

Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 1 February 2010 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ayles (Chair), Haynes, Hinds, Keane, Markham & Stacey. The Clerk, Ward Cllr Geary & 14 members of the public were in attendance. The meeting commenced at 8.27pm after the Open Forum closed.

PART 1

		ACTION
1	TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: 2010/012: 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: 2010/013	
3.1	The notes on the Open Forum & minutes of the general meeting of the 4 January 2010 were accepted as a true record. The minutes were signed by the Chair.	
3.2	Report back on: Playareas: meeting 5/1/10 12 noon, Bleak Hall Cllrs Ayles, Keane, Markham, Ward Cllr Geary. Acoustics : Great Houghton hall has panels. Clerk to investigate. Doctors surgery: New facility available: residents to use Northampton General Hospital Highfield Hse. Notice to go on website and newsletter. Storage available at back of hall. Clerk and VHC to investigate. Leaves cleared on railway bridge at Carrington Arms,	CLERK
4	TO RECEIVE REPORTS from Councillors or Clerk : 2010/014 [Copy of reports available from Clerk]	
4.1	HPAF 20/01/10: Hanslope Park: Appointing a Sustainable Travel Co-to liaise with MKC & PCs. Recent survey showed 20% of respondents shared a car. Hanslope Parish Plan survey showed 1,323 vehicles entering HP - 7.30-9am (week-day). HP provide a minibuss shuttle service to & from CMK station throughout the day for visitors as well as staff. It was felt that it was not practical to divert the 33 service. HP would like to see public transport (something the proposed Travel Co-ordinator would investigate). Hanslope PC said that they would like to see a footpath between the Park & village for Hanslope staff to walk safely to & from work. Cost estimated by MKC >£300k. PC would like HP to pick up the bulk of this cost. Cycleway to Castlethorpe (access the Sustrans cycleway at Castlethorpe & then enter the redway system at Wolverton). HP offered a site visit to the PCs. A508. NCC Section 106 officer had received the planning gain (Thrupp marina) & NCC Highways Safety Officer arranging the feasibility study in the new financial year. He said he would hope that MKC would continue to place pressure on NCC so that the improvements recommended by the study could be budgeted in 2011/12 by both MKC & NCC. Devil's Dip. Consultancy study in progress to be completed in time for capital budget round in September. Hoped that remedial flood works at Tathall End would improve the situation. Results of the consultancy study be presented to the Forum in April or July. Verge & Footway Parking. Castlethorpe has no restrictions placed within it. Lorry Access. Legal restrictions will be implemented after the current consultation has been completed. Potholes. Reports should be made by phone or web to MKC Streetcare or may be sent directly to Nick Wood. Core Strategy. Pre-submission publication of the Strategy available 17/02/10-31/03/10 on MKC website. Hard copies available. Confirmed no housing will be imposed on the 3 parishes. Minerals Plan. MKC objection to Minerals Plan over-ruled & an increase of 133% was proposed. Now going through review process with the Secretary of State. The impact for the villages is that the Ouse near Haversham is a likely site of mineral extraction.	
4.2	CLERKS REPORT: Annual Accounts notice posted 06/01/10 - removed 29/01/10. PC's obligations complete. Both Mr Paul Stone & Mrs Lucy Sparkes have accepted their contract terms & Purchase Order's covering budgeted amount has been raised & accepted. PC has new 18 month contract offering reduced electricity unit cost. Grant applications to MKC for play-areas, street lighting at shop & Youth work funding has been lodged. Clerks Forum (19/1/10) Presentation from MKC Community Liaison & Environment Directorate on what impact the re-arrangement of staff will have on PC. Discussion on NAGS & their role in community, Parish Charter: input from Harben House meeting to be taken into account (new charter is to be finalised before cabinet in March & adopted by councils in April). Parishes assembly: New proposals based on feedback from questionnaires from iDea & December workshops. Proposals are little change to current structure, suggestion that a vice chair is elected from parishes annually & content driven by PC/TC's & not MKC. Map/OS site: Discussion on a Parish on line mapping service annual subscription of £10.	
4.3	PARISH PLAN MEETING 25.01.10: New action summary with status at January 2010. [Copy available form Clerk or in Public Papers section on village website]	

