

ABBEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday, 15th December 2016 at Two Mile Ash School at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs S. Galbraith (in the Chair), D. Simpson, B. Johnston, and D. Lewis. Chris Gossop Two Mile Ash Environmental Group (TMAEG)

Clerk: J. Vischer

1. Apologies – None

2. Public Open Forum – Chris Gossop (TMAEG) updated members on the proposed replacement oak tree at Stonehill/Cornhill corner. Permission to waive the £75 excavation licence had not been forthcoming but Milton Keynes Council (MKC) had proposed planting and supplying the tree themselves. However they offered only Liquidambar or Gingko species. The Clerk (an ex-landscape gardener) advised that Liquidambar tended to be suffocated in the local clay soils and had not thrived here in his experience. It was agreed to await further information from TMAEG as regards the costs of MKC's proposal. Mr Gossop also updated the meeting about TMAEG's proposed MK50 recreational route. They were currently looking for sponsors for the footbridge; they had met with the two local residents who had expressed concerns to the Parish Council. Mr Gossop reported that Ashbrook School in conjunction with TMAEG were proposing to create pupil posters about dropping litter, to paste on trees in green spaces about the parish, and enquired as to whether the Parish Council would object to such a scheme. Councillors had their own views but did not reach a consensus commenting that MKC would have to approve the scheme.

3. Approval of November Minutes and any Matters Arising not covered below

3.1. Resolved – The November Minutes were approved as a true record. Proposer: Cllr Lewis, seconder: Cllr Johnston, unanimous.

3.2. Matters Arising – the Clerk had contacted Chris Gossop (TMAEG) regarding the allotments tree proposal. He had reported that this was now being considered on a plot-by-plot basis with the involvement of plot-holders.

3.2.1. Possible Devolution of Services – the Chair, who had not been present at the last meeting when this was discussed, had circulated a paper on the subject which summarised several key points - Is MKC going to release funding into the Parish Councils to fund the works that are being proposed for us to deliver?

Are Parish Councils going to be expected to increase our respective precepts to cover the funding gap if no subsidy is to be provided by MKC?

Are we going to be forced to utilise MKC's Tier 1 Contractors?

Can we put the works out to tender to local traders/contractors to invest in our respective local communities?

What standards would the Parish Councils Works have to be delivered to in terms of compliance of works and the completed works being fit for purpose?

How would Parish Councils ensure compliance with MKC quality & assurance protocols/standards?

Will MKC expect costs of inspection of works delivered by us be invoiced to the Parish Councils to reimburse MKC?

Who will be expected to take ownership of liabilities caused by incorrect or faulty work being delivered?

Would the Parish Councils be liable for any or all legal costs if litigation were required?

Will there be extra funding from MKC as I would suggest that all Parish Councils will need Clerks to be full time if this proposal were to be pursued?

What support will MKC provide to the Parish Councils to allow them to deliver the work packages?

Clerk to submit these points to the Head of Public Realm, Tom Blackburne-Maze, at MKC.

