

ABBAY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday, 21st September 2017 at Two Mile Ash School at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs S. Galbraith (acting as Chair), D. Simpson, and A. Evans. 7 Residents and Chris Gossop from Two Mile Ash Environmental Group (TMAEG)

Clerk: J. Vischer

1. **Apologies** – Cllrs D. Lewis and B. Johnston. As no apologies had been formally received from the two councillors the Clerk was instructed to make enquiries. **CLK**
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2. **Public Open Forum** –
 - 2.1. Mrs Windmill ran through a list of environmental concerns: 3 streetlights (37,41 & 26) and two lights outside of the shop were out – Clerk to report; 2 dead trees at the top of Clay Hill, 3 dead trees in the park and one opposite the Xmas Tree – Clerk to check; the roses to be pruned and dead shrubs to be lifted in the central planting area - Clerk to contact landscape contractor; one of the Xmas tree lights is being battered in high winds by a swinging branch - Clerk to contact lighting contractor; still awaiting replacement metal rubbish bin on MKC concrete base - Clerk to remind MKC. **CLK**
She ended with a complaint concerning repeated putting out of rubbish days before collection by a nearby property – she was advised to report this directly to MKC so that they would log the problem.
 - 2.2. Mrs Cristoe, as well as confirming much of what Mrs Windmill had reported, added that she had been concerned about the Lib-Dem leaflet article about the possibility of open spaces being built on. She was advised that Abbey Hill Parish Council (AHPC) saw this as political posturing by the incumbent administration and thought the actual likelihood of such development was highly unlikely. In any case AHPC had been kept informed.
 - 2.3. Julie Spragg reported on behalf of the Allotments Association and informed the meeting of the sudden death of Ian Lambert, Allotments Treasurer. She reminded councillors of the need for tree-crowning on the Burewelle side of the site, and the urgent need for new fence posts on the Chardacre side. To be discussed later in the meeting.
 - 2.4. Mr Laxton complained about the trees bordering his garden being far too tall and requiring crowning – as I previous years - causing his downstairs rooms to be almost permanently dark. On the side of the house a leylandii tree was now so large that its branches were penetrating his roof space and guttering – Clerk to report to MKC and TMA School. **CLK**
 - 2.5. Steve Boniface-Allen had also been concerned about the ‘open spaces being built on’ article.
 - 2.6. Molly Leib had come to congratulate AHPC on the installation of the two five-a-side goalposts on the Downlands field which seemed to be proving very popular.
 - 2.7. Chris Gossop from TMAEG briefly reviewed the busy year of the organisation and informed members of a new Chairman. They would welcome any suggestions for environmental projects on TMA. He explained their latest project with maps. It comprised a stretch of the V4 reserve corridor and the woodland on the corner of the High St turn-off. A footbridge was proposed across the brook by the V4 and a log path through the wood. This would permit a 10-minute circular walk to be advertised in this part of the grid square. As this project was now out for local consultation they would welcome any comments. The project can be viewed on their website at <https://www.tmaeg.org/2017/09/20/new-walking-circuit-two-mile-ash/> The consultation period runs to the middle of October.
 - 2.8. A resident (name withheld) complained of the apparent increase in criminal activity on the estate and the apparent lack of effective policing that went with it, citing various examples. The Chair disputed her view stating that the former was a function of the highly increased awareness of crime and potential crime as for example displayed on the friends of TMA Facebook page where everyone was very much more aware of goings-on and shared such observations regularly. In terms of statistics the actual number of crimes had not increased in recent years. Furthermore he disputed a particular example of ineffective policing as the Chair had personally witnessed a suspect being arrested and bundled into a police car although this may have been a separate incident, whereas the resident

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believed the police had not responded at all. In any case such matters were not in the remit of parish councils and the resident would do better to attend the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) that were held at the local police station.

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

- 3.1. **Resolved** – the June Minutes were approved as a true record. Proposer: Cllr Evans, seconder: Cllr Simpson. Unanimous.
- 3.2. The July Notes (non-quorate meeting) were reviewed.
- 3.3. **Matters arising** - Brioche Pasquier site visit – both Cllr Simpson and the Clerk had attended the Grand Opening. This significant event had been attended by at least 50 people including the Mayor of Milton Keynes and the French ambassador from London. Radio interviews were also being taken. The family-run business had decided to locate a factory in the UK some years ago as this reflected their ethos of getting to know and responding to their customer-base - they could have continued simply to supply the UK from their Lille factory across the Channel. The site at Wymbush employs 100+ personnel currently. One of the two production lines had recently moved to 24hr operation. A space was available for a third production line in the existing building – a building extension was also possible. One of the key tenets of the company was to be involved in the local community and they assured those present and in particular the two AHPC representatives that they took this very seriously.

