

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council general meeting on 09/01/2012 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ayles, Hinds, Keane, Markham, Stacey & Sweetland. The Clerk Mrs K Hill was in attendance. There were 11 members of the public present.

The Open Forum was extended to allow for those members of the public present to be informed about the proposed designs for a Village Centre Green regeneration project. This being the final public meeting to discuss the scheme (subsequent to the consultation in May 2011 & 2 public meetings held thereafter). The Chair began by summarising the comments made, at the last public meeting, on preferred design features of the various designs submitted by Urban Design MK Council (these were available to view and comment on). After discussion those present agreed on the inclusion of design features as listed in 6.2. On other matters: A resident asked if double yellow lines could be installed in South Street to deter inconsiderate parking. Chair asked if this could be noted but wait for comment until the village design process had taken place as there was provision for several extra parking spaces which might alleviate the problem. A resident asked whether why the grit bin promised for Prospect Place had not been installed. Cllr Stacy apologised and promised to locate ASAP. Mr Present-Collins asked that it be noted that he had approximately £80 in the treasurers account of the (previous) Jubilee Fund for a tree for the village green. Chair thanked him for bringing to the PC's attention and asked that he wait until the viability of the Village centre green regeneration project is ascertained before a decision is made on planting trees. Resident asked about status of the Carrington Arms. Chair stated that there was no change: Cllr Markham stated that S Hill was still wanting to develop the pub but had indicated he was open to offers to purchase or to sell to a community consortium.

There being no further matters for the Open Forum the meeting commenced at 8.07pm

ACTION

Clerk
Letter to
P Haynes

RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR: 2012/001

Chair advised that Peter Haynes has tendered his resignation, effective immediately. Chair offered the following in acknowledgement of Peter Haynes service to the Parish Council and village. ***“Peter Haynes has resigned as a Parish Councillor for health reasons which I have accepted with regret. The Chair wishes to acknowledge Peter’s 11 years’ service as both clerk and councillor. Peter kept the shop project going, personally assembling the various grants needed, setting up a company when the parish council was advised it did not have the power to set up a shop and remains a director of the shop association. Peter is one of the few people without whom the shop would never have been built. As Vice Chair of the Parish Council from 2007-2011 and later Chair of the Finance Committee, he helped bring about a sea change in the parish council’s approach to village projects recognising the need for external grants, the success of this approach shown by completed projects worth £137,000 at a cost of less than £14,000 to the parish. Peter worked hard to ensure the village hall refurbishment project was completed over the summer holidays when the Clerk and many other councillors were not available. Peter also served as webmaster and wrote ‘Parish Council Matters’ in ‘Castlethorpe News’.”*** It was unanimously agreed to thank Peter for his outstanding service to the village and wish him all the best for the future.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: 2012/002

1.1 Ward Councillor Geary (budget meeting in Cabinet)

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST by Councillors in any agenda items below

2.1 Cllr Stacey in 5.1 – 5.3 prejudicial.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING : 2012/003

3.1 The minutes of the general meeting of the 5 December 2011 were unanimously accepted as a true & accurate record.

4 REPORTS: 2012/004

4.1 File Note: Clerks report

4.2 File Note: Parishes Forum

4.3 File Note: Meeting with A Constantinides, R Duffill on highways matters

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4.4 File Note: MKC cabinet resolution on Wind Turbine policy
Cllr Stacey left the room for the planning discussions and took no part in the debate

5 **PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 2012/005**

5.1 11/02720/FUL – Flood alleviation scheme : Tathall End. No objection

5.2 11/02740/FUL – Flood alleviation scheme : Littlewood Farm. No objection

5.3 11/02741/FUL – Flood alleviation scheme : Yew Tree Farm. No objection

Cllr Stacey returned to the room.

5.4 11/02697/DISCON: Maltings development. Discharge of conditions on 3-10 (sample materials) against LBC. Noted

5.5 11/02703/DISCON: Maltings development. Discharge of conditions 3-10; 13-18; 20;23-25; 30; 31; 33 against Phase A development. Noted

5.6 11/02710/DISCON: Maltings development. Discharge of conditions on 2-6; 8; 10-11;13-18; 20;23-25; 27-30; 32; 33; against Phase B development. Noted

5.7 11/02734/CLUE: Cert of lawful use on land used in excess of 10 years. Lodge Farm Court. No objection.