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4.4	WREN – PHASE 2: New porch due to be completed by 12 February.	
4.5	NAG: Community speedwatch is taking place & financing for dog bins have been approved from budget. (See agenda item 5.3)	
5	TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS: 2010/015	
5.1	It was unanimously agreed to vote in a public excluded Part 2 of this meeting on staff and commercial matters of a confidential nature	
5.2	It was unanimously agreed to accept Cllr Stacey’s recommendation that the Sports Committee get together to decide on a proposal for short & medium term projects for the SG based on quotes to be, or obtained by the Clerk to be presented to CPC in due course,	L STACEY to call meeting
5.3	It was unanimously agreed that (i) CPC would pay for the emptying of dog bin(s) provided by the NAG for a 6 month trial period at an approximate cost of £2.50 + VAT per bin per empty; (ii) 3 would be requested from NAG (iii) site location of the bins to be (a) near the kissing gate on the Carrington Arms side of the Railway bridge near to the litter bin (b) Opposite the shop at entrance to Castle Field, (c) near the school & sited near phone box (iv) frequency of emptying to be fortnightly (v) would contact MKC to ask for promotion of good practice by MKC enforcement department.	CLERK
6	TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL MATTERS: 2010/016	
6.1	A statement of the current financial position was circulated prior to meeting. No queries were raised. Approved unanimously	
6.2	The RFO Payments Schedule was circulated in advance. Total payments of £1,286.21 from Lloyds Bank PLC were approved. Proposed Cllr Haynes seconded Cllr Keane	
6.3	After much discussion & a presentation by Cllrs Stacey & Markham on the choice of ride on mower to source for the needs of the Sports Ground, it was unanimously agreed to delegate power of Authority under the provision of the L.G.A 1972. S 101 to the Sports Ground Committee (Cllrs Stacey & Markham) to source, inspect & agree the purchase of a ride on mower to the specifications presented at the meeting. 2 nd hand, 30-40 hpw, 4WD, mower with 10” 6 bladed cylinder from the industry recommended Ransome stock available at reputable dealers & to spend up to the maximum of £15k (funded through PPG, grants & reserves) on said machine. It is incumbent on Cllrs Stacey & Markham to obtain the best possible agreement & machine for the money.	CLLRS STACEY MARKHAM
6.4	It was unanimously agreed not to increase the annual rate for tennis membership until the refurbishment/maintenance work had been done to the court. CPC to review membership cost for 2011/12.	
6.5	It was unanimously agreed to approve the purchase of picnic benches as per quote offered of £300 + VAT. These may be partly funded from Ward Councillor’s Fund.	CLERK
7	TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: 2010/017	
7.1	MK Neighbourhood Regeneration: Consultation Paper on selection of Phase 2 neighbourhoods. Noted	
7.2	MKC Planning Newsletter. Circulated amongst Cllrs for comments	Cllrs
7.3	Order 2010 Parking prohibition : Letter & list of inclusions form P Harrison. Noted	
7.4	MK Equality Bill Legislation explained training course. No takers. Noted	
7.5	NALC council of the Year award nominations. Noted	
7.6	Linford Cleaning Service: Noted	
7.7	MKCF Funding reminder. Passed to sports & Youth clubs, Pre-school & Acorn nursery.	
7.8	BALC – Buckingham Palace Invitation. Noted. No takers	
7.9	MKC – SPD Consultation presentation. Noted. No takers	
7.10	MKC – Parish Financing: Council tax details noted.	
7.11	Bucks Community Action: Meeting to register name change & amalgamation of 3 charities. Noted. Clerk to action.	CLERK
[Full list of all correspondence received & circulated during January available from Clerk]		
8	ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for noting, or for inclusion on a future agenda): 2010/018	
8.1	Carrington Arms – S Hill report back [see open forum notes] Unanimously decided to (i) ask Clerk to ascertain legal position of CPC acting as broker (ii) letter to be sent to S Hill thanking him for information, informing him of interest and ask for a regular update. Clerk to furnish village with update via newsletter.	
9	DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: 2010/019	
9.1	It was agreed that the next meeting will be on 1 March 2010.	

