

ABBEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday, 20th October 2016 at Two Mile Ash School at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs S. Galbraith (Chair), D. Lewis, and B. Johnston. Parish councillor candidate: Mr David Simpson
Residents: Mr C. Gossop (Two Mile Ash Environmental Group)
Clerk: J. Vischer

1. Apologies – None

2. Co-option – Resolved to co-opt Mr Dave Simpson on to the Parish Council. Proposer: Cllr Lewis, seconder: Cllr Galbraith, unanimous. Mr Simpson was welcomed.

3. Public Open Forum – Mr Gossop (TMAEG) revised upwards the quotation for planting a replacement 'Raywood' ash tree, on the verge opposite Stone Hill, to £260. In addition the Group was being asked to purchase a 'Cultivation Licence' from Milton Keynes Council (MKC) at a cost of £75. This seemed an unjustified burden to the volunteer group who was in fact replacing a MKC tree at no cost to them. Councillors agreed to accept the increased quote (to be match-funded) and offered to query the need for a Licence with MKC.

Clerk

Regarding the post-and-rail network he agreed that recycled plastic posts did not appear to be available. The Group was happy to work with Parish Council in refurbishment or replacement.

Many of the 36 'corner-plot' fruit trees in the allotments were in need of rejuvenation and the Association was considering changing to more tasty varieties, that is less purely decorative, and he was seeking assurance that the Parish Council would be willing to allow this to happen and even cover at least some of the expense of replacement. It was agreed that the Parish Council was not opposed to replacing the trees. Councillors invited Mr Gossop to ask the Association to prepare the case, noting possible options, and present to Council.

4. Approval of Minutes and any Matters Arising not covered below

4.1. Resolved – The September Minutes were approved as a true record. Proposer: Cllr Lewis, seconder: Cllr Galbraith, unanimous.

4.2. Purchase of laptop & MS Office software – the meeting was being conducted with the new laptop displaying the various papers on the screen via the room's overhead projector for the first time.

5. Declarations of Interest in any of the following items – None

6. Friends of Two Mile Ash Page (FoTMA) – There were no significant issues at present.

7. Fault / Project Log

7.1. Regarding the various Ringway jobs – the Clerk and Chair sub-committee had agreed to instruct Ringway to go ahead with 3 items from the Log: removal of footpath & Boule area in the Park at £2,522.73; footpath spray-overlay sealant to the two deteriorating footpaths in the Park to retain the integrity of the surface (weather dependent) at £1,120.02; White-line Markings for the Parking Bays and TMA central junction 'Give Way' at £190.08; making a total cost of £3,823.83 of the £15,000 spend. However on receipt of the order Ringway had asked that the Clerk complete a registration form giving details about the Parish Council, as they would for all business. Although this had been completed by 6th October no start date for the works or confirmation had yet been received.

7.2. The Chair asked councillors to increase the sub-committee spend threshold by £3000 as the next item - the bollards along the High St to prevent on-kerb parking - would cost the full £15,000 limit. He had further established that the existing bollards were called 'Darlington' and not 'Camden' as specified on the Ringway quote. **Resolved – "To sanction the increase in budget to £15,000 for spending on**

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the Darlington bollards scheme on condition that the Instant Saver account be closed and funds diverted to the current account (£5,012.87)". Proposer: Cllr Lewis, seconder: Cllr Galbraith, unanimous.

7.3. It was agreed to postpone the purchase of a replacement rubbish bin by the bus stop at Church Hill to the budget meeting.

8. Finance

8.1. **Payments** for authorisation

a) Zurich Insurance - £334.38; b) PAYE - £122.39; b) Landscape maintenance (2 mths) - £306.00; c) Clerk's salary (5 wks) - £644.22; d) Clerk's administration expenses and laptop/software costs repayment - £463.09.

8.2. **Balance** - Available funds (current account) £14,685.59 (including receipt of remaining precept - £7,235.49 - and £1,059.64 VAT reclaim)

8.3. The renewal date of the investment account (£25,000) is 19th May so it was agreed that if necessary part of these funds would be withdrawn to cover any shortfall in capital spending (*above*) even if this meant foregoing the investment income. Clerk to confirm funds could be released. **Clerk**

9. Planning Applications

Previous (for update)

9.1. 16/02202/FUL 167 Clay Hill Two Mile Ash Two storey rear extension. *Permitted*

9.2. 16/02259/ADV 63 The High Street Two Mile Ash Advertising consent for 1 x externally illuminated fascia sign, 2 x non illuminated printed image, 4 x lockable poster frames. *Pending*

New –

9.3. 16/01808/FUL Linpac Storage Systems Ltd Garamonde Drive Wymbush. Two new, cold formed steel, mono-pitch warehouses. No objection.

9.4. 16/02369/FUL 11 Chardacre Two Mile Ash. Rear single storey extension. No objection.

9.5. 16/02632/FUL 18 Brindlebrook Two Mile Ash. Prior notification for a proposed single storey rear extension measuring 4 metres from the rear wall of the existing dwelling with a maximum ridge height of 4 metres and maximum eaves height of 2.4 metres. No objection.

10. Correspondence and Grant requests (other than circulated via email) – the following items were noted -

MK Youth Cabinet Manifesto; Open Spaces Society magazine; Vital Signs Magazine. A letter had been received from a resident describing a plan to solve the parking problems in the High Street, by the central green-space. The resident had already informed MKC but without result, who had gone on to suggest talking to the Parish Council and use of the Community Parking Fund (the contact email address given out by MKC had been that of the previous clerk Jenny Sharp). Long-standing councillors agreed that a very similar suggestion had been put to MKC many years ago but had been ruled out due to cost. This predated the actual rearranging of the central area that the Parish Council had negotiated with MKC approximately 5 years ago. Clerk to reply. **Clerk**

11. Other Meetings and New Items

11.1. **W.E.A.** – no councillors had managed to attend the last meeting. Cllr Lewis reported that he had been told there had been broad agreement about installing an underpass by the Crownhill roundabout but any further underpasses were again being brought into question due to 'services'. Cllrs Lewis/Johnston to investigate. **Cllrs Lewis/Johnston**

An email had been circulated about the opening of a major new play park on the site.

11.2. **Parishes Forum** – no recent meeting.

11.3. **The Chair** ended the meeting by welcoming the new parish councillor and by congratulating Cllr Lewis on his recent award of alderman by MKC in recognition of his 15 years service to the Borough, entitling him to attend all MKC meetings.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday, 17th November 2016 at 7.30pm at TWO MILE ASH SCHOOL Then 15th December 2016

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed

dated

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