

# ABBNEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

2014/07/154

**Clerk: Mr. Julian Vischer**  
**50 Gibsons Green, Heelands, Milton Keynes, MK13 7PE**  
**Tel 07866 412706**  
**website:abbeyhillpc.org.uk**

MINUTES of the Meeting held on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Two Mile Ash School

**Present:** Cllrs E. Matthews (Chairman), Cllrs. K. Wilson (Vice-Chair), Dr. A Evans, S. Galbraith, Clerk + Linda Richardson, Operations Manager, Clubhouse Group (leased operators of the local Mercure Hotel) & 10 residents: Wendy Evans, Sally Pand, Lillian & Derek Abbott, Aran Pand, Tina Stockwell, Gary & David Simpson, Harriet McDonald & Mr. Laxton.

1. **Apologies.** Cllr. D. Lewis.
2. **To move the Public Open Forum** to the start of the meeting. Proposer Chair, Seconder Vice Chair. Passed. Unanimous.
3. **Noise at Mercure Hotel.** Nine of the ten residents present had come to complain principally about the noise late at night on two recent occasions in the last 3 weeks. It emerged that none of the residents nor the clerk had received a final copy of the draft agreement reached between residents and the hotel operators after the licence approval meeting in April. Residents also complained that they had had difficulty contacting the hotel to have their views heard. Linda Richardson explained that it was the policy of Clubhouse Group to listen and work with the local community and courteously responded to their complaints by showing what action had already been taken. She left the meeting with a 6-point action plan some of which were already in place – 1. Disco's and all services in the external areas will halt at 11pm. 2. All windows and doors will remain shut after this time and should for example the unlockable fire-doors be opened all sound systems will be switched off automatically – already in place - hirers are required to sign up to this in the contract. 3. The deliveries schedule has been changed to disallow any deliveries before 9 a.m. (reverse-warning noise) 4. A new staff member the night porter, will be introduced who will direct cars and taxi's to the rear car park after dark (although could not apply to disabled or elderly visitors). 5. The night porter will also direct smokers to the back entrance and a 'no smoking' sign will be put up at the front entrance. 6. The bright lights on the fascia board at the front will be angled downwards. Mrs Richardson asked that the Parish Council contact her in 4 weeks time with a report as to how effective residents felt these actions had been. (due to August recess the next meeting will be in 8 weeks).
4. **Approval of Standing Order Amendment.** The following amendment was approved to paragraph 23 the policy on relations with Press/Media:  
Delete a; then: *'In respect to dealing with the press and/or other media, councillors shall not, in their official capacity, provide oral or written statements or written articles to the press or other media without express permission from the Council. 'b' - Emailed consent of draft statements for approval will be sufficient provided it has been circulated to all councillors and a quorum has responded'. 'c' - The clerk and a councillor or at least two councillors should be present at any formal meeting with the public or outside agencies'* - with the addition of the word 'Parish' before Council in line 4. Proposer Chair, Seconder A Evans. Passed. Unanimous. **Clerk**
5. **Approval of June Minutes.** Approved. Proposer Chair, Seconder A Evans. Passed. Unanimous.
6. **Matters Arising.** None.
7. **Bollards.**
  - a. No respondents to the clerk's attempts at getting quotes for the refurbishment. Councillors had been reminded between meetings that the bollards were the property of MK council and any works would have to be done with their approval, including contractors used. Two suggestions were offered – 1. To contact Smith's the MK council contractor, 2. To go online to a 'MyBuilder' type local directory. **Clerk**
  - b. **Raised kerb.** The Capital Funding Application Form for 2015-2016 had been filled in and sent off by the clerk which included both this item and the residents' parking scheme at Kewick (item 12h below).

signed

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8. **Landscaping.** The quotation for additional planting works had been received. It was agreed to accept the quote for replacing the dead shrubs, removing the 16 Needle Palm plants, cutting back the Pampas grass to form a hedge, supplying 2 tonnes additional topsoil and low-level planting such as dwarf roses, golden Euonymous and lavender for £1,260 + Vat. Proposer E Matthews, Seconder A Evans. Unanimous. **Clerk**

9. **Finance.**

a. **Cheques for authorisation and Balances.**

The following cheques were approved for payment

<i>Chq No.</i>	<i>To Whom</i>	<i>gross</i>	<i>Spending Category</i>	<i>VAT</i>
838	E Matthews	477.01	Party in the Park	
839	J Vischer	417.56	staff	
840	1 <sup>st</sup> TMA Brownies	500.00	grant	
841	A H Contracts (June)	142.03	dog bin clearance	23.67
842	Marcus Young (JunJul)	600.00	landscaping	100.00
843	J Vischer	27.64	expenses	3.75
844	J Vischer	521.95	august salary	
845	Vision ICT	240.00	admin – website	40.00
846	TMA School	17.00	room hire	
847	S Hollywood	96.00	Party in the Park	

The final cheque was presented at the meeting.

