

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 07/01/2012

7.30pm

PRESENT: Councillors Keane, Markham, Sweetland, Hinds, Presant-Collins, Stacey & Ayles. The Clerk Mr S Bradbury was also present along with Ward Councillor Geary and one member of the public.

The meeting opened at 7:30 with an Open Forum. The member of the public said that he was very concerned about the traffic calming on Station Road. He had observed many near accidents and said that it was only a matter of time before something happens. Haversham had replaced road narrowing system with speed bumps and he asked whether the same could be done at Castlethorpe. Cllr Ayles responded that Milton Keynes Council would have to fund the replacement and that speed bumps were very expensive to install, between ten and fifteen thousand pounds. He suggested that the member of the public attend the Hanslope Park Forum on 31st January and the Clerk will forward to MKC Neighbourhood Management team an email that the member of the public had sent to him.

There being no further matters, the meeting commenced at 7:40.

- | | | |
|----------|--|---------------------|
| 1 | APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | Action |
| | None | |
| 2 | TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST | |
| 2.1. | Cllr Stacey declared a non-prejudicial interest in items 7.7 and 7.8. | |
| 3 | TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING | |
| | Proposed Cllr Keane seconded Cllr Sweetland. Agreed unanimously. | |
| 4 | TO RECEIVE REPORTS | |
| 4.1. | CLERK'S REPORT & REVIEW OF ACTIONS (appended to minutes). | |
| | Matters arising: | |
| 4.1.1. | Item 1211.02. – Cllr Markham asked what progress had been made on getting Neil Allen from MKC Planning team to come and speak to the Parish Council about issues with the Maltings Field development. Cllr Ayles said that the Parish Council had done everything in their power to ensure that all parties had been properly engaged and if they were happy not a lot more could be done. It had been confirmed that both the new road and the latter part of Fox Covert Lane would be widened to 4.8 metres but it was strange that they are developing it to 3 metres at present. The Clerk will email Nicola Wheatcroft at Milton Keynes Council and ask her to drop off plans and final papers to Cllr Geary. | Clerk |
| 4.1.2. | Item 1211.08 – Cllr Markham had received a quote to fence off the trees in Castle Field and will pass it on to Cllr Sweetland. | Cllr Markham |
| 4.1.3. | Item 1. 53 – The Clerk had not yet been able to get someone to examine the Village Hall bell tower. He will attend as a matter of urgency. | Clerk |
| 4.1.4. | Item 1212.12 – A member of the public had contacted MKC about the non-working lights in the bus shelters and it seems that they have now been fixed. | |
| 4.1.5. | Item 1212.11 – The community speed watch equipment has been repaired and is operational. It is too dark at peak times at present but checks will be made in Bullington End Road and Station Road as soon as is practical. | |
| 4.1.6. | Item 1.6 - Cllr Ayles reported that the risk of the Clerk taking long term sick leave had been added to the Register | |
| 4.2. | FILE NOTE ON MKALC AGM 4th December (appended to minutes). | |
| | No matters arising | |
| 4.3. | FILE NOTE on Parishes' Forum 6th December (appended to minutes). | |
| | One matter arising: MKC have provided an interactive mapping system for the MK area on their web site. Secretary's note: can be found at:
http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mapping/displayarticle.asp?ID=69863 | |
| 4.4. | FILE NOTE - Delegated Decision on Wind Turbine Policy 11th December (appended to minutes) | |
| | No matters arising | |
| 5 | TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS | |
| 5.1. | 12/02571/NMA Non material amendment to planning permission 10/02125/FUL for amendments to the eaves line and ridge height 20 | |