5.8 **REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS PLANNING APPLICATIONS: 2012/006**

5.8.1 11/02204/FUL: 10 North Street. Permitted

5.8.2 11/02533/NMA: Lincoln Grounds. Permitted

5.8.3 11/02379/TCA: 13b South Street. Permitted

6 **RESOLUTIONS: 2012/007**

6.1 Cllr Sweetland presented CPC with VH projects/costings identified by the VH committee for approval by CPC..

Acoustics: Panels (beige) & curtains (beige/brown leaf design) :No cost to CPC.

All cost borne by Open Gardens/Entertainments committee. Approved.

Storage cabinet in Disabled toilet for cleaning products: No cost to CPC. All cost borne by Open Gardens/Entertainments committee. Approved subject to confirmation that it will not interfere with DA & H&S regulations.

Shelving in (kitchen) lobby: No cost to CPC. All cost borne by Open Gardens/Entertainments committee. Approved subject to confirmation that emergency exit is not compromised.

6.2 It was unanimously agreed to ask Urban Design and Roads & Highways to redesign & cost up the following for discussion at the 6 February meeting:

1. Safe crossing across North Street at the Village Hall (cost already in MKC budget)
2. Parking at rear of green (land owned by MKC and Station Yard developer (shared cost with developer)
3. Removal & repositioning of stone wall of current green (South Street) to enlarge area of green to compensate for loss due to parking.
4. Extension of pavement corner South Street/North Street at Carrington Arms to create a peninsula to facilitate diagonal parking outside Carrington Arms
5. Creation of diagonal parking spaces (as above)
6. Parking bays on North Street adjacent to bus stops as long as this does not infringe the bus being able to stop, pull in and drive out.
7. Raised different coloured pavers for entire centre encompassing:
8. North Street: Area from current bus stops to the other side of safe crossing
9. South Street: Entrance, Station Yard entrance down to before Inglenook cottages.

6.3 It was unanimously agreed the Clerk would approach the Youth Club and Cllrs Sweetland & Hinds the VH Committee to ask if there was any projects that might be funded through the Parish Partnership grant scheme. Report back at Feb meeting.

7 **FINANCIAL MATTERS: 2012/008**

7.1 A statement of the current financial position was circulated. All financial schedules approved unanimously.

Clerk
Email
Meeting

Clerk

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- 7.2 The RFO Payments Schedule was circulated in advance. There were no queries. Total payments of £2218.92 from Lloyds Bank were approved. Proposed Cllr Stacey seconded Cllr Ayles.
- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| K Hill – salary for November | £530.30 |
| K Hill – incidental expenses – for PC October/November | £77.57 |
| K Hill – incidental expenses – reimbursement for GoPak payment | £794.45 |
| G Hinds – cleaning Village Hall November | £236.00 |
| A H Contracts – dog bin emptying November | £30.00 |
| B P Shayler Ltd | £357.60 |
| MK Community Foundation – Winter Appeal | £50.00 |
| GoPak – supply of tables for VH – reversed. Cheque lost in post | - £794.45 |
| Eon – utilities (SG, VH) –November / December DD | £143.00 |
| TOTAL PAYABLE | £2218.92 |
- 7.3 It was unanimously agreed to fund the installation of a Belfast sink in the kitchen to cost of £558 (excl VAT) subject to checking that no Food Hygiene regulations will be breached. Cllrs Sweetland and Hinds to ask VHC to consider combining the Belfast sink & cupboard for storage of cleaning utensils & products
- 7.4 Deferred. Clerk with Cllr Stacey & Markham to investigate the blocked drainage pipe near newly installed ramp with builders Webster, Synnott and/or Fix It team.
- 8 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED: 2012/009**
- Correspondence circulated to all Cllrs at meeting. Copies were available for public to view at meeting. Highlighted items discussed, specifically:
- 8.1 Letter from D Allott 1 Prospect place. Clerk to respond. Clerk
- 8.2 Request for provision on a cycle thoroughfare on traffic calming in Station Road. Clerk to raise matter with Highways and place item on highways list.
- 8.3 Resident: leaves on Railway bridge. Clerk to ask MKC/handyman to clear
- 9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS : 2012/010**
- 9.1 Code of Conduct – Agenda for February
- 9.2 Mower –service to be approved. Payment preferably in April (new budget) Cllrs Stacy/Markham to organise
- 9.3 Note: Vote of thanks to Cllr Hinds for organising the Christmas light display.
- 9.4 Note: Cllr Hinds thanks to everyone who helped, P Sawbridge for lending cherry picker to assist. Clerk
- 10 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS: 2012/011**
- 10.1 2012 dates: 6 February; 5 March; 2 April (Annual Parish meeting as well); 14 May; 11 June; 2 July; 3 September; 1 October; 5 November; 3 December.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9.10pm

4.SCHEDULE OF REPORTS & FILE NOTES

4.1 CLERKS REPORT & REVIEW OF ACTIONS

RAMP & UNEVEN SLABS: work completed.