It was noted that cheque 817 (to 'I Print MK') had been cashed and a refund would have to be sought from Mrs. L McComie. **Chair**

The full accounts to date with budget comparison was circulated and approved. Proposer E Matthews, Seconder S. Galbraith. Unanimous.

10. **Planning Applications**

**Previous Applications**

- a. **Sikh Temple, 14/01155/DISCON** – Discharge of conditions, landscaping & boundary - clerk ascertained that this is fulfilling the conditions of the earlier alterations under 13/01267/FUL
- b. **Forthcoming closures of lanes on H4 (Danstead Way)** clerk ascertained that bus services would not be affected because the junction itself would remain open.
- NEW applications** – Internal Alterations to Mercure Hotel and security kiosk at existing District Warehouse centre (Carters Lane) were considered not significant – no objections.

10. **Correspondence and Grant requests**

- a. **Correspondence.** Previously circulated by email – the poster advertising the training events to be held at the Rugby Posts was circulated. It was agreed to alter the generic MK poster to show the TMA sessions. **Clerk & Cllr. Galbraith**
- b. **Grant requests** 1<sup>st</sup> TMA Brownies grant cheque had been included in the finance section

11. **Councillors Items**

- a. **Party in the Park.** The Chair reported another very successful event with over £2,300 raised. The Committee would now like to spend its accrued profits on new play equipment. The Chair had already been liaising with Phil Snell MK council to review options. It was agreed that some kind of ceremony would be held when the new equipment had been installed. **Clerk to calculate accumulated totals**
- b. **New Grit bin application.** Results not released yet.
- c. **NAG feedback.** Cllr. Lewis had not reported that meetings had been held and no minutes had been sent from the NAG.
- d. **Overgrowing Bushes by Mercure Hotel.** Not been inspected. **Cllr. Evans**
- e. **Brioche plant screening Wymbush.** It had been established that the gap in the plant screening was the responsibility of the Parks Trust. It was agreed that the gap was unnecessarily large for mowing equipment to pass through and a request should be made to reduce at least by half. This would improve the appearance by screening the new factory and ameliorate the noise impact. **Clerk**

signed

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- f.* **TMA School Lollipop person.** The school had asked if the Parish Council would contribute to the cost of this post (£1,650 p. annum). After much discussion over the risk of setting precedents for funding expenditure that should be undertaken by either the school or the Education Authority (MK council) it was agreed: 'To donate £500 towards the cost of the post for the first year on condition that: a. the school would not seek further funding on this item, and b. no funds would be released until confirmation of employment had been sent to the Parish Council. The reason for the grant was based on children's safety. Proposer Chair, Seconder Cllr. Galbraith. Passed with one abstention.
- g.* **Dog Fouling Issue.** More dog-fouling signs had been erected in the park by the play equipment. Please clean up after your dog!
- h.* **Kepwick** – *see above.*
- 12. Residents Items**
- a.* **Walkway by Dentist's.** No change. This matter to be re-reported. **Clerk**
- b.* **Cherry Tree backing on to Allotment entrance.** No response from planning or tree officer. **Clerk**
- c.* **School coach congesting highway.** Letter to be written to the school. **Clerk**
- d.* **NEW** - Dangerous excavation hole in the planting along the Approach has been abandoned by contractors for countless months. The temporary barriers around it becoming an unsightly permanent fixture. **Clerk**
- e.* **Capian Walk** – 'Dead tree' complaint received again. Cllr. Galbraith investigated and found large dead branch and rather unhealthy looking tree behind house but nothing in the front (as on previous occasion). **Clerk**
- 13. Date and Time of Next Meeting.** *No meeting in August. Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm at TMA School*

**The Meeting closed at 9.10pm**

*signed*

*date*