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

5. **Friends of Two Mile Ash Page (FoTMA)** – There were now over 1000 'Friends'. There were no major issues. However the Chair expressed concern that he seemed to be the only active administrator and that this was a time-consuming role. He had recently instituted a three-question requirement to vet new members – were they resident; did they have children at the schools; were they proposing to advertise. Councillors thanked the Chair for his commitment and congratulated him on such a successful enterprise.

6. Fault / Project Log

- 6.1. **Two new items** – poor state of shrub beds and rubbish in underpass had been added since the last issue – the latter had already been removed.
- 6.2. **White-lining** – the car park bays were still outstanding. Ringway officers seem to be ignoring the Clerk's email requests.
- 6.3. **Anti-parking bollards** – as above: requests for action/update/start date had been ignored by Ringway. The Purchase Order for the works had been issued on 23rd June 2017. Due to this lack of action (and white-lining above) Cllr Evans offered to contact the officers directly, explaining that a schedule and a start date should be the least that could be expected. Cllr Evans
- 6.4. **New larger dog bin in Wymbush** – still not installed in spite of reminders. (ordered 5 July 2017) **CLK**
- 6.5. **NEW** – neglected play area/ overgrown shrubs/brambles off Haldene. Clerk to report. CLK

7. Finance

7.1. Payments for authorisation

Clerk's salary - £573.60; Clerk's administration expenses - £45.00; MK Play Association – Summer sessions - £1,980.00; Landscaping maintenance (Aug & Sep) - £306.00; Post Office (PAYE) - £67.63; Mazars – external audit - £120.00.

Balance - Available funds £36,442.

- 7.2. **External Audit report (Annual Return)** – the Clerk informed councillors of the successful completion of the External Audit – no major issues had been raised. One minor point had been made concerning the volume of reserves. These were too high and AHPC was reminded that 'parish councils have no right to hold such funds in reserve'. As reserves were the lowest they had ever been members and the Clerk had been puzzled as to why this comment had not been made in previous years. Furthermore the downward trend in reserves had been transparent.

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8. Planning Applications

8.1. Previous (for update)

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. *Awaiting Decision*

17/00833/FUL 18 The High Street Two Mile Ash, Creation of first floor, single storey rear extension and new vehicular access. *Refused.*

17/01062/FUL 1 Fairways Pitfield Kiln Farm, Addition of 44 car parking spaces with associated hard standing, associated clearance of existing vegetation, resurfacing of existing footpaths, and replacement tree and shrub planting plus new cycle/smoking shelter. *Permitted*

17/01673/FUL 18 Church Hill Two Mile Ash, SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND ERECTION OF FRONT CANOPY. *Pending*

17/01790/CLUP 15 Calewen Two Mile Ash, Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed demolition of existing conservatory and single storey rear extension. *Lawful Use*

17/01761/FUL Land East of Optima 130 Garamonde Drive Wymbush, Erection of a single commercial unit of 1,860sqm GEA for B2 (general industrial) and B8 (storage & distribution) and associated car parking and landscape planting. *Pending*

8.2. New –

17/02093/FUL 43 Hepleswell Two Mile Ash, Single storey rear extension, and first floor side extension. No objection.

17/02276/FUL 40 Clay Hill Two Mile Ash, First floor side and part single part two storey rear extension & garage conversion. No objection but a comment to be made to the effect that the obscuring glazing on the windows overlooking the neighbouring property had to be guaranteed. **CLK**

17/02284/FUL 20 Church Hill Two Mile Ash, Single storey side and rear wrap around extension. No objection.

9. Correspondence and Grant requests (other than circulated via email) – Get Cycling flyers, SLCC quarterly Magazine; Clerks & Councils Direct quarterly newsletter. No grant requests.

10. Other Meetings and New Items

10.1. New date of the Parishes Forum is 12th October 2017 at the Civic Offices

10.2. Election of Chairman – As Cllr Galbraith had re-arranged his commitments so that he could now attend regularly on Thursday evenings he was invited to fill the vacant post of Chairman of AHPC. He accepted the role. Proposer: Cllr Evans, seconder: Cllr Simpson. Unanimous.

10.3. Tree-crowning on the Burewelle side of the allotments site – Clerk to report. **CLK**

10.4. A prospective parish councillor had been in touch with the Clerk. As there were no vacancies at present it was agreed to invite him to take on the role of administrator on the Friends of Facebook Page in the meantime. Clerk to liaise. **CLK**

10.5. Downlands Field – it was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries of MKC about the possibility of taking over responsibility for maintenance of this field with a view to marking out football pitches and using it as an *ad hoc* sports field. Proposer: Cllr Galbraith, seconder: Cllr Evans. Unanimous.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting – Thursday 19th October 2017 at 7.30pm at TWO MILE ASH SCHOOL

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed

date