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 07/01/2012

7.30pm

6

Shepperton Close Castlethorpe – no objections

TO RECEIVE REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 6.1. 12/02336/DISCON Details submitted pursuant to discharge of conditions 3 (external materials), 4 (landscaping), 7 (proposed floor levels), 9 (boundary treatment) and 10 (ground conditions) attached to application 11/00220/FUL Land To The Rear of 65 And 67 Station Road Castlethorpe had been approved – noted.
- 6.2. 11/01593/FUL: Erection of 9 dwellings and associated parking former Station Yard Goods Yard Castlethorpe – Highways department had requested amendments. The application was on the agenda for a DCC meeting on 17th January. Regrettably neither Cllr Ayles nor Cllr Keane could attend. Cllr Ayles will write to MKC with views previously agreed by Parish Council. Cllr Ayles suggested that there should also be a request made for heritage style street lights as the development was very near a conservation area. This was agreed unanimously and would be added to the communication. **Cllr Ayles**
- 6.3. 12/02177/LBC Listed building consent for removal of a casement window to be replaced by installation of outward opening French window Manor Farm House 50 South Street Castlethorpe - Consent given with conditions (available to see on MKC Planning web site). Noted.
- 6.4. 12/02238/NMA Non material amendment to application 08/01873/FUL to amend kitchen roof from glazed roof to slate roof with rooflights, to change the use building adjacent Unit 1 from office to garden store and omit carport at Unit 5 and erect a stone wall Maltings Farm 48 South Street Castlethorpe – application has been permitted. Noted.
- 6.5. 08/01861/FUL Erection of detached two storey dwelling, access and parking land at Fox Covert Lane Castlethorpe
Cllr Ayles attended a DCC on behalf of the parish council and all three planning conditions proposed by the council, limit of boundary fence to 1.8m, underpinning of stone wall and limit on hours of work, were accepted despite officer's recommendation to the contrary on the first two. Of their own volition, DCC set a further condition that the applicant must repair any damage to the boundary stone wall caused by the building work. The applicant indicated that he was happy to accept all three conditions. DCC also noted our comments on foul sewage but felt that, as connection to foul sewers is a pre-condition of the permission before building work can start, no further action was necessary though neither the planning officer nor the applicant was able to explain to DCC which sewer (Fox Covert or North St) the applicant intended to use. Formal notification of the decision will be issued in the normal way. Noted

7

TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS

- 7.1. Cllr Markham proposed that Cllrs Sweetland and Ayles be appointed to represent the Parish Council at MKALC. Agreed unanimously. Delegation of future appointments to be included in the standing list at the AGM. **Clerk**
- 7.2. Cllr Ayles proposed to amend Standing Orders so that the Chair or, if unavailable, the Vice Chair or, if both unavailable, another Cllr may be appointed to speak at DCC/DCP to represent the decision of the parish council. Agreed unanimously. Clerk to action. **Clerk**
- 7.3. Cllr Ayles said that there was already a scheme in progress to resolve problems with flooding from Tathall End Hanslope down to the dips but some difficulties had been experienced. There will be an update at the Hanslope Park Forum at the end of the month from which Cllr Ayles will report back. Cllr Ayles expressed concern at other areas of flooding but it was the majority view that rainfall had been exceptional and no further action was warranted just now. **Cllr Ayles**
- 7.4. Cllr Sweetland had been approached by the Open Gardens Committee

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 07/01/2012

7.30pm

- about whether there could be a bar on the Village Green during Open Gardens. Concern was raised that some of the land belonged to MKC but it was agreed that there was plenty of other space to put the bar. There were no objections subject to appropriate licensing.
- 7.5. Cllr Sweetland pointed out the poor state of the bus shelters. The Clerk would engage the Handyman to do some work to improve appearances as there is still money in the budget. Clerk
 People had not been using litter bins. It was agreed that one problem area is at the junction of North Street & Station Road just before the Railway Bridge. Clerk to investigate cost of a litter bin with a weighted bottom and liaise with MKC re. clearance arrangements. Clerk
 It was agreed that Notice Boards were currently cleared of out-of-date content.
- 7.6. Cllr Presant-Collins proposed that Cllr Sweetland be appointed to the Finance Committee, so to include a Cllr to represent the Village Hall. Agreed unanimously.
- 7.7.. Cllr Hinds proposed that 'Pick up after your dog' notices should be placed at entrances to Castle Field. Cllr Hinds and Clerk to pursue up to a cost of £50. Agreed unanimously. It was pointed out that the notices on the entrances to the Sports Ground also needed replacing but this should wait until a Dog Control Order was made by MKC. Cllr Hinds/
Clerk
- 7.8. The matter of Sports Ground license fees for next season had been referred to the full Parish Council by the Sports Ground Committee. Cllr Ayles proposed that as there had been so many games lost this year there should be a clause in the Cricket Club license whereby a rebate would be included in next year's agreement if a similarly large amount of games were lost to the weather. Following a debate a vote was taken and a majority of 4 to 2 (with one abstention) voted to leave this year's fees unaltered with no such clause entered into the Cricket Club license.
- 8**
- 8.1. **TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL MATTERS**
 The RFO payments schedule (circulated prior to meeting) was proposed by Cllr Ayles. Seconded by Cllr Stacey and agreed unanimously
 Clerk to arrange meeting with Cllr Markham, Groundsman and himself to agree Clerk measures to try and prevent damage to mower blades. Clerk

