

ABBEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday, 19th March 2020 at 7.30pm, at Two Mile Ash School

Present: Cllrs S. Galbraith (in the Chair), A. Evans, K. Ryan, D. Simpson. Ward Cllr R Exon. No members of the public.

Clerk: J. Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – Cllr J. Spragg. These were accepted.
2. **Public Open Forum** - Ward Cllr Exon had come in response to Cllr Evans email complaining of the lack of Milton Keynes Council (MKC) service to the Two Mile Ash community. Councillors listed all the issues of concern and the lengthy delays in getting anything done through MKC. Ward Cllr Exon expressed his commiseration at the state of affairs and sympathised with the difficulties especially with regard to MK Highways department. He said that Ward Cllr Bradburn had received a response to Cllr Evans' email from MKC and he would arrange for this to be forwarded to AHPC. Councillors asked Ward Cllr Exon to press for a traffic data count across the estate (due to the extended V4 Watling St closure). The Clerk reported that things had moved on since Cllr Evans' email as he had written to the Head of Highways again complaining of the lack of response from Highways department. The Head of Highways, Davina Millership, had telephoned the Clerk and discussions ensued to follow-up the various projects. AHPC had been allotted a new liaison officer who had been in touch the morning of the meeting. A copy of her email was circulated (*see item 8 for updates*).
3. **Declarations of Interest** in any of the agenda items – Cllr Galbraith regarding item 11 (grants).
4. **Approval of previous Minutes and any Matters Arising** not covered below
 - 4.1. **Minutes** of the February Meeting previously circulated, were unanimously approved.
 - 4.2. **Matters Arising** – None.
5. **Devolved Landscape Services** - The 'Third' Option
 - 5.1. The Memorandum of Understanding was duly signed subject to written confirmation that MKC agree that a) AHPC can opt out at any time (probably at a year end) and b) that AHPC are not to be held accountable for not performing any of the tasks specified in the job specification that had been sent as a guide to the role. Proposer Cllr Evans, seconder Cllr Ryan. 3 For and One Against. [*post-meeting note*: the MKC Programme Manager responded with written confirmation that this would be the case]
 - 5.2. The Clerk had attended the second regular monthly briefing meeting between MKC and SERCO representatives. His complaint over the quality of some shrub pruning was being addressed with follow-up hand pruning.
 - 5.3. MKC have advised that they are restoring an extra weed treatment during the year, but should this not be the case AHPC will pay for an extra weed treatment (glyphosate) across the estate (MKC land only). Purchase order to be prepared for 5 extra grass cuts and one extra shrub and low tree branch pruning. **CLK**
 - 5.4. The Clerk had received his remote login for the MKC Intranet which enables direct access to MKC internal emails / information, and training materials. This was functioning correctly.
 - 5.5. Direct access to the MKC Environmental Portal and mapping system remain subject to further training.
6. **New Website** - Cllr Evans had circulated the web address of a suitable parish website as an example of what could be achieved by the web designer. Councillors were impressed. Cllr Evans to contact web designer to invite a quotation. Discussion ensued about parish email addresses and storage which were not part of the website. Clerk to research the use of MsTeams, with Sharepoint, that could be used for these purposes through the Parish's 'Office 365' subscription. **CLK/AE**
7. **Social Media - Friends of Two Mile Ash (FoTMA) and Twitter account** – there had been generally favourable and positive activity regarding helping out during the fast-developing Coronavirus outbreak..
8. **Fault/Project Log** – 15 items: 4 projects, 11 faults. Items were updated including -
 - 8.1. **Christmas tree verge anti-parking project** – The matter had been taken up by the newly allocated officer with a request to confirm acceptance of the full quotation of £4,879 (including MKC handling fee). This was approved - proposer Cllr Galbraith, seconder Cllr Ryan, unanimous. **CLK**
 - 8.2. **Orca-wand gap** - this had been completed (although the constraints of the drop-kerb outside no.40

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still left a wide gap in the line of orca's).

- 8.3. **Post and Rail** - the matter had been taken up by the newly allocated officer with a request that AHPC specify a particular run of the railing. Cllr Galbraith proposed the strip from the top Clay Hill bus stop to the corner by TMA School parking, coupled with the section around Ashbrook School to the High St crossing-point and a small gap on the far side of the High St. This was agreed. **CLK**
- 8.4. **Downland Field** - Instruction to proceed with lease had been sent 10th February. Awaiting reply from MKC officer. This had been chased on 12th March 2020.
- 8.5. **New seat** - this had been delivered but was still awaiting installation. Cllr Ryan offered to borrow a van to move the seat from Cllr Simpson's garden. Stronger anchors to be purchased for installation. The purchase of a plaque was agreed (Clerk). **KR/DS/SG**

9. Finance

- 9.1. **Payments for authorisation & balances** – since January meeting – Clerk's salary (period 11) £689.20; Clerk's admin/expenses (Feb) £24.00; Chair's expenses (printing costs) £56.99; Information Commissioners Office (annual) £35.00; Clerk's salary (period 12) £840.10; Clerk's admin/expenses (Mar) £25.33; HMRC (PAYE 4th Q) £244.25; Ascot rail installation (proposed) £4,879.00. These payments were approved.
Available funds 4th March 2020: £48,234 (plus reserves £38,432).

10. Planning Applications (Ward Cllr Exon took no part in the discussions)

10.1. Previous

19/02304/FUL Land On The Corner of Pitfield And Tilers Road Kiln Farm, Change of use of the site to open storage (Class B8). Associated alterations including the erection of a 3m high security fence, with 3m high gate. Awaiting Decision

20/00099/FUL 3 Cherleton Two Mile Ash, Two storey rear extension and remodel of existing porch.
Pending

20/00148/TPO 59 Chardacre Two Mile Ash, Tree preservation order notification for Oak T1 - reduce height by 2 meters, reduce sides by 2 meters and remove deadwood. *Permitted*

20/00174/FUL 11 Langton Drive Two Mile Ash, Single storey rear extension to garage and first floor extension over raised roof to garage. *Permitted*

20/00430/FUL 1 Leafield Rise Two Mile Ash, Demolish an existing three bedroom dwelling and replace with a five bedroom dwelling. [objected to] *Pending*

10.2. New

20/00571/CLUP 17 Thorncliffe Two Mile Ash, Certificate of lawfulness for the demolition of an existing conservatory at the rear of the property with a new built single storey extension and small single storey extension. *For information only*

11. Correspondence and Grant requests

11.1. MK City Lions under-14's grant request - a grant for £650 for new kit had been requested. Six of the twelve players lived in Two Mile Ash. AHPC logo to appear on the kit. The sponsorship would cover two years. Publicity team photo to be arranged when purchased. This was approved. Proposer Cllr Evans, seconder Cllr Simpson, unanimous.

11.2. Correspondence (*other than email*) - SLCC Clerks' Quarterly; municipal bins catalogue.

13. Other Meetings and New Matters – (WEA; Parishes Forum; Community Annexe, Community Garden) -

13.1. Councillors were asked to give consideration to potential candidates for the annual Community Award.

13.2. It was noted that the Easter Play Sessions had been postponed due to government advice as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

14. Date of Next Meeting - It was agreed to cancel all future meetings due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Councillors agreed to liaise regularly via email and WhatsApp. The Annual Parish Meeting, the April community reports meeting, and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (election of officers etc.) normally held in May, will be held later in the year following government guidelines.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed

date