There being no further business to discuss in this part, the meeting closed at 9.50pm

Notes: Open Forum held prior to Parish Council General Meeting Monday 01/02/2010 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ayles (Chair), Haynes, Hinds, Keane, Markham and Stacey. The Clerk, Ward Cllr Geary and 64 members of the public were in attendance. **[Clerks note: 52 signed in]**

The Chair, Cllr Ayles welcomed everyone present.

Mrs P Markham on behalf of the Short Mat Bowls Club showed the PC some bags of debris collected by the group when they use the hall on Tuesdays/Fridays. Mrs Markham asked that the hall be properly cleaned as the equipment the group used was expensive to replace and they had to sweep the hall before being able to play. The Chair asked Cllr Hinds to bring this matter up at the 4/2 meeting with the VH Committee.

A member of the public present asked what could be done to repair street lights that were flickering or 'out'. Chair stated that members of the public could report the lights themselves to MKC or through the clerk.

Steve Patrick asked when the pothole problem in the village and environs would be tackled. Chair informed those present that a site visit with MKC on 9/2 was scheduled. Potholes would be addressed. Chair informed those present that members of the public could report the potholes via MKC website themselves or through the clerk.

Mr Charles Sawbridge asked on the A508 status. Chair informed him that s106 had been received by NCC and a feasibility study would be conducted in the near future.

Mr Barry Norris then asked to speak at some length on the situation with the lack of development of the Carrington Arms. As there were so many interested villagers present, Chair, after consultation with the other Cllrs, agreed to lengthen the Open Forum from the customary 15 minutes to 8pm.

[Clerks note: there followed a lengthy debate/discussion with numerous ideas and comments from many of the 64 members of the public present. In the interests of space the note below is a summing up of the salient points]

- it was now over 2 years since the first promise of the Carrington Arms being refurbished and re-opened. In that time the building structure has deteriorated.
- More proactive approach to the situation needed. Not a confrontational approach but one to assist in the speedy start of work.
- Formation of an action group to facilitate work commencement
- Acknowledgement that Simon Hill had been welcomed into village and needs to show willing to share information and provide updates.
- Urgent need to engage with Simon Hill
- Constant worry that Simon Hill would apply for change of use of building due to derelict nature of building and lack of occupation renders building more vulnerable to problems (flooding, pests)

It was noted that Simon Hill has been invited to Annual Parish meeting as well as half yearly meetings over past few years but has not attended. Chair asked that it be noted that Simon Hill had been informed of the response in the Parish Plan survey indicating that 94% of respondents wanted to see an active public house and would support a restaurant. Chair also pointed out in response to a question as to where the PC stood on this matter, that as this had not been discussed formally in council the Chair could not offer the PC's point of view but reiterated that the PC's previously held view at the time of planning negotiation was that development would be expected within a reasonable time. Chair was asked whether the PC could act as broker between parties to negotiate a new 'deal'. Chair replied that legal advice would have to be sought on this matter and asked Clerk to seek advice. There were several comments on the worry of change of use being applied for because of proof of lack of profitability of pub. Chair could again not comment on the legality of this but did state the following: MKC has adopted the Strategic Plan which states that no village amenity such as school, pub, shop etc will be able to apply for change of use to protect rural communities and it was noted within the Parish Plan that 94% of respondents wanted and would support the pub re-opening and that Simon Hill had himself that week informed the Clerk that he had every intention of refurbishing the pub as soon as was possible.

Summing up:

- it was agreed that there needs to be engagement with Simon Hill in a positive manner.
- Pub Action group needs to be formed : Mr Barry Norris 01908 511615 agreed for his name and number to be given and will co-ordinate the action group.
- CPC to send a letter to Simon Hill summing up the strength of feeling at the meeting and ask for more information

[Clerks note: CPC Councillors could join and support an action group in their personal capacity and not as councillors]

There being no further business to discuss, the Open Forum closed at 8.17pm