Payee	Description	Invoice	Amount	VAT	Sub-Total	Total	Cheque No
S Bradbury	Salary Dec 2012	per pay slip	£454.84	£0.00	£454.84		
S Bradbury	Incidental Expenses	per attached	£36.06	£0.00	£36.06	£490.90	
G. Hinds	Dec 2012 invoice	per attached	£64.00	£0.00	£64.00	£64.00	
F. Price	Dec 2012 invoice	per attached	£132.00	£0.00	£132.00	£132.00	
Browns	Mower service & repair	per attached invoice	£1,084.68	£216.93	£1,301.61	£1,301.61	
AH Contracts	Dog bin clearance Dec	per attached invoice	£25.00	£5.00	£30.00	£30.00	
Mazars	External Audit	per attached invoice	£285.00	£57.00	£342.00	£342.00	
B P Shayler	Safety inspection Village Hall boiler plus callout	per attached invoice	£110.00	£22.00	£132.00	£132.00	
Grand Total			£2,191.58	£300.93	£2,492.51	£2,492.51	

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 07/01/2012

7.30pm

Standing Orders

E.ON	electricity SG -Oct DD	4166 2268 6480	£28.00	£0.00		£28.00	DD
E.ON	gas VH - Oct DD	89208742670	£125.00	£0.00		£125.00	DD
	TOTALS		£153.00	£0.00		£153.00	

- 8.2. Cllr Ayles presented the background to the current financial position, the Council Tax Support and the MKC rebate and put forward 3 options for increase in Precept; that we do not increase at all or increase by 1% or 2%. Following discussion Cllr Presant-Collins proposed that version 3 of the budget should be accepted with a 2% increase of Precept. A vote was taken and the proposal was agreed by a majority of 6 to 1.
- 9** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**
- 9.1. An email had been received that pointed out that a newspaper cutting had appeared on display attached to the inside of the window of the Carrington Arms with the headline 'Increase in Tax Rises closes 18 pubs a week' and that the posting of this cutting hardly seems consistent with the owner's previously stated aim. If there is any planned contact with Simon Hill the sender wondered if this subject could be discussed. It was agreed again that the Parish Council did not want to interfere with anything that may cause the developer to lose any goodwill but that if the opportunity arose in discussions with him the matter would be mentioned.
- 9.2. An email had been received that pointed out that there is a notice on the gate near the Maltings development just past Fox Covert Lane stating the area is a conservation area and dogs must be kept on the lead, and wondered why/how this had come about? It was thought that although that particular land is not part of the conservation area the Parish Council cannot stop land owners putting notices on their own gates. It was generally felt that the notice had been there before the development commenced.
- 9.3. The member of the public who had undertaken to try and get information about the Water Tower had had no success with Wolverton Archaeological Society. She continues to investigate. Clerk to contact Nigel Crompton to see if he has any of the original information. **Clerk**
- 9.4. A member of the public has requested that the footpath that runs from the Square (South St) to The Chequers be cleaned. Clerk to put something about 'volunteers to undertake work in the village' on the next agenda. **Clerk**
- 9.5. A member of the public had reported that a large amount of leaves have built up in the bus shelters. Clerk to include in volunteer's item with 9.4.
- 9.6. A member of the public had asked for an update on the position of the bridleway from Station Road to Lincoln Lodge Farm. It was explained that the Rights of Way Officer will consult with the Parish Council and Ward Councillor when he had gathered all of the information. The Clerk had already replied to that effect.
- 9.7. A member of the public had reported that there are still loose stones laying at the kerbside in Fox Covert Lane. Cllr Markham will have a look but it was generally felt that there will be occasions during the development, and before the road is widened to the recommended 4.8 metres, that agricultural vehicles will have to mount the kerb and will leave some debris. **Cllr Markham**
- 10** **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for noting, or for inclusion on a future agenda)**
- 10.1. There were no further matters arising on the subject of Local Council Tax Support and the MKC Grant. **Clerk**
- 10.2. Cllr Stacey has offered to replace the fence between Castle Field and Lodge Farm Court. Cllr Stacey removed to the public gallery at this point. Cllr Ayles had inspected the public maps and was convinced that the fence was the

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 07/01/2012

7.30pm

responsibility of the Parish Council. All agreed to accept Cllr Stacey's offer with thanks. Cllr Stacey returned to the table.

