

HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes the Meeting of Hanslope Parish Council on Monday 12th February 2024 at 7.00pm at the Community Hall, MK19 7LG.

MINUTES

Present:

D Courtman (Chairman)

R Simpkins

E Price

J Moore

A Flatley

L Andrews (Ward Cllr MKCC)

Clerk: G Merry

0 members of Public

24.015 Apologies: Were received and accepted from Cllrs Andrew, Pacheco, Geary and Wallond. Cllr Wallond joined the meeting remotely and it was RESOLVED to allow a dispensation for him to join in discussions.

24.016 Minutes from previous meetings held 8th January 2024

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the meeting PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED

24.017 Declarations of Interest: No declarations.

24.018 Public Participation: No items

24.019 Council

- i. **Clerk's Report:** Income for the year to date is £145,991 (107% of budget) and expenditure £155,212 (95%). £32,673 has been spent from EMRs, for those earmarked projects. Any project work between now and March 31st such as landscaping work, extras such as Williams Close and hedges etc will also be coming out of EMRs. The new Transparency Scheme agreed in January, required publication of a document listing where on the website all other documents could be found, or whether they could be applied for. This led to updating of Risk Assessments but also some unplanned expenditure, i.e. a boiler service, electrical fixed wire testing and PAT testing - now completed. There have been some additional repairs and call outs, i.e. work to the changing room doors which had been letting in water, work to the allotment gate, as well as call-out fee for the faulty roller shutter - unfortunately still not resolved. The work to the cricket pitch is complete, resulting in less risk to the public from the sockets around the square and the rope surround has been changed. All risk assessments are on the website. Councillors now all have dedicated PC email addresses. It is important that these are used for PC business, rather than personal email accounts. This is best practice since councillor emails can be requested in the event of a legal challenge and personal ones may not be secure.
- ii. **Enforcement Scheme update:** MKCC had advised that they cannot train the enforcement officer to issue FPN's yet. The PC would need to decide whether it will be the authorising authority and therefore arrange for the training and implementation, including responsibility for prosecution case files etc. Alternatively, whether MKCC authorise the officer, in which case they handle the training and legal work but retain any income. This was discussed and Cllr



- Courtman asked for individual views. It was generally agreed that the PC was not reliant on any income generated from FPNs and to take on the legal cases, would produce too much liability, as well as work for the clerk. It was decided to leave any decision until the scheme is operational again from April and review after 3 months.
- iii. **Working Groups:** The clerk circulated the current list of working group membership and advised that Cllr Flatley is now on the Rec. Ground liaison group and Cllr Moore is on the planning group. Cllr Courtman advised that the Neighbourhood Action Group has been replaced by the North-West Community Forum. She is the Chairman and the next meeting is on 27/3/24. The clerk agreed to publicise this on the website and social media.
- iv. **Highways updates:** The clerk had met briefly with MKCC's Parking Officer who had advised of a new 'Waiting Restrictions Scheme' which only Parish Councils can apply for. The clerk had requested the data on how often their enforcement officers visit Hanslope. He had advised there is currently no mechanism to authorise the PC's own enforcement officer re. parking and also that MKCC's officers do not challenge pavement parking. Complaints had been received from residents of High Street, that they often cannot park during methodist church events. Cllr Price offered to find out who to speak to at the chapel.
- v. **Crime updates:** No update
- vi. **Speeding updates and feedback re. implementation of 20 mph limit:** Cllr Courtman advised that the SID had been in operation on Hartwell Road & Newport Road and read from the SID data. Cllr Wallond had spoken to Hanslope School who were not generally supportive of a 20mph limit but were happy that the new zebra crossing had improved safety. It was agreed that the proposed 20 mph consultation will be shelved for now and the clerk will put a statement to this effect on social media.
- vii. **Cllr Training:** Cllr Moore had attended the BMKALC Councillor Induction training and had found this informative. She gave a short report and suggested future attendees read the 'Good Councillor Guide' prior to attending. Cllr Flatley will attend on 19/2/24.
- viii. **Any reports from Cllrs:** Cllr Andrew had sent her Ward Cllr report as follows: -
- Parking at the Rec on match days - 4 volunteers had helped with parking and this seemed to work well. The Hornets will inform when they have future big meets and the same volunteers will help again. Dave Kingdom, Mason Stewart and Mel Holtham-Hart were thanked for assisting their community.
 - Highways will be presenting a new process for dealing with potholes, going to all Cllrs on 20th Feb. Several are still around the village and there has been a failure in MKCC's processes to deal with them with any consistency. Update at the next meeting.
 - Old Bus Station has been painted and will have another coat later this spring. Thanks to Keith Matthews, Richard Langshaw, Cllr Pacheco, Cllr Liam Andrews and Ben Everitt MP for helping. Also MKM Building supplies, who gave a significant discount on the supplies.
 - New City Plan meeting went well and was attended by Hanslope, Haversham, Castlethorpe, Stoke Goldington and Gayhurst councilors. Hanslope and the northern areas are not a top-tier choice for development, due to the significant infrastructure costs involved in further development. There will be further consultations and once the presentation deck has been shared, AA will share it with the rest of the PC. The intention is to keep this group of villagers talking and to present a united front if any developments are sought later in the process.
 - Rec. liaison - there is a request for some work to be done to the playing surfaces. This could be funded from S106 funds. It was discussed and agreed the clerk would work on an application.
 - Cllr L Andrews (Ward) advised that he will be attending the MKCC budget meeting w/c 19/2/24 and that council tax increases will be capped at 4.999%.



