

# ABBNEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL

2013/129

Clerk: Mr. Julian Vischer

50 Gibsons Green, Heelands, Milton Keynes, MK13 7PE

Tel 01908 320958

## MINUTES of the MEETING held on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2013 at Two Mile Ash School

**Present:** Cllrs: J. Hawthorn (Chairman), E. Matthews (Vice-Chair), K. Wilson, Dr A Evans + 2 members of the public: Dave Lewis; Pavla Gossop (representing TMA Environmental Group)

1. **Apologies** Cllrs. A. Gaunt

2. **Approval of June Minutes** – Approved subject to the following three amendments to item 2 (Presentation): 1. 'the A5' should read 'Watling Street, V4'; 2. '..underpasses had yet to be decided..' should read '..crossings had yet to be determined..' 3. it should be made clear that the nursery and primary school would be annexed to TMA school - not simply the nursery as could be inferred. Thus -

**Presentation** Darren Farmer introduced the consultant from Illman Young who went through the proposed planting scheme on *Watling Street, V4* for the Western Expansion Area (WEA). The detailed drawings showed the existing hedgerow being thickened out with similar native shrub and tree species so that a good sound and visual barrier to the road was created. The provision of *crossings had yet to be determined* by the Council. Discussion continued about the site in general. Plans were well-advanced concerning phase one of the building in the corner near where Danstead Way (H4) meets *Watling Street, V4* so that the first houses would be on sale by October 2014. Negotiations were also well-advanced in regard to the provision of both a large retail food-store and *a nursery and primary school* (which would be annexed to TMA school) at the centre of the site.

3. **Matters Arising** – None

4. **Code of conduct** – Dr. Evans signed his Pecuniary Interests Form.

5. **Grant Requests** - none

6. **Finance** – no reply as yet from the External Auditors

The following cheques were authorised -

|         |                              |         |
|---------|------------------------------|---------|
| chq 760 | TMA School - hall hire       | £17.00  |
| chq 761 | A.H.Contracts - bin emptying | £122.66 |
| chq 762 | Clerk - salary               | £433.64 |
| chq 763 | Planters expenses            | £94.86  |
| chq 764 | RJS – landscape maintenance  | £200.00 |

7. **Planning Applications** -

8 Brindlebrook TMA – *refused (2013/126/12)*

**New** - Kiln Farm House two-storey side and 1<sup>st</sup> floor rear extension – No objections  
21 Milesmere single-storey side extension - No objections

8. **Correspondence** - Email post had been circulated to all councillors and responded to as appropriate over the month – copies on file

9. **Councillors Items**

(a) **Ambulance bay** – Still no response from Tony Higgins and no explanation of 'request no 47445'

(b) **Bollards** – (Post & Railings) On the morning of the meeting Rob Ward had

signed

date

communicated that as yet the officer had not had the time to carry out the survey and he assured the clerk this was about to happen.

- (c) **Parking** - The lack of action for the above two items re-ignited the discussion about parking from the last meeting with ref to the buses for the school trips (2013/128/11) – the painting of double-yellow lines on the High Street opposite the school had formed part of Martin Small's plan of action for the previous year which was only partially complete.

**Action** – *In the light of the above three items it was agreed to write a letter summarising the council's concerns about the lack of action on these issues and requesting a timetable be established so that all parties can effectively monitor progress – copy to David Hill.*

- (d) **Opening Hours of One Stop Shop** – this matter was not discussed as the proposer Cllr Ann Gaunt was not present. The clerk had spoken to the manager who had expressed surprise that the sun motif above the shop had collapsed but assured him that it would be repaired immediately. **Action** clerk to monitor
- (e) **Planters** – Two two-tier octagonal planters had arrived from Plantscape on 26 June and planted up by Cllr Ken Wilson and the clerk. The Hairdressers had assisted greatly in the lengthy filling of the water reservoirs for both planters. Councillors thanked all involved.
- (f) **Party in the Park** – Cllr Eve Matthews reported that the event had been very well attended and generally considered a great success. A quick calculation had revealed that over £2000 had been grossed (before costs) – proceeds were to go towards the funding of a large climbing frame for the play area in the park. She raised two concerns: the clash of timing with the Open Gardens event; and an unscheduled announcement by the Chair of TMAEG (*see below*).
- (g) **NEW** – The **drainage problems in the 'Park'** was recalled and it was agreed to contact Phil Snell about it as he had dealt with it last year when it had been too wet to investigate. **Action** - Clerk to contact.
- (h) The email circulated referring to **landscape maintenance** becoming the responsibility of Parish Councils' was discussed. This was looking more and more likely. **Action** – clerk to request more information

## 10. Residents Items

**TMA Environmental Group** update - *Pavla Gossop (TMAEG)* reported on the success of the **Open Gardens** event which had sold 164 'passports-to-the-gardens' and that the nine gardens involved had all reported a steady stream of visitors; more gardens had put themselves forward for next year. Funds go towards TMAEG running costs. She felt that the two events (Party in the Park and Open Gardens) had been complementary in the main as they were targeted at slightly different visitors. She agreed with Councillors that publicity for Open Gardens could have had a higher profile and may have encouraged more visitors. With reference to the unscheduled announcement (*above*) this was the first time she had heard of it and she would establish what had happened. Several councillors added that they felt that TMAEG had a tendency to take credit for action carried out by the Council in recent documents and publicity, for example they had implied that the work carried out to save the trees and regenerate the central garden in the High Street had been a success of TMAEG when it was in fact a Parish Council project - jointly funded between the Parish Council and MK Council - albeit with the encouragement and involvement of TMAEG. Pavla Gossop apologised on behalf of the Group saying that it had not been their intention to underplay the Parish Council's role.

It was generally agreed that next year there could be a 'Two Mile Ash Weekend' with Party in the Park on one day and Open Gardens on the other.

11. **Date and Time of Next Meeting** Thursday, 19th September at 7.30pm at TMA School

12. **Administrative Matters** – *None*

**The Meeting closed at 8.35pm**

*signed*

*date*