to allotment field in winter when the ridings are soft (emergency access will be available)
- Inspection carried out by sub-committee members in October found that most allotments are well kept with only a few issues

- Still a couple of prospective tenants on the waiting list
- The issue regarding the damage to the verges outside the allotment field is still to be resolved (MK Council planning department didn't want to see them reinforced)

**21.133 Date of Next Meeting:** Monday December 13th, 2021, at 7pm.

Signed ..... Date .....

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**APPENDIX 1**

**From Hanslope Cricket Club**

*For several years we have struggled to get enough players, and particularly young players, to continue to fulfil our fixtures. We have been looking for a partner to try to remedy this situation and have now found one - Stony Stratford Cricket Club. Stony Stratford CC are a far larger club than us with a significant infrastructure that supports development & youth cricket. We believe we can accommodate the proposal below, subject to the Parish Council's approval.*

*Stony Stratford's 5th team will play their home games at Hanslope - on Saturdays when either Hanslope CC has an away fixture or has no fixture.*

*Essentially this will mean that the ground is used every Saturday throughout the cricket season (subject to the weather of course). Stony Stratford will provide a team of grounds people to help to improve the condition of the cricket square and will prepare their own wickets on the weeks that they will be playing on the Saturday. The square is in need of improvement to produce better wickets for playing cricket.*

*Stony Stratford will also look to play junior matches (probably 2-3 hours duration) at Hanslope on Sunday mornings throughout the cricket season, using the AstroTurf strip.*

*Stony Stratford will run one coaching session per week at Hanslope throughout the cricket season, specifically for young players, and particularly for young people in Hanslope who may not play cricket at present. We see this as being key to attracting young players to become the core of Hanslope CC for the future and utilise the infrastructure of Stony as they have a complete Youth set up*

*Stony Stratford will make available any surplus players for Hanslope CC to use on weeks when we are struggling to field a full side.*

*Stony Stratford will make a pool of young players available for our midweek games (on the AstroTurf) when we often struggle to field a full side, allowing us to arrange more games.*

*The arrangements would be reviewed at the end of the 2022 season to ensure that it is working well for all concerned.*

*We are looking for the Parish Council's agreement to allow Stony Stratford CC to use the recreation ground in the manner set out above.*