- i. **Policy re. engaging with developers:** From time to time, the PC receives requests from developers to meet, prior to applications being submitted. The clerk requested clarification on the PC's view and it was agreed a policy will be implemented, that the PC does not meet with developers under any circumstances. The clerk will post this on the website.

MOTION: To agree a policy as above re. requests to engage with developers PROPOSED by Cllr Price SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED

- ii. **New planning applications – Feb 2024.** Recommendations from planning working party. Discussion/agreement on PC responses, plus any updates. As follows: -

				PC RESPONSE AGREED
24/00205/TCA	At: Hanslope Village Hall Newport Road Hanslope Milton Keynes MK19 7NZ	Proposal: The re-pollarding by approximately 3m of 4x Lime Trees (T1-T4)	05/03/2024	No comment/objection
24/00239/TCA	At: Green Manor Gold Street Hanslope Milton Keynes MK19 7LU	Proposal: The reduction in height by approx. 4m of 2x Thuja (Western Red Cedar) (T1 & T2), the felling to ground level of 2x Leylandii & Thuja (G1) and the removal of Thuja Hedge (G2)	06/03/2024	No comment/objection

MOTION: To agree the parish council's responses to applications, as above, PROPOSED by Cllr Price SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

- iii. **Enforcement matters and breaches:** No Actions

- iv. **Revision of Neighborhood Plan: Update from working group, agreement of recommendations and approval of any cost:** The Steering Group will meet on 27/02/24 with the consultants in attendance. The proposed revisions will be submitted from the consultants ahead of this meeting and the clerk advised there was sufficient money in the NHP budget to cover these costs.

24.021 Finance

- i. **Reconciliations and financial situation report to Jan 31st 2024:** The clerk circulated the accounts to 31/01/24, along with year-end projected outturn. This showed a small overspend, offset by an increase in expected income. She advised that 2024-25 may need to be the last year to spend from EMRs and this would need to be reviewed. There were no questions.

- ii. **Retroactive approval for work to the Newport Road Wildlife area:** This area had for some years been left to re-wild with only 2 cuts per year, to encourage biodiversity. A winter cut was in the contract but as this would not start until 1/3/24, this was extra. It had been necessary to complete it even though the expenditure had not yet been agreed, to maximize increase to the seed bank.

MOTION: To approve the work carried out, as per the landscaping contract @ £600 PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Moore and AGREED.