10.3. Cllr Markham had received one quote for the fencing around the Propane tank. He would get another two soon and deliver all three to the Clerk. **Cllr Markham**

10.4. Cllr Markham had received complaints about speeding in Bullington End road. It had been agreed that there would be speed check exercises when the light improves.

10.5. Cllr Markham raised concerns over the T junction with Cosgrove Road at the top of the hill past the Navigation pub. It was agreed that it was difficult to see to the left especially from vans and 2 seater cars. Clerk to write to Helen Howard at Northants CC as that piece of road is their responsibility (copying Cosgrove Parish Council). **Clerk**

10.6. The final decision papers and plans for the Maltings development could not be found on the MKC Planning web site. Clerk had agreed to contact Nichola Wheatcraft and ask for these papers at item 4.1.1.

10.7. Cllr Hinds expressed thanks to everyone that helped with the Christmas lights.

11

TO AGREE DATE AND ATTENDANCE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

11.1. Next Parish Council meeting 4 February 2013

11.2. Hanslope Park Forum 31 January 2013. Cllr Ayles to attend

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9:35 pm

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 07/01/2012

7.30pm

Appendix A – Schedule of Reports & File Notes

1. Clerks Report & Review of Actions.

See separate sheet

2. FILE NOTE MKALC AGM 4th December 2012

The meeting was attended by about 12 P&TCs most with 2 representatives. Cllrs Ayles and Sweetland represented Castlethorpe Parish Council.

Chairman's Report: The Chair reported that the association had not been very active in the last year partly because the resignation of the Clerk made it very difficult to organise meetings.

(a) The ensuing discussion confirmed the interest of attending P&TCs in MKALC not least because a district association was a mandatory step between individual P&TCs and the County Association B&MKALC (nee BALC). More importantly, MKALC was seen as an important forum for P&TCs to discuss and come to a common view on MKC actions especially given reducing services from MKC.

(b) It was agreed to advertise through SLCC and word of mouth for an experienced Clerk to organise the 4 meetings each year, clerk them and issue minutes. The Clerk would be paid at SCP20 (currently £9.591 per hour).

(c) It was agreed to have an ad hoc working group consisting of Mandy Taylor, Isabella Fraser, David Livingstone and Phil Ayles to organise the agenda for next meetings and recommend a new strategy for MKALC including publicising the association to P&TCs.

Election of Officers: Chair Amanda Taylor, Vice Chair Philip Ayles

Financial Report: There is a balance of £4k plus a further balance to be determined from the defunct Rural Association. Jeremy Rawlings, a signatory on the rural account, will seek to transfer the balance into the combined urban and rural MKALC. The only expenses are Clerk's and an annual £300 grant to the Best Kept Village Award. Signatories on the MKALC account to be A Taylor, D Pafford, A Dnes and P Ayles.

Appointment of Representatives:

- BALC: A Taylor, P Ayles (both ex officio), J Rawlings, I Fraser, T Fraser, K Wilson, D Coventry. 1 representative position currently unfilled.
- MK Transport Partnership: D Stabler, A Francis
- STARS: A Dnes
- RAG: D Livingstone, P Ayles
- Parks Trust: J Nicholas
- **Parishes' Protocol Review:** 7 nominations have been received by MKC for the 3 positions for parish representatives. These will be elected at the forum on 6th December. There was a general view that the exercise was tidying up with perhaps two substantive items such as new consultation timescales.

2013 Meetings: 30 January (7.30pm), 25th April (7.30pm), 24th July (7.30pm) and 22nd October AGM (7pm)

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 07/01/2012 7.30pm

3. FILE NOTE – Parishes' Forum 6th December 2012

Attending: Cllr Phil Ayles. The meeting was very well attended – hardly any spare seats for once.

