

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 7 December 2009 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ayles (Chair), Haynes, Hinds, Keane, Markham, Stacey and Tapp. The Clerk, Karen Hill, Ward Cllr Geary and 8 members of the public were in attendance. An Open Forum preceded the meeting in which Mr Trevor Dove, Traffic and Transport Manager, Milton Keynes Council discussed the Castlethorpe/Hanslope 7.5 tonne weight limit restriction proposal and other matters. [see separate note]. The meeting started at 8.03pm.

PART 1

		ACTION
1	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE 2009/125: None	
2	TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST by Councillors in any of the agenda items below: None	
3	MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES 2009/126	
3.1	The notes on the Open Forum and minutes of the general meeting of the 2 November 2009 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chair.	
3.2	To hear brief progress reports on other matters arising (not included elsewhere on the agenda) Progress report: Playbuilder funding meeting now to be 15/12/09 Cllrs Ayles, Tapp and Keane, Ward Cllr Geary and Ms Kate Davidson and Phillip Snell MKC: Sports Ground – quote to be obtained from handyman and tenders to be opened at 4 January 2010 CPC meeting; North Street bus stop/Carrington Arms road markings; Cllr Keane to progress with S Symmonds MKC; State of roads past Navigation Clerk to write to NCC; Guinness Midsummer properties Clerk to arrange site visit. <i>Ward Cllr Geary asked if he could inform those present on a matter raised in a previous meeting regarding MKC’s Core Strategy on development/housing. The document is to be presented at Council on 5 January 2010 and is to be ratified in full council on 26th January 2010. A summary of the strategy is that over the period to 2026 no area within the Hanslope Ward would be looked at for extra development unless the respective Parishes decided there was a need.</i> Weight Restriction 7.5 tonne: It was agreed based on the full discussion in the open forum that CPC would respond to P Sears to say CPC would like it noted that a consensus of feeling was that placing a restriction in Haversham and Long Street Hanslope would restrict the through traffic that caused the problems. However comments on the current proposal are: (i) CPC would like to see the collaboration between MKC and NCC to erect signage on roads from A508, Yardley Road junction to indicate to lorry drivers that a weight restriction area of 7.5 tonne is in force as well as (ii) erection of signage in Haversham stating to drivers that a weight restriction area applies, (iii) to extend the area of coverage to include Station Road and Hanslope Road to Long Street, (iv) consultation with local farmers to ensure the ease of movement between properties on either side of the village.	W Cllr Geary Clerk J Keane
4	TO RECEIVE REPORTS from Councillors or Clerk 2009/127	Clerk
4.1	WREN – Village Hall project update by Cllr Haynes. Building work delayed by contractor	
4.2	Rural Housing Seminar 16/11/09: Noted. File note available from Clerk	
4.3	BRAG Conference 23/11/09: Noted. File note available from Clerk	
4.4	LEADER seminar 23/11/09: Noted. File note available from Clerk	
4.5	NAG Community Speed Watch 24/11/09: Noted. File note available from Clerk	
4.6	STARS: 24 November 2009: Noted. File note available from Clerk	
4.7	Village Hall meeting 3/12/09 [included financial report from Clerk] : Noted. File note available from Clerk. Cllrs Tapp asked whether his understanding that CPC were responsible for expenditure and not the VH committee was correct. Chair confirmed it was. Cllr Tapp asked why then had an account been opened without CPC’s approval. <i>Meeting suspended to ask for advice from the VH Chair, Mrs Sweetland who indicated that no account [with Pollards – Clerk] had been opened but that she had passed the paperwork onto the Clerk for approval by CPC. Mrs Sweetland stated that she had approached the suppliers to ensure the timeously supply of consumables for the VH as well as negotiate a good price and Pollards had offered a 15% discount and free delivery. Meeting resumed</i>	
5	TO CONSIDER PLANNING 2009/128	Clerk AGENDA
5.1	09/02006/TCA: Notification of intention to crown & thin 1 x horse chestnut tree at 4 Lodge Farm Court Castlethorpe Milton Keynes MK19 7HA for Mrs Ann Stannard. Noted <i>Ward Cllr Geary asked if item 8.1 could be discussed, as he would have to leave the meeting before CPC could discuss this item. Unanimously agreed to discuss 8.1 at this point.</i>	

