

ABBEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 15th October 2020 at 7.30pm, held ONLINE via Zoom video-conferencing software

Present: Cllrs: D. Simpson (in the Chair), K. Ryan, J. Spragg, S. Galbraith. Ward Cllr R. Exon (part). Two residents: Claire King, Muhammad Faiz.

Clerk: J. Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – Cllr A. Evans, Ward Cllr R Bradburn. These were accepted.
2. **Public Open Forum**
 - 2.1. Claire King complained about the lack of landscaping under the new V4 underpass, in particular with reference to the removal of old trees prior to the works. The row of mature trees lining the old A5 had been removed in excess of where the works actually began. Moreover she had had nothing positive from Milton Keynes Council (MKC) by way of explanation or regarding replacing the losses. She had been attended a meeting with the Landscape Manager Euan Darling but he had only referred to the submitted landscape plan which did not appear to include replacement trees on this section. The Clerk concurred that the Landscape Manager had raised the issue as the Chair of the monthly contract meetings. However the Manager had not mentioned the felling of trees or their potential replacement. He had said that the the gradient of the landscaped slopes by the underpass were too steep and therefore the landscape plan was impractical and inappropriate. Negotiations were ongoing but in the meantime only grass seed would be sown and bulbs planted. The contracted sum for the landscape works had been returned to MKC. Cllr Galbraith pointed out that, from his business experience, if the steepness of the finished landscaped area did not conform to geo-technical surveys which must have been carried out prior to the award of the contract that the contractor was obliged to rectify the gradient at their expense. Ward Cllr Exon had nothing to add but promised to make enquiries. Clerk to raise with the Landscape Manager and chase at the monthly contract meeting.
CLK
 - 2.2. Muhammad Faiz expressed concern that the parish website was not very informative and did not give an accurate idea of the many activities of the parish council. He also regretted the demise of the newsletter and annual precept enclosure which were both informative. Councillors pointed out that there was a new website under construction which should be more useful, and that the parish council did use Facebook and Twitter feeds.
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 September Meeting previously circulated, were unanimously approved. Proposer Cllr Ryan, seconder Cllr Spragg.
 - 4.2. **Matters Arising** – None.
5. **Parking Enforcement Officer (shared)** - Neither the Clerk nor any members had been able to attend the online meeting amongst interested parish councils. A recording of this meeting had been offered but the Clerk had not received it to date - he had been assured it was on its way. **CLK**
6. **Community Asset Transfer** - Cllr Spragg & the Clerk had attended the video conference meeting on 7th October with Janette Murphy, Leisure and Community officer and Lesley Wilson. None of the requests for information were provided at the meeting. This turned out to be an exploratory session and confirmation of serious interest on the part of AHPC representatives. This was given.
7. **Communications**

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7.1. New Website - Cllr Evans had relayed that he had been informed that the final draft version of the site would be completed shortly.

7.2. Community Award - This was ready for collection. It was agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Spragg would make an informal presentation to the candidate. Arrangements to be confirmed.

JS/CLK

7.3. Social Media - Cllrs Spragg and Ryan reported that MKC's various information updates and links had been posted on both the Twitter account and AHPC Facebook page. These had also been placed on the Friends of TMA Facebook page. There were no particular issues being aired.

8. Environment

8.1. Fault/Project Log - the Log was gone through. There are 17 ongoing issues.

8.1.1. Post-and-rail - The Clerk reported that a purchase order been issued but no programme of works received to date. **CLK**

8.1.2. Downland Field - following several months of no response from the dedicated officer it was agreed to appeal to the departmental manager. **CLK**

8.2. Devolved Landscape Services

8.2.1. Grass cutting - The Clerk reported that TMA was still two cuts ahead of the rest of MK. Councillors agreed that the grass was looking neater and more healthy than in previous years and that the landscape agreement had proved its worth.

8.2.2. Wildflower verge - The Clerk reported that this decimated and weed-filled verge at the bottom of High St opposite Fairways had been acknowledged as an area for refurbishment. However the Landscape Manager had pointed out that funds were unavailable.

9. Finance

9.1. Payments for authorisation & Balances - since the September meeting:

Clerk's salary (period 07) £701.60; Clerk's admin/expenses (September) £16.00; Shelton Technical (Community Award) £26.99.

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

Available funds 30th September 2020: £97,494, following receipt of the 2nd tranche of precept monies (plus reserves £38,441).

10. Planning Applications

10.1. Previous

20/01942/FUL 41 Church Hill Two Mile Ash, Single storey extension to rear of property. *Permitted*

20/01952/FUL 1 Leaffield Rise Two Mile Ash, 2-Storey Side & Rear Extension. *Awaiting Decision*

20/01964/FUL 18 Cavenham Two Mile Ash, Proposed first floor side extension with car port. *Permitted*

20/02045/FUL 28 Thornclyffe Two Mile Ash, First floor single storey side extension and new entrance canopy. *Pending*

20/02176/CLUP 14 Haithwaite Two Mile Ash, Certificate of lawfulness for a single storey rear extension, replacing existing conservatory. *Pending*

10.2. New

20/02296/FUL 49 Shorham Rise Two Mile Ash, Install new Window in Lounge Side. No objections

20/02503/FUL 21 Milesmere Two Mile Ash, Single storey side extension, proposed entrance canopy and partial garage conversion of form annexe for carer. No objections

11. Grants and Correspondence

11.1. No grant applications.

11.2. Correspondence (other than email) - None

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

12.1. Christmas Tree Lights - new contractor for switch-on etc still being sought. **CLK/CLLRS**

13. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 19 November 2020, online at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed 8.50pm.