

ABBEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 20th April 2023 at 7.40pm following on from the Annual Parish Meeting at Two Mile Ash School

Present: Cllrs D. Simpson (in the Chair), A Evans, A. Pant, K. Ryan, P Blyth. Three members of the public, Anne Vine ('Warm Places' volunteer coordinator), David Wood, Brian Lindsay (representing Two Mile Ash Environmental Group).

Clerk: Mr J Vischer

Annual Parish Meeting

The 2023 Abbey Hill Parish Council Community Award was presented to Mr David Wood for his dedication in pursuing the replanting of a large number of trees and hedgerow plants that had failed in the summer of 2022 along 250m of the newly created V4 underpass. In the opinion of parish councillors the remedial action ultimately carried out by MKCC and their nominated contractors would not have occurred without the persevering action of Mr Wood who had taken up the cause on residents' behalf. The Award was gratefully received.

Following the Chairman's Parish Council Report for 2022-2023 the meeting closed at 7.40pm. Mr David Wood left the meeting.

Main Meeting

1. **Apologies** – None.
2. **Open Forum** - Brian Lindsay, representing Two Mile Ash Environmental Group (TMAEG) was attending to seek AHPC's approval for the siting of two 'back-to-back' benches donated by a neighbour of Ward Councillor Robin Bradburn. Councillors welcomed the benches but had three proviso's to make: i) whose responsibility would maintenance be?: ii) Will permissions be sought from MKCC (or Parks Trust if it's their land); iii) AHPC would recommend canvassing nearby residents.
Anne Vine ('Warm Places' volunteer coordinator) reported positively on the progress of the Warm Places initiative especially with regard to the special session held on 14th April when the MKCC team touring the City with information about the upcoming new refuse bins and collection changes were present. 16 residents attended.
Discussion about the future of the initiative in the summer weather followed. It was agreed that the sessions be continued while allocated funds are available. Anne Vine proposed changing the name of the sessions to something like "Community Coffee Morning" to reflect the change in season. This was agreed. Suitable new posters and publicity to be considered.
Anne Vine asked after the Milton Keynes Play Association (MKPA) sessions as none had taken place during the Easter holidays. Councillors agreed to move this item forward from Other Matters. The Clerk reported that publicity from the Association had only been received upon request from the Clerk at the instigation of Cllr Evans on 14th April. MKPA insisted that a circular had been sent to 'all parish councils' in February. It was noted that fees had again been increased this year. A discussion followed regarding last year's disappointing service and value-for-money. Anne Vine offered to visit MKPA as she was familiar with Association, with a view to holding Summer Holiday sessions only. AV
Mrs Anne Vine was thanked for her ongoing commitment. She left the meeting at this point.
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. **March 2023 Meeting Minutes Approval** - previously circulated, were unanimously approved.
Proposer Cllr K Ryan, seconder Cllr A Pant.
 - 4.2. **Matters Arising from previous Minutes**
 - 4.2.1. **Sight of new MKCC Landscaping contract** - (A formal letter had been sent to R Trowse, MKCC Commissioning Programme Manager, on 23 February 2023 requesting sight of contract). No further update, other than that a Parishes Forum meeting would be organised to discuss the new contract. No direct mention was made regarding sight of the actual contract. [*post-meeting*

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note: an online meeting has been arranged for 13 June 2023 at 14.30]

4.2.2. MK Springers grant report - (The contact person, who was leaving had passed on AHPC's request for an update to another member of staff). No update yet from the organisation.

Reminder to be sent.

CLK

4.2.3. Parish noticeboard - ongoing.

4.2.4. Community Garden - no request for further funds for plants had been received.

5. Communications

5.1. Social Media/Website Feedback from the Community - no matters of concern reported. It was noted that a very positive report on the AHPC Warm Places programme had been circulated on LinkedIn.