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8	TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED 2009/131 [see below]	
8.1	Miss Briggs – Hanslope Harrier. It was unanimously agreed to ask the Clerk to convey CPC’s response that they support a Harrier service but only if it could provide these extra services more cost-effectively than by MKC contracting the journeys in their normal way	Clerk LETTER
6	TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS 2009/129	
6.1	It was unanimously agreed to vote in a public excluded Part 2 of this meeting on confidential staffing and financial matters.	
	<i>Meeting suspended to ask for advice from the VH Chair, Mrs Sweetland as to the appointment of the current cleaner. Mrs Sweetland indicated that she had had nothing to do with the current appointment and that the appointment had been handled by the Vice Chair who was acting as the cleaner on a temporary basis. It was noted that time was of the essence in ensuring the continuity of cleanliness of the hall once the temporary cleaner had indicated her desire to give up the job and that the current cleaner had received glowing reports. Meeting resumed.</i>	
6.2	It was unanimously agreed that discussions on the draft contract for Village Hall cleaner be held with Cllrs Haynes and Hinds and the Clerk and the VH committee and that the appointment of Mrs Lucy Sparkes be formally endorsed at the next CPC meeting.	Clerk AGENDA
6.3	It was unanimously agreed to allow the Parish Plan Committee to arrange a meeting of all the residents involved in drawing up the Parish to be held in January 2010 at which progress made against the Plan lodged in December 2008 will be reviewed and observations and suggestions made by the committee will be submitted to the Parish Council for action. All Cllrs are welcome to attend. Dates to be advised.	P Ayles Clerk
6.4	It was unanimously agreed to place an agenda item for January meeting for discussion on play areas so as to benefit from the outcome/s of the proposed meeting with Cllrs Geary, Ayles, Keane and Tapp with P Snell and K Davidson (MKC).	Clerk AGENDA
	Ward Cllr Geary left the meeting at 8.50pm	
6.5	It was unanimously agreed that based on the Allotments Association indication of possible need for 10-12 more allotments in Castlethorpe, that Cllrs Ayles, Stacey, Tapp and Markham form a sub committee to spearhead a project to identify potential sites within the village for allotments, negotiate with landowners on availability of ground, liaise with MKC Planning and Allotments Association as to viability and to report back to CPC with findings as an expression of intention to lodge a grant request to LEADER under their Community Project scheme.	
7	TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL MATTERS 2009/130	
7.1	A statement of the current financial position was circulated prior to meeting. No queries were raised. Approved unanimously	
7.2	The RFO Payments Schedule was circulated in advance. Total payments of £2608.66 from Lloyds Bank PLC were approved & a funds transfer of £1500.00 from BOI was approved. Proposed Cllr Keane seconded Cllr Ayles	
7.3	It was agreed by a vote of 2 to 5 to increase the annual precept request by 5% or £23763.00 for the 2010/2011 Budget [available on notice-boards and web site] Cllr Markham stated that further to the budget discussions and the proposed creation of a seating area at the Sports Field, the local wood merchant had offered 3 8 seater picnic tables for £300.00. To be placed on January agenda	Clerk Clerk AGENDA
7.4	The Clerk had erroneously filled in the incorrect precept amount on the 2008/2009 Annual accounts and the external auditors Mazars had returned a photocopy (having mislaid original copy) for the Chair/Clerk to initial. Duly done and noted by this minute reference.	Clerk MAZARS Rec del
7.5	It was unanimously agreed that the VH storeroom doorway be blocked in to permanently exclude the drafts and cost not to exceed £200.00.	Clerk
7.6	It was unanimously agreed to thank Cllr Hinds and all the residents involved for the hard work in putting up the outside village lights and to support the expenditure on brand new LED low energy lights for the hall.	
8	TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED 2009/131 [continued – see above]	
8.2	Funding request Baden Lodge, Hanslope. Noted. Agenda item January 2010	AGENDA
8.3	Precept leaflets and request from MKC - noted	
8.4	Christmas card Warners. Noted with thanks	
8.5	Note of thanks from Village Show Committee Noted	
9	ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for noting, or for inclusion on a future agenda) 2009/132	
9.1	Report back on Playbuilder scheme and play areas in Castlethorpe	AGENDA
9.2	Village Hall Cleaner contract and approval	AGENDA
9.3	Village Projects	AGENDA
10	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS 2009/133: The date of next meeting is 4 January 2010.	