- **Parish Protocol Review.** There were 7 candidates for the 3 Cllrs to represent parishes to review the protocol and a 'secret' written vote was held. Cllrs Phil Ayles, Ernie Thomas and Phil Winsor were elected.
- **Council Budget Savings Proposals** (Tim Hannam, Corporate Director) This presentation had two parts; a general review of the 2013/14 and future budgets and the proposal for the Local Council Tax Support Scheme.
The general budget review explained the construction of the 2013/14 budget. Under questioning, Tim agreed that bus subsidies were proposed to be reduced by 25% as they were one of the few areas of discretionary (as opposed to statutory) expenditure. *(Post-meeting Note: I have subsequently spoken to Cllr Andrew Geary and he has assured me that the subsidy reductions will NOT affect the No 33 service. The reductions will be on high cost per passenger carried services including some late night urban services.)*
The Local Council Tax Support Scheme is the grant replacing Council Tax Benefits – the money MKC receives for those households on benefit who do not pay Council Tax or parish council precept. Previous notification indicated that this would result in a loss of £1500 to Castlethorpe.
However, MKC now propose to make a charge of 20% Council Tax to benefit households and to pay a grant to parishes. This results in a loss of £147 to Castlethorpe. I did raise a question that it appears that the least well off, those on benefits, were being asked to pay 20% of their council tax in order to fund parish councils and perhaps parish councils could look to reduce their costs or raise revenue instead. Not a single other Cllr agreed.
- **Traffic and Transport.** Rachel Kingsley, the new Head of Highway Services, gave an introductory talk focussing on her intention to improve communication and budgeting processes with parishes.
- **Strengthening Families Programme.** Amanda Farr gave a talk on supporting 'troubled' families – those failing to meet national criteria on school attendance, youth crime / ASB and worklessness as well as local criteria on domestic violence, prolific offending, high police call-outs, substance misuse etc. This is actually a Community Safety (RAG) initiative and there are 31 such households in MK currently identified.
- **Parish Information website mapping.** Bill Errington, Head of Research and Intelligence introduced the Stratus system which can be seen at <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/mapping/> Go to 'Available Map Data' and select 'Parish View'. This is particularly useful for planning giving details of permission histories. It also gives the location of certain facilities. At present, this is an information system only – it does not allow problems to be reported on it though a future release may do so.
- **Community Safety Parish Fund.** Auzra Flynn. This is a parish fund (i.e. match funding) of £100k for community safety improvements. Applications can also be made by NAGs but in partnership with a P&TC. The RAG parish reps (Cllr Livingstone, urban, and Cllr Ayles, rural) will be on the decision panel. Scheme details will be sent to Clerks in January.
- **Next Meeting.** 7th March

Philip Ayles

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 07/01/2012 **7.30pm**

4. FILE NOTE - Delegated Decision on Wind Turbine Policy 11th December 2012

I attended and spoke at the Delegated Decision Meeting when Cllr Hopkins, the relevant Cabinet Member, was to make a decision on whether to progress the Wind Turbine Policy from a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to a Development Plan Document (DPD).

The significance of the decision is that an SPD is a 'material consideration' in planning decisions but is not binding whereas a DPD is 'policy' and is therefore binding. A DPD involves two statutory consultations and an external inspection and is therefore a lengthy process, typically 2 years. For this reason, we had previously been advised to go to the first step of an SPD which was adopted by MKC in July. Although, at Cabinet, both the opposition parties and indeed several of the speakers, including me, had urged for the decision to be made at that time, it was not decided, as I understand it, because the MKC Core Strategy was undergoing external examination and Cllr Hopkins did not wish to cause any confusion on proposed policy with the external inspector.

All three party leaders spoke at the Delegated Decision Meeting in support of the DPD and Cllr Hopkins had himself brought an amended draft decision to the meeting which committed MKC to produce the DPD within 12 months (less than 2 years because about a year's work has already gone into the SPD). After listening to the submissions, Cllr Hopkins signed the decision.

Cllrs may be aware that the SPD is now being challenged in judicial review by the energy companies though timing is not yet clear nor how it will affect the two major applications in the pipeline. Although the SPD process started before these applications, it is being used by opponents to object to the siting of the farms.

Philip Ayles