

ABBEY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday, 8th June 2023 at 7.30pm at Two Mile Ash School

Present: Cllrs D. Simpson (in the Chair), A. Pant, K. Ryan. Nick Hannon, MKCC Head of Environment and Waste, Anne Vine ('Warm Places' volunteer coordinator).

Clerk: Mr J Vischer

1. **Apologies** – Cllrs P Blyth, A Evans. These were accepted.
2. **Open Forum** - Nick Hannon, MKCC Head of Environment and Waste, shared with the meeting his desire to keep close relations with parish councils and use their local expertise to inform his approach to managing the waste and landscaping priorities across the City which does have considerable variation. Two Mile Ash itself was originally designated as a highly visible landscape example of the early estates and acknowledged parish councillors priority for landscape maintenance. Frustrated with the systematic reductions in landscaping budgets AHPC had been buying in extra services until this too was suspended He explained that the contractor SERCO had had to focus entirely on its core contract over a year ago (with the new contract this should be built in) The result is a very unsightly landscape this season which demonstrates that reductions in the use of weedkillers would never work on the estate as streets and footpaths are too close together to enable redesign of shrub beds. This point would be shared with colleagues and inform his ongoing plans for the grid square. Mr Hannon agreed that -
 1. The new contract would have provision for Two Mile Ash to hold special status as requiring extra maintenance that the new contractor would be committed to - AHPC may pay for this service but the option couldn't be withdrawn.
 2. The once-every-two-months status of the monitoring meeting would be restored to once-a-month.
 3. A copy of the new Landscaping Contract would be supplied when finalised.
 4. A copy of the Landscape Specification would be supplied.
 5. A copy of the Schedule of Rates would be supplied (although prices for extra work would be agreed independently)Mr Hannon emphasised that 'his door was always open' and the parish council shouldn't hesitate to come direct to him if issues were not being resolved. He would be happy to return to one of our meetings late in the year to review.
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. **Annual Meeting Minutes approval** - unanimously approved. Proposer Cllr D Simpson, seconder Cllr K Ryan.
 - 4.2. **Minutes approval May 2023 Meeting** - unanimously approved. Proposer Cllr A Pant, seconder Cllr K Ryan.
 - 4.3. **Matters Arising from previous Minutes** other than those listed on the agenda
 - 4.3.1. **Parish noticeboard (4.2.3)** - The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Cllr Blyth and the Clerk for dismantling and arranging the successful repair of the noticeboard, and for re-fixing numerous screws in the post and rail fencing along the High St.
 - 4.3.2. **Christmas Tree Green Railing (6.4)** - *post-meeting note*: Fence gap agreed to be kept to allow maintenance access. Post to be reconfigured to improve aesthetics at some stage.
 - 4.3.3. **External Audit (7.3)** - Clerk submitted the forms on 2 June 2023
5. **Communications**
 - 5.1. **Community projects**
 - 5.1.1. **Coffee Morning sessions** - A pavement board had been agreed between meetings and recently delivered. If this proved satisfactory a second one would be purchased. The first poster advertising the new Coffee Morning sessions, replacing the 'Warm Places' sessions, had been drafted. It was agreed to go ahead and order copies. Anne Vine reported that the sessions continue to attract a steady flow of attendees. Ward Councillors had offered to try and attend at least once per month. CLK
 - 5.1.2. **Summer Play Sessions** - Anne Vine also reported on her detailed discussions with Milton Keynes Play Association regarding venues, dates and costs. The quotation had been circulated and agreed by councillors. It was further agreed to support Anne Vine's proposal for a special All-day session with additional 'bouncy castle' and 'Zorb balls'. These sessions covered the

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Summer holiday timetable (total quoted at £3,497).

CLK

The planned October half-term session would go ahead but details remain to be finalised.

5.1.3. It was also agreed to order a leaflet drop with the Play Sessions on one side and the Coffee Morning on the other.

CLK

5.2. **Social Media/Website** Feedback from the Community - no matters of concern reported. Several very positive emails received regarding the AHPC Annual Update.

It was agreed to update the website Homepage picture to show the new post and rail by the Church.

6. Environment

6.1. **Transformation maps** - Earlier Nick Hannon helped elucidate that these were a medium term project identifying landscape areas that no longer corresponded to existing GIS maps or areas that might have issues e.g. sight-lines. Replying to a query he clarified that areas marked with an 'R' were those where residents should be maintaining them. Councillors agreed to explore the maps further for discussion at the next meeting. The Chair pointed out that the NW residential area (near the Mercure Hotel) had not been included.

CLK/CLLRS

6.2. **MKPA sessions** - *see above*

6.3. **Allotments Agreement** - the new agreement is still in preparation.

KR

The Clerk offered to inspect the water cover with a view to repair.

CLK

6.4. **Xmas Lights** - The Chair invited Councillors to review the website and choose some options.

CLLRS

6.5. **Proposed Defibrillator** - The site manager had informed the Clerk that their electrical contractor was due to visit the School any day now.

CLK

6.6. **Proposed Dog Bin by Bluebell Wood** - It was agreed to provide a new dog bin at the requested location. Proposer Cllr K Ryan, seconder Cllr A Pant. Clerk to contact contractor.

CLK

6.7. **Autumn Bulbs purchase** - Cllrs agreed to modify the Bulbs budget following the successful planting this year. £3,000 ceiling unanimously approved. Proposer Cllr A Pant, seconder Cllr K Ryan.

6.8. **Christmas Tree Green railing repair** - Councillors agreed to a brief site meeting to decide on the fate of the remaining unconnected post.

CLLRS/CLK

6.9. **Project and Fault Log Update** - 37 items: 2 projects and 35 faults ongoing. Items reviewed.

7. Finance

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

Clerk's salary & expenses/refund (period 03 - £908.80 & £197.12) £1,105.92; Warm Places expenditure refund (supplies) £17.55; AHPC Annual Update £320.04; Cllr Blyth (refund post & rail) £7.40.

Payments were approved unanimously. Proposer Cllr K Ryan, seconder Cllr A Pant.

Available funds at 31 May 2023 (bank reconciliation of main account): £93,038

Reserves £38,567.

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. *Refused*

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). *Pending*

23/00539/HOU **14 Cavenham Two Mile Ash**, erection of a single storey side extension to form annex and demolition of existing garage. *Permitted*

23/00954/HOU **9 Thornccliffe Two Mile Ash**, The erection of a single storey side extension. *Pending*

23/01086/CLUP **2 Garston Two Mile Ash**, Certificate of Lawfulness for the proposed loft conversion with dormer extension to side roofslope and rooflights. *Awaiting Decision.*

8.2. **New** - None.

9. **Grants and Correspondence** - None.

10. Other Meetings and New Matters

10.1. Community garden - The garden is a little overgrown. Clerk to contact the coordinator..

CLK

11. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 13th July 2023 at Two Mile Ash School at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed

date