

ABBNEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr Julian Vischer
50 Gibsons Green, Heelands, Milton Keynes, MK13 7PE
Tel 07866 412706
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2015/3/188

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday, 16th July 2015 at Two Mile Ash School at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs D. Lewis (in the Chair), B Johnston; newly co-opted councillors N. Lategan and T. Holland. 7 members of the public: Karen Galbraith (TMA Events Committee) Janice Cristoe, Mrs Windmill, Peter Blyth and Chris Gossop (Two Mile Ash Environmental Group (TMAEG)), Marie da Silva, Paul Hedges and guest speaker Oscar Hubert, Chair of Neighbourhood Watch Milton Keynes.

Clerk: J. Vischer

1. Apologies - S. Galbraith

2. **Signing of Declarations of Acceptance of Office by New Councillors** – these had been duly signed in the presence of the clerk.

3. **A Briefing by Oscar Hubert Neighbourhood Watch** – Oscar Hubert described the aims of neighbourhood watch as: to help reduce the fear of crime, to help the police by reporting of crime and act as a message-carrier between communities and the police and *vice versa*. They also had a strong role to play in crime prevention through offering advice on home security and discounts on certain products such as the very effective SmartWater system. They trialled new ideas. Volunteers were needed who should be prepared to go door-to-door in order to recruit 'Watches' and to find out the status of the 16 or so registered Neighbourhood Watch schemes in Two Mile Ash that may or may not still be in existence. A list of the coordinators of these old schemes would be sent to the clerk. Leaflets were distributed.

4. **Public Open Forum - Peter Blyth** (TMAEG) asked if the grant request for bird boxes could be moved forward on the agenda but this was not agreed.

Chris Gossop (TMAEG) offered his thanks to the Parish Council and the TMA Events Committee for supporting and running the very successful Party in the Park.

Mrs Windmill advised members that she had noted MK Council contractors cutting the landscaped central area which the Parish Council was already doing and paying for. **Clerk to report**

She also added that the sofa and rubbish in the garden of 54 High St had not been removed. **Cllr. Lewis Paul Hedges** reported that the drying areas by Norbrek, which he had brought to the attention of the Parish Council last year, had largely been cleared but those that were left were in a dire state. TMAEG offered to consider tidying them up from the landscaping angle but they did not remove large items of rubbish. Cllr. Lewis to consult enforcement officer Ann Stannard at MKC, who was aware of the situation, for an update. **Cllr. Lewis**

Karen Galbraith informed the meeting that there was a TMA Parents Page on Facebook which could benefit from a link to the Parish Council website etc. This was agreed. **Clerk**

5. Approval of June Minutes and any Matters Arising not covered below

The minutes were approved as a true record on condition that Cllr. Galbraith agreed as neither the new councillors or Cllr. Lewis, who had not been present at that meeting, could approve. Proposer Cllr. Lewis, Seconder Cllr. Johnston.

Dog bins – the clerk had yet again received no reply from the previous contractor regarding the 9th dog bin – the inevitable conclusion seems to be there are only 8 dog bins. Cllr. Lewis' proposal for 2 new dog bins at each end of the path across the middle of the green space between Clay Hill and Downland, at a cost of £185 per bin, was agreed. Proposer Cllr. Lewis, Seconder Cllr. Holland. 3 For and 1 Against.

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- 6. Declarations of Interest in any of the following items** – Cllr. Lewis: planning matters generally and Men-in-Sheds (item 16). Cllr. Johnston: planning application 15/01491/FUL (item 15) as neighbour.
- 7. Parish Council newsletter July edition** – this had gone out before Party in the Park as promised. A vote of thanks was offered to both Cllrs Galbraith and Johnston for their quick work.
- 8. Friends ‘Priorities’ List** – deferred until the next meeting.
- 9. Parish Logo** The Deputy Head at Two Mile Ash School, Lucy Eldridge, had agreed to have submissions available by today. To be picked up after the meeting. It was agreed to meet at Cllr. Lewis’ house to choose the winner – to be arranged. [*post-meeting note* – the clerk picked up the submissions the following day as the Deputy Head had been off sick]
- 10. Party in the Park** – Karen Galbraith (TMA Events Committee) reported a successful event with £2,249.70 raised with the Bungee Run netting the most (£347). A set of accounts and remaining cash was handed over to the clerk. Mrs Galbraith went on to say that 3 of the 4 committee members wished to stand down. Members agreed that this would be unfortunate as next year would mark the Queen’s 90th Birthday. Mrs Galbraith was happy to continue as Chair and Cllr. Lewis offered to organise the printing and distribution of a recruiting letter to be hand-delivered throughout Two Mile Ash. A vote of thanks was offered to Karen Galbraith and the Committee for all their hard work and commitment.
- 11. Holiday Play Sessions** - MK Play Association had provided the dates for the summer holiday play sessions in time for the July newsletter. These are on Wednesdays: 29th July; 12th August; and 26th August between 10.30am and 12.30pm.
- 12. Twitter account.** Cllr. Johnston had set up the Twitter account on the Parish Council’s behalf immediately after the last meeting, #AbbeyHill (@AbbeyHillParish). It currently has 16 ‘follows’ some of which are other organisations in Milton Keynes.
- 13. Report on Environmental Matters from previous minutes**
- a. Ref 624054 Pothole on High St (K Wilson) *‘transferred to our operations team and will be repaired within 28 days’* June 23rd Repaired 30 June.
 - b. Parking Spaces outside 131-137 Clay Hill (Cllr. Johnston) – the clerk had obtained information and maps from Mk officer showing ownership of car park spaces.
 - c. Footpaths in Park – letter to John Price. John Price had passed the email on to Euan Darling, Landscape Services Officer. The reply stated that if Highways designated that the paths were ‘under the intervention level’ then there was nothing to be done. It added however that weedkilling on these footpaths had been curtailed as a response to a request from TMAEG to reduce spraying while they were conducting weeding operations ‘in the area’. TMAEG members present said that this was no longer the case. It was agreed that the clerk should enquire as to whether the refurbishment of footpaths could be paid for by the Parish Council.
 - d. White warning triangles on the speed bump reported 23 March ref 547432 (*pointed out and agreed action to be taken on walkabout 11th May*) – no change.
 - e. Mature horse-chestnut trees on Haithwaite – (Cllr. Lewis) Nothing more to be done.
 - f. Damaged bench – Leafield Rise, ref 640872, reported 8 July.
 - g. Tree at allotment entrance – the clerk had established that this does have a tree preservation order (TPO) and so a planning application will have to be made. **Clerk**
 - h. [Parking bay marking out along the High St on the west side - subject to Parking Scheme application]
 - i. [Capian Walk – shrubs, dead tree (result of walkabout11th May)]