GRIT BOX: Prospect Place delivered October.Cllr Stacey to collect from Cllr Markham & position and fill.

DUSTBINS: Delivery pushed back to late Jan due to production problem.

BENCHES IN FISH PONDS: delivery Late Jan - mid Feb 2012.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS : 24 January meeting

FISHPONDS PLAYAREA: 16/12 handover from Miletree to MKC. D Hinds at meeting.

CASTLE FIELD: Investigation by Cllr Stacey on lights in castle Field at night. Report back due.

VILLAGE CENTRE GREEN DESIGN: Clerk + Cllr Ayles had meeting with urban designer M Jones on 14/12. Discussed comments from public meeting. Extended open forum at 9/01 meeting. Resulting comments from public and PC to be forwarded to M Jones/R Duffill for re-design and final costings. Clerk to

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then apply for grants to cover costs.

VILLAGE HALL: Ramp done by fix-it team. Guttering broken & has washed away new concrete. Clerk has obtained quote to repair & replace guttering (agenda).

Oven seal – Cllr Sweetland to report back on warranty/arrangement to repair via John Lewis.

ACTIONS UPDATE:

Restoration of the posts & chain in North Street: Ongoing.

Restoration of benches in village (Shepperton Close, Chequers): Ongoing

Diseased Horse Chestnut tree Fish Ponds: reported to environ svcs ref 8000687627. Assessment completed. 3 trees need urgent work. 1 x to be replaced. Not in any danger to public.

4.2 PARISHES FORUM DECEMBER 8TH ATTENDED BY CLLR AYLES

Community Resilience (presented by Nikki Ross, Superintendent MK LPA and Phil Winsor, AD MKC)

This was a request for parish councils to have emergency plans prepared and kept up to date in the event of incidents of which the principal concern was flooding. Typical contents might include lists of vulnerable people (or a contact number for someone who knows who the vulnerable people are) and contact lists for individuals who might help such as farmers or 4x4 owners - in Stoke Goldington, they even have a helicopter pilot! My personal assumption has always been that Castlethorpe is a very low risk area and there is a certain amount of work needed to compile a plan. Can I suggest that the Clerk contacts Phil Winsor and finds out what they think might be necessary for a small and low risk parish such as ours. Hopefully, none or very little.

In the case of an incident, TVP hold contact details for MKC emergency response duty teams and can be contacted on the **non-emergency number 101**.

Secklow Sounds (presented by Mike Johnston, MD). This is a local radio station targeted at the older age group. All other MK radio stations are apparently aimed at the 16-24 age group. It is available on the internet but will have a 28 day FM licence and will broadcast on 87.8FM from 1-28 January.

Community Asset Transfer (presented by Neil Hanley): Peter Geary introduced this by saying that he felt that some actions to date had been a bit premature and that Neil would lay out the plan going forward which were;

- 17th January. Neil Hanley will present a Toolkit and Asset Register to Cabinet for approval as well as a Pilot scheme.
- February/March. Roadshows and Pilot runs. Criteria for transfers will be published online.
- April Cabinet. Pilot reports.
- Summer 2012. Transfers start.

My take is that no action is needed by Castlethorpe probably until we attend one of the Roadshows.

Localism ([presented by Philip McCourt, Head of Legal Services): This was a brief summary of some of the changes to governance of parish councils.

- Registers of Interest will still be sent to MKC but will have to be displayed on both the MKC and any parish websites.
- The current Code of Conduct will expire on 31st March. **Parish councils must adopt a new Code of Conduct at their March meeting** or at latest at their April meeting so that the newly adopted code is in place for the May AGMs. Parish Councils may choose to adopt a new code that will be prepared by MKC (based on an LGA model code) and Phil McCourt would prefer this to avoid different codes being adopted by different parishes in MK. However, parishes could adapt their existing Code (by removing the parts that are no longer relevant) or there may be model codes published by SLCC or NALC.
- Complaints will still go to the Monitoring Officer at the principal authority (i.e. Phil McCourt) and he will determine whether the complaint should be upheld. However, as the Standards Committee will be abolished, the decision will be passed to the Parish Council who will determine any action e.g. suspension.
- Cllrs should note that certain serious misbehaviour will now become a **criminal offence** rather than one that was referred to the Standards Committee.