- iii. **Approval of payments, including any grant applications – Jan/Feb 2024:** The clerk circulated the list of payments for approval:

	Invoice from	For	Net	Vat	Total
23/01/2024	Tove Landscapes	Planting to gaps in hedge at playground (partial)	91.5	£ 18.30	109.8
23/01/2024	Tove Landscapes	Removal of concrete sockets at cricket square, level, topsoil, etc	£ 1,075.60	£ 215.12	£ 1,290.72
23/01/2024	Tove Landscapes	Replanting on pond bank	£ 310.00	£ 62.00	£ 372.00
30/01/2024	Tove Landscapes	Winter works - Rec Ground - month 5	£ 798.00	£ 159.60	£ 957.60

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31/01/2024	Proludic		Replacement gym item (insurance payment already received)	£ 1,248.35	£ 249.67	£ 1,498.02
31/01/2024	Sign Wizzard		Allotment gate sign	£ 47.21	£ 9.44	£ 56.65
31/01/2024	Suez		Eurobins for Rec.	£ 9.17	£ 1.83	£ 11.00
31/01/2024	Kingdom LA Support Ltd		Enforcement contract – Jan	£ 1,800.25	£ 360.05	£ 2,160.30
01/02/2024	Marcus Landscapes	Young	Jan bins and dog bins	£ 674.30	£ 134.86	£ 809.16
02/02/2024	GP Building Services		Repairs and re-install Allotment gate	£ 500.00		£ 500.00
04/02/2024	Propertycare Bucks		Heating call out, boiler service, door repairs (hall)	£ 215.00	£ 43.00	£ 258.00
04/02/2024	Propertycare Bucks		Repairs to pavilion doors	£ 400.00	£ 80.00	£ 480.00
05/02/2024	Anne Washington		Caretaking – Jan	£ 582.00		£ 582.00
05/02/2024	Tara Davies		Hall and Pavilion cleaning – Dec	£ 150.00		£ 150.00
05/02/2024	Tove Landscapes		Williams Close communal area (53-59)	£ 400.00	£ 80.00	£ 480.00
05/02/2024	Tove Landscapes		Williams Close rear garden area (53-59)	£ 200.00	£ 40.00	£ 240.00
05/02/2024	Tove Landscapes		Newport Road mid-winter wildlife cut	£ 600.00	£ 120.00	£ 720.00
07/02/2024	SWCAA		Allotment memberships approx. x 86	£ 301.00		£ 301.00
07/02/2024	Westwood Security Shutters		Call out and inspect faulty roller shutter	£ 180.00	£ 36.00	£ 216.00
10/02/2024	Jackie Cass		Admin support - planning working group Dec-Jan	£ 180.00		£ 180.00
PAID: -						£ -
19/01/2024	British Gas		Hall Gas Dec-Jan	141.22	£ 7.06	148.28
19/01/2024	Adobe		Subs	£ 16.64	£ 3.33	£ 19.97
19/01/2024	Hugo Fox		Website hosting	£ 9.99	£ 2.00	£ 11.99
19/01/2024	British Gas		Hall - Elec - Dec-Jan	£ 23.91	£ 1.20	£ 25.11
22/01/2024	British Gas		Pavilion Elec Dec-Jan	£ 173.66	£ 8.68	£ 182.34
24/01/2024	Amazon		Accident book – Allotments	£ 6.64	£ 1.34	£ 7.98
24/12/2023	Amazon		First aid kit – allotments	£ 14.12	£ 2.83	£ 16.95
26/01/2024	Post office		Postage	£ 2.50		£ 2.50
26/01/2024	Timpson's		Key cuts	£ 28.95		£ 28.95
29/01/2024	G Merry		Jan Salary	£ 1,568.25		£ 1,568.25
29/01/2024	HMRC		Jan tax and NI	£ 349.27		£ 349.27
29/01/2024	Bucks Pensions		Jan LGPS	544.93		£ 544.93
29/01/2024	British Gas		Pavilion - Gas - Sept-Jan	£ 197.82	£ 9.89	£ 207.71
29/01/2024	Wave (Anglian Water)		Water – Pavilion	£ 156.34		£ 156.34
29/01/2024	N Gray		Reimburse Diesel - Allotment clearance	£ 25.00		£ 25.00
29/01/2024	r Wallond		Reimburse CSW expenses - batteries	£ 9.00		£ 9.00
30/01/2024	BT		Phoneline & broadband	£ 57.15	£ 11.43	£ 68.58
01/02/2024	Aston Clinton Stores		Stamps	£ 6.25		£ 6.25
01/02/2024	Wintering		Labels for new trees	£ 49.00		£ 49.00
02/02/2024	Tesco		Refreshments - allotment AGM	£ 8.81		£ 8.81
05/02/2024	Tesco		Drain fluid	£ 8.00		£ 8.00