Clerk

4. Declarations of Interest in any of the following items – The Chair regarding item 8.3 (Budget) and Party in the Park.

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5. **Friends of Two Mile Ash Page (FoTMA)** – There were no significant issues at present. However littering between Medhurst and Clay Hill focussed a general perception that litter issues were becoming more prevalent.
6. **Fault / Project Log**
- 6.1. The removal of the footpath & boule area in the Park had been carried out. However it was not clear whether grass seed had been sown, as it was not visible (this is usually simply pressed into the surface soil). It was noted that no invoice had been received to date. Clerk to verify. **Clerk**
- 6.2. White-line Markings for the Parking Bays and TMA central junction had not been carried out yet.
- 6.3. Five-a-side goals – The price for the supply and installation of 2 full sized adult goals had been circulated between meetings. This was £2,250 (approx.) considerably higher than the £1,500 budgeted for the project. The Clerk had asked the contractor to price for two Five-a-Side goals permanently fixed (as opposed to moveable). **Clerk**
- 6.4. As there had been little or no communication from Ringway the Clerk was instructed to request an appropriate works programme and schedule for the items already ordered i.e. the footpaths spray-overlay sealant works and the white-lining works. **Clerk**
- 6.5. The Clerk had requested permission from MKC Highways for the raised/kerb/bollard scheme on the High St following the last meeting but neither officer had replied to date. **Clerk**
- 6.6. Following the absence of any update on the footbridge replacement scheme for some months Cllr Lewis was invited to confer with his previous MKC contacts. **Cllr Lewis**
- 6.7. The Chair stated that he had reported various streetlights not working in the parish, as had Cllr Simpson - by and large these had been fixed within a relatively short delay.
7. **WEA Underpasses** - the Clerk confirmed that he had made contact with the relevant officers expressing the Parish Council's concern that a footbridge was even being considered over the V4 Watling St for access to and from WEA when underpasses had all but been agreed – this was long held parish council policy. He had asked to be kept informed of developments.
8. **Finance**
- 8.1. **Payments** for authorisation
a) Lamps & Tubes (Xmas Lights) - £1,530.00; b) Landscape maintenance (November) - £153.00; c) Clerk's salary (November) - £444.03; d) Post Office (PAYE) - £34.78; e) administration expenses - £55.80. The payments were approved Proposer: Cllr Lewis, seconder: Cllr Galbraith, unanimous.
- 8.2. **Balance** - Available funds (current account) £16,512.07
- 8.3. **Draft Budget discussion** – The draft budget was gone through with some amendments agreed. Clerk to prepare a revised document for circulation between meetings. **The proposed increase of the precept to approx. £20 per household was agreed in principle.** Proposer: Cllr Lewis, seconder: Cllr Galbraith, unanimous. **Clerk**
9. **Planning Applications**
Previous (for update)
- 9.1. 16/01808/FUL Linpac Storage Systems Ltd Garamonde Drive Wymbush. Two new, cold formed steel, mono-pitch warehouses. *Pending*
- New –**
- 9.2. **16/03164/FUL** 9 Corn Hill Two Mile Ash Single storey rear extension. No objections.
- 9.3. **16/03312/FUL** 3 Cherleton Two Mile Ash Demolition of detached garage, erection of a two storey side and rear extension, and single storey rear extension. No objections on condition that the application does not contravene off-street Parking Policy. **Clerk**
- 9.4. **16/03469/PNHSE** 39 Leafield Rise Two Mile Ash Prior notification for a proposed single storey rear extension measuring 4.5 metres from the rear wall of the existing dwelling with a maximum ridge height of 3.8 metres and maximum eaves height of 2.4 metres. *For information only.*
- 9.5. **16/03468/FUL** 3 Fairways Two Mile Ash, Two storey front and rear extensions. Objection on the

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grounds of the impact on the street scene and the impact of overlooking neighbours to the rear. **Clerk**

10. Correspondence and Grant requests (other than circulated via email) – no grant requests. The following items were noted – MKC Christmas Card; Holocaust Memorial Service Invitation (27th January);

11. Other Meetings and New Items

11.1. Survey Monkey proposal – The Chair proposed this Survey as a way of gauging residents' issues of concern via FoTMA and the Newsletter group – requiring postcodes of respondents to ensure 'local'. This was agreed in principle. Proposer: Cllr Galbraith, seconder: Cllr Lewis, unanimous. Chair to develop details. **Chair**

11.2. Change of meeting night - The Chair proposed altering the meeting night as he had an increasing number of commitments on Thursdays. This was accepted in principle. The only available regular alternative was agreed as the fourth Wednesday of the month. It was agreed to trial this until the May Annual Meeting when Standing Orders would be altered if successful. Clerk to check availability of meeting room with TMA school. [*post-meeting note*: the School had not responded on the Friday following the meeting and was henceforth closed until January. In the light of this the next meeting would have to remain on the third Thursday (19th January)] **Clerk**

11.3. Xmas Lights – Councillors expressed their delight with the new Xmas Light 'balls' which were deemed very effective. FoTMA page comments had also been favourable. It was noted that the Xmas Tree was looking in better health this year.

12. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday, 19th January 2017 at 7.30pm at TWO MILE ASH SCHOOL
Then, provisionally, Wednesday 22nd February 2017

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Signed

dated