5.2. Landscape Monitoring Meetings - The Clerk reported that as the latest meeting progressed it became increasingly clear that very few of the issues or queries raised previously were going to be answered. The presiding officer, Jonathan Hawes, had been given very few answers to bring to the meeting. His immediate superior, Euan Darling, was not present for the second time. The three Clerks present, representing Abbey Hill, New Bradwell, and Loughton and Great Holm agreed that a formal complaint should be made as this undermined the purpose of the two-monthly meetings. The Clerk sought councillors approval for such a complaint which was unanimously agreed. CLK

6. Environment

6.1. Xmas Tree Lights - Cllr P Blyth had proposed a strategy for supplying, installing and maintaining more lights in the central area as the current contractor had refused to take on any more work other than the Christmas Tree lights. Councillors approved the outline programme; more research is required. Cllrs Blyth and Pant agreed to provide this. PB/AP

6.2. Proposed Defibrillator - No further information or reports of activity from either the Bargain Booze Shop or OneStop Shop had been received. CLK

6.3. Christmas Tree Green railing repair - Cllr Ryan reported that the stored railing had not been found at the allotment site. It was presumed discarded. Councillors agreed that the gap in the post and rail be left as an access point for contractors.

6.4. Future bulb planting - The new bulbs were making a fine display. Very positive feedback had been received both online and directly. It was agreed therefore to continue with the bulb planting programme. To this end the Mercure Hotel to be contacted to see if they would be interested in sponsoring further bulb purchases. Councillors reiterated their aim to recruit volunteers from across Two Mile Ash for future bulb planting. A budget of up to £1,750 was unanimously approved. Proposer Cllr D Simpson, seconder Cllr A Evans. CLK

6.5. Twin bench sitings - *see Open Forum*

6.6. Project and Fault Log Update - 28 items: 2 projects and 26 faults ongoing. Items reviewed.

7. Finance

7.1. Payments for authorisation & Balances - since the March meeting:

Holy Cross Church (Food Pantry grant) - to meet the Financial Year End deadline this had been approved following online discussion - £500.00 transferred March 30th; Clerk's salary (period 01) £944.12; Clerk's expenses (period 01) £32.00; Warm Places expenditure (supplies) £33.94; TMA School (summer term room hire) £138.12.

Additional payments signed off at the meeting:

Shelton Technical (Award) £40.00; Warm Places expenditure (supplies) £23.29; Holy Cross Church (Warm spaces room hire since inception) £600.00 - *see below*

Payments were approved unanimously.

Income - Precept- 1st tranche £35,450.

Available funds (bank reconciliation of main account) at 31st March 2023: £42,206. (plus reserves £38,520).

7.2. VAT repayment delay - The delayed reclaim of £18,440 had been received this month (April).

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8. Planning Applications

8.1. Previous

22/02216/FUL Transport House Brick Close **Kiln Farm**, Change of Use from warehouse (class B2) to Model Car Museum (class F1), erection of 2 storey extension to side of building including erection of open aspect canopy / coach shelter and internal alterations. *Pending*

22/02921/HOU **18 The High Street Two Mile Ash**, The erection of a front porch with enclosed balcony terrace. *Permitted*

23/00058/HOU **40 Astlethorpe Two Mile Ash**, The erection of a proposed two storey rear extension with rear gables, new side windows and extended block paved driveway. *Permitted*

23/00390/HOU **32 Astlethorpe Two Mile Ash**, The erection of a single storey rear extension with roof lights. *Pending*

22/02717/FUL **Kiln Farm Sports And Social Club**, Keller Close, Kiln Farm, Increase the height of the boundary fencing with concrete posts and bases (retrospective). *Awaiting Decision*

8.2. New

23/00523/HOU **17 The Hythe Two Mile Ash**, erection of a single storey rear extension to replace existing conservatory. Juliet balcony to first floor side elevation, and replacement of existing door with window. No objections.

23/00539/HOU **14 Cavenham Two Mile Ash**, erection of a single storey side extension to form annex and demolition of existing garage. No objections.

9. Grants and Correspondence - None.

10. Other Meetings and New Matters

10.1. Warm Spaces room hire charges - as no formal agreement had been agreed at the time of setting up the sessions with Holy Cross Church this bill warranted discussion. Noting the 25% discounted rate and that all costs were included Councillors unanimously approved the payment. Proposer Cllr D Simpson, seconder Cllr K Ryan. Clerk to request a formal invoice. **CLK**

10.2. Allotments grant request - This would be discussed in more detail between meetings. Clerk to contact the secretary regarding damaged water-main cover to point out that this should be Anglian Water's responsibility. **CLK**

10.3. Pensions Regulator - The Clerk reported that he had completed the Enrolment Re-Declaration online on 20 April 2023 as required by law. (Paper copies filed)

11. Date of Next Meeting – Newly elected Council: Annual Meeting (election of officers etc) Thursday 11th May 2023 at Two Mile Ash School at 7.30pm, followed by the Ordinary Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed

date