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MOTION: To approve invoices as presented, PROPOSED by Cllr Courtman SECONDED by Cllr Flatley and AGREED.

24.022 Recreation Ground

- i. **Repairs and other work carried out:** The work required to the changing rooms doors, to prevent water ingress, had been carried out. A company had checked the faulty roller shutter but had not repaired it. The clerk will obtain further quotes and Cllr Courtman offered to advise on alternative suppliers. The new football shelters will be installed w/c 12/2/24.
- ii. **Feedback from Rec. Ground Liaison meeting:** The minutes from the Liaison group had been circulated and it was agreed that although the PC does all it can to provide well maintained facilities, there is a balance to be struck as to how much can be spent, given the Rec. is a public park. The clerk advised that Stony Stratford CC will be using the ground less this summer and asked whether a reduction in permit was appropriate. It was discussed and agreed that the amount would remain the same and this gave SSCC the ability to increase use again in the future.
- iii. **Possible Summer Events:** To be discussed at a future meeting.

24.023 Village Projects

- i. **Update on Bloor's handover of car park and land:** Cllr Simpkins had received no further contact from Bloor's solicitors and former Cllr Proctor was chasing this up but without progress. The later they leave it, the more snagging issues arise, potentially delaying transfer even further.
- ii. **Old Bus Garage frontage – update:** Cllr Andrew and team were thanked for their work in painting the hoardings. It is unclear how this now fits in with the proposed public art consultation (discussed at 24.024 i).
- iii. **Planter Project – revised proposal:** Cllr Simpkins had advised that this project was scheduled for this financial year but delayed until the situation with compliance over the Christmas lights was resolved. In the meantime, he had discussed with the contractor, a revised plan for the planter and this was circulated. The new plan would remove the knee rail, meaning there would be no need to excavate below the ground, negating the need for Highway's contractors to carry out the work. This also approx. halved the cost. It was discussed and agreed to implement the revised idea.

MOTION: To agree the revised proposal PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Cllr Moore and AGREED.

24.024 S106 Projects:

- i. **Public Art proposal – update:** MKCC's Public Art officer had advised they would be conducting an initial consultation for Hanslope, with a view to spending available S106 funding. The clerk advised this may be a better solution, as MKCC have greater resources. The recent village photo exhibition was discussed, as a starting point for understanding Hanslope's story and the clerk agreed to convey this to MKCC and request a meeting.
- ii. **Dr's surgery – update:** The application was currently stalled and Cllr Courtman outlined the constraints to parish council involvement i.e. that Parks Practice is the applicant and must carry out all actions themselves, as any involvement would be outside of PC scope. Cllr Price advised that the architect will be re-drawing the rooflines and the practice will progress the S106 application.
- iii. **Solar Panels – update:** 5 tenders had been received and the clerk, along with Cllrs Wallond and Simpkins had carried out an initial evaluation of these. There was a shortlist of 3 and on-site meetings had been arranged, to fine-tune any issues. It was **agreed to amend the motion** to state that once the follow-up meetings are complete, the team will have delegated authority to decide on the successful company and to start implementing the project.

AMENDED MOTION: To agree that Cllrs Wallond and Simpkins, along with the clerk can approve the provider for this project, PROPOSED by Cllr Flatley SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED

24.025 Allotments - Any updates

Cllr Simpkins reported that the Annual Tenant's meeting had been held and this had been amiable. An Open Morning will be held at the allotment site on 9/3/24 and there was currently approx. 95% occupancy.

24.013 Date of Next Meeting: 11th March 2024.

Signed (Chairman): D. G. Courtman

Date: 11th March 2024