Local Government Boundary Commission (presented by Sir Tony Redmond, Commissioner):

The commission is now starting its examination of Milton Keynes. This does NOT consider parliamentary boundaries which are considered by a separate Commission. It does NOT consider parish boundaries which are determined by the principal authority (MKC). It reviews the number of ward councillors and the number and representation of wards. The objective is to ensure that all ward cllrs have an electorate within 10% of the average for Milton Keynes. A map showed that Hanslope Park is NOT within 10% of the average.

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There is a presumption in favour of 3 Member wards. The first stage is for the Commission to consider the size of the council (i.e. number of ward cllrs) and it will produce a preliminary report in autumn 2012. At this point, it will invite parish councils and other interested parties to submit views. It will then determine the allocation of ward cllrs to wards. Wards will normally be built from a basic building block of parishes though this may not be possible for large parishes. A consideration will be the sense of community in an area. An example was that a road could be considered in one scenario as a boundary dividing wards. In another, it could be a focal point perhaps containing shops of a ward. The final result will not be announced until 2013 with the date depending on the amount of change. The Commission reports to the Speaker's Council and there is no appeal either through parliament or through the courts.

We are clearly vulnerable to change both because our electorate size is in variance and because we have a one member ward and Cllrs may wish to submit input when invited next autumn.

4.3 FILE NOTE: MEETING WITH A CONSTANTINIDES, R DUFFILL, A GEARY REGARDING HIGHWAYS ISSUES.

The meeting had been set up by Andrew at the request of Castlethorpe Parish Council after repeated failures to get progress on a number of local projects. In preparation, I had written a document with photographs to explain clearly the issues we had and is available to Cllrs. The document mirrored the September Highways List maintained by Neighbourhood Management and our Clerk. I also recognised a number of schemes which Highways had successfully completed for Castlethorpe.

Traffic Calming Repairs on Hanslope and Bullington End Roads. Alex committed to repair these urgently. Safety repairs are not subject to the normal project budgeting process. I also raised the promise of street lights over the two islands which incidentally were the two involved in traffic accidents. A minor point was the odd heights of the new 30mph signs. These legally have to be a certain height. It appears that some signs (Bullington End Rd and also at Hanslope) have been sited in a ditch with poles which are too short and these will be replaced.

Bullington End Rd Flooding from allotments. Richard said that the comment that a drain had been installed referred to the blocked culverts which caused Ian's fields to flood. They will pick this item up again.

Bullington End Rd Kerbs. (Nos 22-26) Richard said that he thought this had been done and would now ensure it is completed.

Various Minor Works by School. There were several small request; levelling a short length of path on the other side of the road from the War Memorial, creating an extra car parking space outside the school and levelling the pavement outside the W cottages (subject to owners' agreement). Prices for this work had been quoted at £20k and £50k which was unaffordable. It transpired that the request had been misunderstood by MKC's contractors and the whole area of footway, school parking and W cottage pavement was quoted for replacement. The very small works at the gate and the parking space will be actioned immediately. The W cottage work will be re-costed.

Balney Grounds Flooding. To be investigated.

SUSTRANS Cycle Track Surfacing. Re-iterated request for a section of the cycle track to be budgeted each year to bring it up to standard. Richard will investigate as he believes there is damage caused by Network Rail maintenance gangs. Also requested for Fox Covert end to be re-directed but probably only when Maltings development is done.

Devil's Dips and Tathall End Flooding. The scheme has been held up by lack of agreement with one landowner for use of land for dry ponds. Consideration being given to compulsory purchase.

Bus Stop Markings North Street. Surprise that this hadn't already been done. Will be done immediately.

Streetlights. I explained some of the recent problems in getting streetlights and sign lights repaired and that a complaint had still not been properly answered. Alex has recently taken over responsibility for street lights and would welcome escalation if problems are not resolved promptly

4.4 MKC CABINET RESOLUTION ON WIND TURBINE POLICY ATTENDED BY P AYLES

A resolution was made by a reduced Cabinet on distances off of wind turbines from dwellings. Cllrs Andrew Geary, Peter Geary and Debbie Brock had to declare prejudicial interests and left the meeting. The resolution was to put an Interim Wind Policy of turbines with tower heights of 80m or more at least 1km from dwellings out to public consultation.

I spoke on behalf of the parish council to ask for a greater distance (2km in line with health studies), for

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'gradation' so that smaller turbines also had some distance limits and also for a distance off footpaths to be included. The last point was accepted in the resolution.

However, the draft resolution had been published late and there are a number of issues with it and a group of Haversham residents have called in the decision. It is likely that the Cabinet Member will accept the call-in and submit a revised resolution at the next Cabinet on 17th January.

I will give any further update orally at our parish council meeting and it is likely that consultation on the proposed policy will be considered at our February meeting