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- j. [Hole on the Approach verge (*responsibility of adjacent Guinness Trust housing association, according to MK Council*) – awaiting reply from Regional coordinator.]

14. Finance -

- a. **The following cheques were approved for payment.** Proposer Cllr. Lewis, Seconder Cllr. Lategan.

<i>Chq</i>			
<i>No.</i>	<i>To Whom</i>	<i>gross</i>	<i>VAT</i>
970	MK Play Association - 138180	312.18	
971	Marcus Young - July	153.00	25.50
972	Vision ICT	240.00	40.00
973	J Vischer - salary	436.80	
974	TMA sch - room hire June & July ex	34.00	
975	J Vischer - salary for Aug	<u>529.45</u>	
total		1,705.43	65.50

Available funds at 1 July 2015: £17,089

- b. **New bank mandates** – the changes were now complete.

15. Planning Applications.

Previous (*for update*) - 15/00814/FUL 38 Denmead Two Mile Ash Replacement windows and door (*retrospective*) - *permitted*

15/01267/FUL 49 Hepleswell Two Mile Ash Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension. *pending*

15/01348/FUL 31 Kepwick Two Mile Ash Prior notification for a proposed single storey rear extension measuring 4.5 metres from the rear wall of the original dwelling with a maximum ridge height of 3.99 metres and maximum eaves height of 2.4 metres. *pending*

15/01295/FUL 108 Clay Hill Two Mile Ash Two storey and single storey front extension. *Pending*

NEW – 15/01491/FUL 131 Clay Hill Two Mile Ash Loft conversion including flat roof dormer. No comments.

15/01501/FUL 10 Sandwell Court Two Mile Ash Single storey front extension. No comments.

15/01543/NMA 15 The Approach Two Mile Ash Non material amendment to application

14/00501/FUL to increase width of stairwell window from 600mm to 1200mm and addition of window to ground floor WC (*for info*)

16 Correspondence and Grant requests - other than via email.

Request for a grant of £250 for bird boxes for TMAEG – It was agreed to award 50% of the grant of £250 towards the project. (Cllr. Lewis in his capacity as Ward Councillor would make up the remainder) Proposer Cllr. Lategan, Seconder Cllr. Johnston Unanimous.

17 Other Meetings and New Items

Meeting venues – No further reply from either church. Clerk to visit Ashbrook School next week. Cllr Johnston offered to pursue the request with the Church of the Latter-day Saints. Cllr. Holland offered to make enquiries at the Golf club as they had a meeting room upstairs. **Cllrs Johnston/Holland, Clerk**

New Items – Cllr. Johnston reported that he was looking into solutions for the poor visibility for pedestrians crossing Clay Hill on the corner at the bottom of the hill by the school.

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Cllr. Johnston put forward a policy proposal that the Parish Council seek ways to be as green as possible with regard to the use of paper etc. This was agreed as a general rule and would be considered at the next meeting.

Cllr. Holland reported that the hedges on Clay Hill were badly overgrown. Clerk to report but as MKC was only doing one cut per year it seemed unlikely to meet any emergency criteria.

Cllr. Lategan reported the general messiness and unreadability of several road signs/names in the parish. It was agreed to invite Facebook Friends to post pictures and then present to MKC. Cllr. Johnston added the virtually invisible park sign on Clay Hill due to overgrown bushes. **Cllr. Lewis(Facebook)**

18. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 17th September 2015 at 7.30pm at TMA school

PART TWO

19. Confidential Item – Clerk's Pay & Performance. This was postponed to the next meeting.

The Meeting closed at 9.45pm

Signed

Date