

ABBEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 21st January 2021 at 7.30pm, held Online

Present: Cllrs D. Simpson (in the Chair), K. Ryan, J. Spragg, A. Evans. No residents

Clerk: J. Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – Ward Cllr R. Exon. These were accepted.
2. **Public Open Forum** - None
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 December Meeting previously circulated, were unanimously approved. Proposer Cllr Evans, seconder Cllr Spragg.
 - 4.2. **Matters Arising**
 - 4.2.1. Item 5.2, Vacancy - this had been advertised online, on the website and on the noticeboard. No nominations to report.
 - 4.2.2. Item 7.3, WhatsApp group - Cllr Simpson had been confirmed as the new 'admin'.
5. **Parking Enforcement Officer (shared)** - No further information had been received. Councillors Ryan and Simpson had sent responses to the survey. Clerk to chase. **CLK**
6. **Communications**
 - 6.1. **New Website** - Cllr Evans had compiled more comments from councillors on a newer version of the prototype. He would send off by the weekend. Cllr Evans planned to chase for a response from the website builders by the end of next week if no changes had been posted. **AE**
 - 6.2. **Social Media** - Cllr Spragg reported that she was still having difficulty with feeding pdf's from the Abbey Hill Page to the Friends of TMA Facebook page. Cllr Ryan offered to assist. It was noted that there were no serious estate concerns being shared amongst users.
7. **Environment**
 - 7.1. **Post and Rail Installation** - this had been completed outside of Ashbrook School and part-finished outside of TMA School. The contractors were awaiting more posts to complete. The Chair requested a schedule of works but the Clerk had not been given such information. The Clerk pointed out that Milton Keynes Council (MKC) insisted on being the project manager and all communications about the job had to go through them and not direct to the contractor. The Chair requested contact details of the MKC officer responsible. **CLK**

The Chair suggested a few words so that AHPC could publicly announce that they were providing the post and rail to ensure residents knew it was Parish Council funds behind the installation. This was agreed. The Chair offered to draw up a draft that would be posted on all platforms. It was further agreed that this would apply retrospectively to the Christmas Tree Green railing completed last year.

DS
 - 7.2. **Christmas Tree replacement** - The Clerk had circulated the advice from the tree officer - although by no means guaranteed some Norway Spruce had thrived in Milton Keynes. This was confirmed at the site visit between the Clerk and the officer on 19th January. He had suggested Nordmann Fir as an alternative to Norway Spruce. Councillors to confirm their preference by the end of next week. Clerk to confirm soil conditions were equally suitable to both. It was agreed that after planting a proper maintenance regime be instituted. **CLK**
 - 7.3. **TMA Play Parks** - during Budget discussions the Chair had put forward refurbishment of play areas across the estate. Councillors had agreed. Play areas and equipment are the responsibility of MKC. It was proposed to walk round the estate and record their general condition but this was postponed until better weather conditions.

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Clerk to clarify with the MKC play parks officer whether volunteers may re-paint equipment and what rules may apply following an enquiry from a resident. [*post-meeting note*: the officer had confirmed that it was possible, but to be aware most of the work was in preparing the surfaces rather than the painting itself. The officer offered to supply the paint, but cautioned this was not a job that could be regarded as essential during lockdown and would be best left until appropriate weather and lifting of government restrictions.]

7.4. Fault/Project Log - the Log was gone through. There are 21 ongoing issues.

7.4.1. List of small green spaces being taken over for development - awaiting action Ward Cllr Exon.

7.4.2. Wymbush: outstanding over-grown shrubs outside VW - it was noted that the detritus and soil deposited on the redway over the years had still not been removed. The Chair proposed clearing it up with volunteers in the coming days. Councillors Ryan and Evans offered to help.

7.4.3. It was noted that the long outstanding potholes on The Approach had been repaired.

8. Finance

8.1. Payments for authorisation & Balances - since the December meeting:

Christmas Tree Lights (annual) £582.00; Clerk's salary (period 10) £856.50; Clerk's admin/expenses (December) £20.00; Bin emptying (annual) and one new bin £3,138.24.

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

Available funds 24th December 2020: £100,129 (plus reserves £38,443).

8.2. Budget finalisation and Approval - the proposed draft budget was approved subject to a) five minor clerical adjustments; b) increase in the budget for a new laptop/tablet to £1,000. Proposer Cllr Ryan, seconder Cllr Evans. Unanimous.

8.3. Clerk's pay rise (*confidential*) - this was approved.

8.4. Precept Approval - the proposed zero per cent rise was approved unanimously; however it was noted that due to the major decrease in the tax base calculated by MKC this would equate to a reduction of £2,250. A precept of £65,750 would be requested. Proposer Cllr Ryan, seconder Cllr Spragg. Unanimous

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9. Planning Applications

9.1. Previous

20/02854/FUL 5 Haslow Court Two Mile Ash, Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, garage extension and new front balcony. *Permitted*

20/02575/CLUP 18 Potters Lane Kiln Farm, Certificate of lawfulness for the Long-standing Car Repairs use of premises on general industrial/business estate. *Permitted*

20/02888/FUL 1 Astlethorpe Two Mile Ash, proposed two storey side extension. *Permitted*

20/02964/CLUP 13 Farinton Two Mile Ash, Certificate of Lawfulness for the Loft conversion with dormer extension to rear roofslope and rooflights to front roofslope. *Permitted*

20/02975/CLUP 2 Atherstone Court Two Mile Ash, Certificate of Lawfulness for the single-storey side extension with roof lights. *Permitted*

20/03267/FUL 24 Milesmere Two Mile Ash, Single storey side extension, amendments to fenestrations, partial smooth white render finish to front elevations. *Pending*

9.2. New

20/03314/FUL 17 Farinton Two Mile Ash, Single storey rear extension and single storey porch extension. No objections.

20/03315/CLUP (*for information only*) 17 Farinton Two Mile Ash, Certificate of lawfulness for the proposed loft conversion with dormer extension to rear roofslope and rooflights to front roofslope. *Awaiting Decision*

20/03184/FUL Units K1, K2 & K3 Pitfield Kiln Farm, Refurbishment of industrial units, including amendments to elevations, yard extension (Unit K1), reconfiguration of car parking and new pedestrian footpaths (resubmission of 20/01803/FUL). No objections.

21/00099/FUL 4 Garamonde Drive Wymbush, Adaptation of existing warehouse for new windows and gas suspension vents to the front and rear elevations, 4 escape doors, a new Air Handling Unit

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(AHU) on the existing steel frame, new mechanical plant within the extended plant area and a new armo barrier to seclude vehicular and pedestrian traffic. No objections.

10. Grants and Correspondence

10.1. No grant applications.

10.2. Cllr Evans reported that he had talked to Behaviour First Consultancy with a view to receiving financial support for sessions from AHPC. An application was expected. A discussion ensued about whether organisations were aware of the possibility of gaining a grant from AHPC. The Clerk was invited to contact MIND.

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10.3. Correspondence (other than email) - MK Community Foundation Vital Signs 2020

11. Other Meetings and New Matters (WEA; Parishes Forum; Community Annexe, Community Garden) - Nothing to report

12. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 18th February 2021. To be held online at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Signed

date