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There being no further business to discuss, this part of the meeting closed at 9.25pm

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**Notes on Open Forum held prior to Parish Council General Meeting Monday 7 December 2009 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Councillors Ayles (Chair), Haynes, Hinds, Keane, Markham, Stacey and Tapp. Ward Cllr Geary as well as the Clerk were in attendance. There were 8 members of the public present.

Mr Trevor Dove, Traffic and Transport Manager, Milton Keynes Council introduced himself and explained he was in charge of the department that handled traffic management, parking and road safety and that he would be able to discuss any problems those present might have that related to these areas. Trevor presented the basis behind MKC's proposal to create a restricted area with the Hanslope ward on lorries of more than 7.5 tonne in weight. The proposed area would be on the roads into Castlethorpe from Haversham - along Wolverton Road through village to the triangle and from Bullington End Road to meet junction of North Street.

The background to the decision on this proposal (Parish Council asked to lodge official comments to Phillip Sears, Traffic Management Team by 30 December 2009) is an attempt to stop the North – South movement of traffic through the villages. A weight restriction on lorries over 7.5 tonnes will be imposed to effectively cut off the ability of the lorries to use the villages as a quick route to either the M1, Northampton, Milton Keynes or other areas. It was envisaged that signage would be erected to indicate to lorry drivers where the restricted areas were and alternate routes around the restricted areas.

It had been identified that Castlethorpe and Hanslope were the two areas of high volume traffic and at present there were no plans to have a restricted area in Haversham. Trevor stated emphatically that local farmers needing to access the restricted area or with suppliers needing to access the restricted area would be given Exemption for Access permits.

Trevor did point out that the larger the area the harder it becomes to monitor and enforce the restrictions as it would be down to the police to enforce the restrictions and issue penalties. This proposal is currently in the consultation period and he hoped to get the work done within this financial year as there were finances allocated for the work. However, should the work be delayed and scheduled for the 2010/2011 financial year money he could assure people that money had been put aside in the budget.

Mrs G King asked how it would affect the horse boxes using the village to gain access to MK Eventing. Trevor said this could have an impact on the journey time and Cllr Stacey stated that the majority using the village would be under the weight restriction anyway.

When asked why Station Road had not been included in the proposal, Trevor stated that there was no technical reason why it had not been included other than it making the restricted area very large to manage.

Cllr Keane stated that the bridges were at risk as they were originally built to withstand horse and carts not heavy lorries and that many lorries were so large they blocked the roads when trying to negotiate the narrowings etc. Cllr Keane stated what many present agreed with that if a restriction on weight was placed in Haversham and at junction of road past navigation the problem would be stopped. Trevor promised to look into this.

Cllr Markham stated that with the proposed construction at Hanslope Park what would be the route taken by contractors and suppliers? Trevor mentioned that MKC would have no jurisdiction over usage to the FCO.

Mrs Goodger drew Trevor's attention to the road past the Navigation and stated that large articulated lorries trying to negotiate the rise have been known to slip down the incline in icy or snowy conditions. Trevor agreed to look at the feasibility of erecting signage on the turn off to Castlethorpe.

Cllr Stacey echoed Cllr Keane's comment that having a restriction in Hanslope, Long Street and in Haversham would solve the N-S vehicle volume.

Cllr Tapp stated that a large petroleum lorry regularly used the village as a shortcut to the M1.

Ward Cllr Geary stated that he was concerned that lorries embarking down Station Road towards Hanslope would find a restricted area and have to try and turn the lorry on the village triangle and he could envisage accidents and damage to property. Trevor promised to take all these comments back to the consultation panel for consideration.

Mrs Sweetland asked about progress on the A508 as she had seen in the press that the owner of the Navigation had benefited from £150k. Chair informed her that NCC had promised a feasibility study on receipt of the S106 gain from the developer. Chair thanked Mr Dove for attending. Mr Dove left the meeting.

Mrs Goodger handed the PC a cheque for £205 as well as the un-cashed refundable cheque the PC had placed with the organisers of the fundraiser "We'll Meet Again" in case funds were needed. Chair thanked Mrs Goodger and commended the organisers on a lovely event.

Mr King complained about the new rumble strips on the road towards the Navigation saying they made the entire car shake and the noise as cars went over them was extremely loud.

Mrs King asked the Clerk to report street light 14SR.

William Slee asked about progress with Guinness Midsummer on the dilapidation of some of their properties in Thrupp Close. Chair said this would be discussed by the Council under Matters Arising.

There being no further business to discuss, the Open Forum closed at 8.03pm