

ABBEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 16th July 2020 at 7.30pm, held ONLINE via Zoom video-conferencing software

Present: Cllrs D. Simpson (in the Chair), A. Evans, K. Ryan, J. Spragg. Anne Goldsmith, resident and Positive Behaviour Consultant and Parenting Coach.

Clerk: J. Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – Cllr S. Galbraith. Ward Cllrs R Bradburn and R. Exon. These were accepted.
2. **Public Open Forum** - Mrs A Goldsmith gave councillors an insight into the kind of work she carries out and the increased need for it as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. This has affected young children, teenagers and parents alike. She had been invited to the meeting with a view to seeing if her services might be of some relevance to the summer holiday play sessions offered by Milton Keynes Play Association (MKPA) and funded by AHPC. As accessibility to the kind of service Mrs Goldsmith offers was a significant concern, it was agreed that she be put in touch with the organisers of MKPA. **CLK**
3. **Declarations of Interest** in any of the agenda items – None.
4. **Approval of previous Minutes and any Matters Arising** not covered below
 - 4.1. **Minutes** of the June Meeting previously circulated, were unanimously approved. Proposer Cllr Evans, seconder Cllr Ryan; unanimous.
 - 4.2. **Matters Arising** – None.
5. **Communications** -
 - 5.1. **New Website** - Cllr Evans confirmed that he had given a formal instruction to Vision ICT, the current provider, to move forward with the project following a minor reduction in the price offered. The terms of payment were a 50% downpayment and 50% upon completion. He had been informed that due to furloughed staff some delay was to be expected. A mock-up would be circulated in due course.
 - 5.2. **Social Media**
 - 5.2.1. Twitter account - Cllr Ryan had taken over management of the account.
 - 5.2.2. Friends of TMA & AHPC F/b site - Cllrs Spragg and Ryan reported that the Friends site had been sharing a wide variety of issues but recently a discussion about the banning of all advertising had been proposed. It was agreed to consult with S. Galbraith as he had founded the 'Page' and was a key administrator.
6. **Environment**
 - 6.1. **Fault/Project Log** - the Log was gone through. It currently comprises 6 projects and 17 faults. 2 faults added at the meeting.
 - 6.1.1. Traffic data - Councillors had been sent copies of the raw traffic data regarding using TMA as a shortcut. Unfortunately as there was no baseline comparative figures available - for before the closure of V4 Watling St. - there were no conclusions to be drawn.
 - 6.1.2. Post-and-rail - The Clerk had met with Naveed Ahmed, Highways Liaison Officer, MKC, and Phil Jeffs, MKC officer, and the contractor Ringway on site to confirm measurements and specification. The 'post and rail' was to be a double rail at 8/900mm height. A quotation for the full works, including removal of old, had been formally requested via MKC. Cllr Simpson asked that a site plan be requested to accompany the quotation. **CLK**
 - 6.1.3. Christmas Tree Green - The Clerk had met with Naveed Ahmed, Highways Liaison Officer, MKC, and Phil Jeffs, MKC officer, and the contractor Ringway on site to confirm measurements and specification. Single rail at 500mm height; gaps for mower access by yellow bollards at both ends. Contracted sum already agreed.
 - 6.2. **Community Gardening Group** - Cllr Spragg relayed that she had not been involved recently but had seen various positive comments on the Friends page. She had helped organise the transportation and installation of the new bench with two residents. Councillors were very grateful to all.
 - 6.3. **Devolved Landscape Services**
 - 6.3.1. Grass cutting - The Clerk had discussed the mowing schedule with the SERCO representative at the monthly meeting (3rd July) and via email. Although no schedule had been forthcoming the greater liaison had resulted in the next extra cut being moved on a week at AHPC's request.
 - 6.3.2. Extra summer pruning - SERCO offered to begin the extra summer pruning of the estate, being

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paid for by AHPC, on 9th July. This had been agreed by the Clerk.

6.3.3. Roadside and pavement weeds - the Clerk had requested that these be taken into account in the overall maintenance due to its visual impact on the landscape even though they technically come under Street Cleansing and not Landscaping. The Chair of the meeting, Head of Landscape Services, and the SERCO representative agreed to look into possibilities. It was noted that the first area reported by the Clerk, Downland, was already been being scraped and tidied by a street cleansing team. The Clerk has since added half-a-dozen other streets put forward by councillors [*added to Log*].

7. Finance

7.1. Payments for authorisation & Balances - these dated from the March meeting:

Clerk's salary (period 04) £685.00; Clerk's admin/expenses (July - including refunds of Gardening Group grant £123 and Zoom annual shared subscription £45) £188.72.

These payments were approved unanimously - proposer Cllr Ryan, seconder Cllr Evans.

Available funds 30th June 2020: £70,832 (plus reserves £38,438).

7.2. Internal Audit Report - Councillors acknowledged a positive report. No recommendations had been made.

7.3. Approval of External Audit Return - Governance and accounts, statements -

7.3.1. Councillors approved signing of the governance statement. There were no litigation events occurring during the year. Proposer Cllr Ryan, seconder Cllr Spragg. Unanimous.

7.3.2. The annual accounting statement was approved. Proposer Cllr Ryan, seconder Cllr Spragg. Unanimous.

8. Planning Applications

8.1. Previous

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

20/01055/NOTTEL Telecommunication Mast D F Crash Repairs Ltd Brunleys Kiln Farm, Notification of proposed removal of 6no existing antennae and replace with 12no new antennae with all ancillary equipment, to upgrade existing cabin internally. *Application not proceeded with.*

8.2. New

20/01492/FUL 19 Leaffield Rise Two Mile Ash, First floor rear extension. No objections.

20/01569/FUL 5 Cambron Two Mile Ash, Proposed first floor extension over existing garage, garage conversion and single storey side extension store. No objections.

20/01414/FUL 18 - 20 Burners Lane Kiln Farm, Additional internal extension. No objections.

9. Grants and Correspondence

9.1. MK Play Sessions -Various email exchanges had taken place with reference to how such activities might be safely organised and run in today's restrictions. At first it looked like no sessions would be taking place but MK Council had recently given the go-ahead following proposals submitted by the organisers. AHPC had been asked if it was happy to fund all its sessions during the summer school holidays because no sessions - Easter or May half term - had taken place so far. As sessions were required to be all-day and not just morning sessions as previously operated this was agreed. Five double sessions would be paid for running once per week (Wednesdays). Proposer Cllr Evans, seconder Cllr Simpson. Unanimous.

9.2. Behaviour First Consultancy - it was agreed to support Mrs Goldsmith's services for the introductory period. Approximate budget £100. Proposer Cllr Simpson, seconder Cllr Spragg. Unanimous.

9.3. Correspondence (*other than email*) - SLCC Clerks' Quarterly; letter from the Pensions Regulator confirming renewal of auto-enrolment.

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

10.1. Business Plan Review - Cllr Simpson reminded councillors of his 2020 review of the Plan and invited email discussion to confirm changes and further suggestions.

11. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 17th September 2020. To be held online at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Signed

date