

ABBEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr. Julian Vischer
50 Gibsons Green, Heelands, Milton Keynes, MK13 7PE
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2014/12/165

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday, 18th December 2014 at Two Mile Ash School at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs. E. Matthews (Chairman) S. Galbraith, D. Lewis, Dr. A Evans, K. Wilson. No residents.
Clerk: J. Vischer

1. **Apologies None**
2. **Public Open Forum None**
3. **Approval of November Minutes & any Matters Arising.** Approved subject to amendment of the 'date of the next meeting'. *Proposer Chair, Seconder Cllr. Wilson, passed. Unanimous.*
4. **Clerk's Report**
 - a. **Bollard renovation quotation** – no update.
 - b. **Brioche plant screening** – the Parks Trust had had a change of heart over the project and now wished to carry out their own scheme of planting which would not include any trees. It would include fast-growing shrubs to make a narrow screen.
 - c. **Xmas Tree illuminations** – after a flurry of emails (including councillors) and phone-calls to the contractor via the clerk, the Chair had taken an executive action to order 3 new sets of lights to replace the failing Xmas tree at a cost of £196 + VAT. The contractor had moved quickly to restore the lights. All agreed the tree now looked as it should.
 - d. **Parish Walkabout** – this had not yet been arranged in spite of reminders from the clerk. A member of the MK Council staff had been ill.
 - e. **Overgrowing shrubs** at the corner of Kepwick / High St – re-reported 24 Nov; ref 4507842 – '*In progress*'
 - f. **The wooden bridge** behind the school field. Reported 20 Oct. ref. 431229 – '*in progress*'.
 - g. **Yellow Lines** - These had been done in the last few days after an exchange of several emails – much to the delight of all. The clerk had been asked to inform the PCSO's and ask for a visible presence before the end of term, only to be told that enforcement was down to MK Council and that the Police "do not have the powers to give a ticket unless the vehicle is causing an unnecessary obstruction".
 - h. **Flooding outside no's 167 and 169 Clay Hill** – reported 17 Nov; ref 446572 – '*In progress*'
 - i. **Wymbush footbridge by Lodge Lake** (Parks Trust) – reported 24 Nov. No report back.
 - j. **[Footpath in the Park** – reported 20 Oct; ref 430877 - passed on to Highways by Environment]
 - k. **Garamonde Drive overgrowing shrubs** – reported 24 Sep; ref 412277 – '*In progress*'
 - l. **Kiln Farm redway** by Monks Way - reported 24 Sep; ref 412508 – '*In progress*'
 - m. **High St.** behind Dentists – re-reported 12 Sep; ref 402567 – '*In progress*'
5. **Parish Report Leaflet** – moved to the January meeting. Discussion revolved around communicating with the community –
It was agreed in principle that more communication via both email and a small hand delivered newsletter should be arranged to raise the profile of the work of the parish Council. *Proposed Chair, Seconded Cllr. Lewis. Passed, unanimous.*
It was agreed that an email group be established that would be given regular updates on Parish Council news - the schools to be included in this. Cllr. Galbraith to coordinate items, clerk to circulate. A list of

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about 25 addresses had already been compiled. Circulation would be quarterly. Clerk to establish where this stood in relation to Data Protection Law. *Proposed Chair, Seconded Cllr. Lewis. Passed, unanimous.*

Clerk & Cllr. Galbraith

It was agreed to set up a regular small newsletter, one or two sides of A4 maximum, to be hand delivered around the Parish Council area once every six months for a trial period. Clerk to compare printing costs vv Staples laser printing. Cllr. Galbraith would prepare a draft for the February meeting. Cllr. Galbraith to coordinate items, clerk to arrange printing. Councillors to deliver. *Proposed Chair, Seconded Cllr. Lewis. Passed, unanimous.*

Clerk & Cllr. Galbraith

Items would be earmarked at parish council meetings to go into both email and newsletter.

6. Finance.

a. Cheques for authorisation.

The latest accounts sheet was circulated.

The following cheques were approved for payment:

| Date | Chq No. | To Whom | gross |
|--------|---------|----------------------|----------|
| 18/Dec | 864 | TMA School | 17.00 |
| 18/Dec | 865 | J Vischer | 218.98 |
| 18/Dec | 866 | Post Office (PAYE) | 711.69 |
| 18/Dec | 867 | Lamps & Tubes | 300.00 |
| 18/Dec | 868 | A H Contracts - 7670 | 142.03 |
| 18/Dec | 869 | Marcus Young - 9641 | 1,512.00 |
| 18/Dec | 870 | J Vischer - admin | 35.48 |

Balances:

This showed a current account credit of £3,938, which tallied with the latest bank statement, and an overall balance of £13,940 for available funds (+ reserves).

b. Initial Budget/Precept discussion – after discussion and clarification the proposed budget of £25,190 was agreed. *Proposer Cllr. Matthews, Seconder Cllr. Evans, passed. Unanimous.*

The precept was discussed in detail with some additional comparative sheets presented by Cllr. Lewis. To raise the whole of the budget amount would cost a precept of about £17.90 per Band D property. Given that a zero precept had been in place for the last 3 years in order to reduce the budget surplus - still about £60,000 - a precept of about half of this amount or less was more likely. To be finalised at the next meeting.

6. Planning Applications. *Previous Applications*

a. 14/02261/FUL 19 Pyke Hayes, Change of use from amenity land to private garden use (retrospective) - *refused*

b. 14/02262/FUL 19 Pyke Hayes, Erection of fence boundary measuring 2 metres (retrospective) – *refused*

NEW - None

10. Correspondence and Grant requests

None other than that circulated by email.

11. Other Meetings

a. **Meeting at TMA school** – the school was looking for ways to mend relations with the community following the rejection of the school expansion plans by MK council largely based on the degree of opposition from local residents. Grants for funding the sports hall would not

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now be available. It was agreed to invite the school to send a member of staff to Parish Council meetings on a regular basis so councillors could be kept informed of school events and the school would be aware of current issues facing the Council. The parish Council would include the school on its new email loop. It had been suggested that Party in the Park could be held in school grounds thus facilitating preparation and security – the drawback being that it might appear as a school event – the Committee would decide. **Chair**

12. New Items

a. Councillors –

- i. **Brioche Car Park Floodlighting:** Four new floodlights cast glare right across Great Monks Street to the houses opposite. Given that the new planting screen would be much reduced and given that the glare was bad enough through existing deciduous trees, it was agreed to contact the Parks Trust to ask them to add some evergreen trees. **Clerk**
- ii. **Xmas Tree Lighting** – it was suggested that street trees with Xmas lights should be looked into as a better way to celebrate the time of year and to consider replacing the existing Xmas Tree with a healthier and more attractive specimen. The possibility of the use of sponsors should be looked into. **Clerk & Councillors**
- iii. **Wooden bridges** – with two bridges needing repairs (*see above*) it was agreed that an audit of all the bridges in the Parish Council area be carried out. **Cllr. Wilson**

b. Residents - None

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting.

Thursday 15th January 2015 at 7.30pm at TMA School

The Meeting closed at 9.20pm

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