

# CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013

PRESENT: Councillors Hinds, Keane, Stacey, Presant-Collins, Sweetland & Ayles (Chair). The Clerk Mr S Bradbury was also present . There were 8 members of the public in attendance

The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

- |    |  |                   |
|----|--|-------------------|
| 1  | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b><br>Cllr Geary – alternative appointment. Accepted.  | <b>Action</b>     |
| 2  | <b>TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN</b><br>Cllr Keane proposed Cllr Ayles seconded by Cllr Presant-Collins. No other proposals. Agreed unanimously.   |                   |
| 3  | <b>TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN</b><br>Cllr Ayles proposed Cllr Keane, seconded by Cllr Presant-Collins. No other proposals. Agreed unanimously.   |                   |
| 4  | <b>TO RECEIVE REGISTER OF MEMBERS INTERESTS FORMS</b><br>Cllr Stacey asked the Clerk to send him a blank form as he had changes to make. No other changes.   | <b>Clerk</b>      |
| 5  | <b>TO REVIEW REGISTRATION OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY FORMS</b><br>No changes   |                   |
| 6  | <b>TO APPOINT COMMITTEES, AND AGREE TERMS OF REFERENCE</b><br>The following appointments were agreed unanimously subject to Cllr Markham agreeing his allocations:<br>Finance committee: Cllrs Presant-Collins, Ayles, Stacey, Keane and Sweetland<br>Sports Ground Committee: Cllrs Presant-Collins, Ayles, Stacey & Markham  |                   |
| 7  | <b>TO AGREE COUNCILLORS RESPONSIBILITIES</b><br>The following appointments were agreed unanimously subject to Cllr Markham agreeing his allocations:<br>Neighbourhood and Parish Plan Committee: Cllrs Hinds, Ayles, Stacey, Keane and Sweetland<br>Communications and Website: Cllrs Ayles & Sweetland<br>Dog Fouling: Cllr Hinds<br>Public Transport: Cllrs Ayles, Keane & Sweetland<br>Highways & Streetlights: Cllrs Markham & Stacey<br>Footpaths & Play-areas: Cllrs Markham, Hinds & Keane<br>Flower festival: Cllr Hinds<br>Village Hall: Cllrs Hinds and Sweetland<br>Cllr Ayles to confirm with Cllr Markham that he will undertake the appointments | <b>Cllr Ayles</b> |
| 8  | <b>TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL BODIES</b><br>The following appointments were agreed unanimously:<br>Parishes' Forum: Cllrs Ayles & Keane<br>Rural West NAG: Cllrs Ayles, Hinds & Keane<br>Hanslope Park Consultative Area Forum: Cllrs Ayles, Sweetland & Keane<br>Sustainable Transport & Road Safety Forum (STARS) : Cllrs Ayles, Sweetland & Keane<br>MKALC: Cllrs Ayles & Sweetland   |                   |
| 9  | <b>TO ADOPT THE STANDING ORDERS</b><br>The Clerk had not had time to incorporate previously agreed changes and asked that this item be postponed. Cllr Ayles suggested that it be done after the forthcoming issue of new NALC model Standing Orders. Agreed unanimously.  |                   |
| 10 | <b>TO NOTE THE COUNCIL POLICIES</b><br>All policies noted – they all remain unchanged from last AGM  |                   |
| 11 | <b>TO SUSPEND MEETING TO ALLOW FOR AN OPEN FORUM</b><br>Meeting suspended at 7:38.<br>A member of the public urged the Parish Council to lodge a formal objection to the application to erect a wind turbine at Wolverton Road. The PC's previous objection had been on the basis of Milton Keynes Council's   |                   |

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Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the grounds for objection had been overturned at Judicial Review. Additionally a Parish Poll organised by MK Council's (MKC) Democratic Services department had registered c. 94% opposition. These comments were fully supported by other attendees. Cllr Ayles presented MKC's current position and said that the comments would be noted when item 15.3 was considered.

The matter of item 15.2. was also raised. The Clerk had been in touch with MKC to ask if Parish Councils should have been consulted on whether a full Environmental Impact is required on certain applications and was told that they are not required consultees.

A member of the public raised the matter of having content put on the village web site (item 20.3 refers). The claim was made that the web site is the property of the village and not the Parish Council. Cllr Ayles noted the comments.

There being no further matters raised the meeting resumed at 8.10.

### 12 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Stacey declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in items 15.2 & 18.5.

Cllr Presant-Collins declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 15.3.

### 13 **TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 were proposed by Cllr Hinds, seconded by Cllr Ayles and agreed unanimously.

### 14 **TO CONSIDER RESCISSION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS MADE ABOUT DESIGN OPTIONS FOR THE REGENERATION OF THE VILLAGE CENTRE UNDER ITEM 5.3. OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING ON 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2013**

Cllr Ayles, Keane and Hands had raised a 'special resolution' to rescind decisions made at the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March (as allowed under Standing Orders) on the basis that Cllrs were not in possession of all facts before the vote was taken, especially the outcome of a village survey that was later agreed. There were 3 decisions that should be re-considered:

- Whether block pavement or rolled asphalt should be used
- Whether 'Colasgrip', a synthetic resin system, should be applied to improve appearance & durability
- Whether overhead wires should be buried and £2,000 be spent in having BT provide a detailed cost estimate

Following a discussion a vote was taken and it was agreed by a majority of 4 to 2 to rescind the decisions.

### 15 **TO CONSIDER PLANNING**

#### 15.1 **13/00602/FUL Single storey rear extension 9 Prospect Place Castlethorpe Milton Keynes – no objections**

Cllr Stacey withdrew to public gallery

#### 15.2 **13/00632/EIASCR Screening opinion request for the installation of one wind turbine Rex Park Malt Mill Farm Castlethorpe Road Hanslope – decision already made that a full Environment Impact Request will not be required. The matter was noted although all agreed that it is unsatisfactory that Parish Councils are not consulted on such matters.**

Cllr Stacey re-joined the meeting, Cllr Presant-Collins withdrew to public gallery

#### 15.3 **13/00195/FUL: Installation of 3 bladed wind turbine (maximum tip height 99.5m), including access, substation and underground cabling at Lodge Farm House Wolverton Road Castlethorpe** Cllr Geary had advised Cllr Ayles that it was important that the parish council's objection was on record should the papers be sent to the Planning Inspectorate. Cllr Ayles proposed that the parish council oppose this application on the grounds of unacceptable visual and acoustic impact on neighbouring properties and also to record the result of the a Parish Poll in which c. 94% of voters had opposed the planning application. Should there be any further developments a further submission may be warranted. Agreed unanimously. Cllr Presant-Collins re-joined the meeting

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- 16                    **REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS PLANNING**  
None
- 17                    **TO RECEIVE REPORTS**
- 17.1                **CLERKS REPORT** (SEE APPENDIX A1): No matters arising
- 17.2                **Neighbourhood Plan Update** (SEE APPENDIX A2): Cllr Ayles suggested that a letter be prepared for village interest groups to help engage them fully. Cllr Sweetland will produce a draft. **Cllr Sweetland**
- 17.3                **FILE NOTE: Neighbourhood Planning Workshop** (SEE APPENDIX A3): Cllr Ayles reported that consultants are in wide use by many councils. Also it was stressed that local planning authorities have a big role to play. We are losing our MKC representative and this could pose a problem especially if we do not get full and continuous support towards the end of the process.
- 17.4                **FILE NOTE: Hanslope Park Forum** (SEE APPENDIX A4): Cllr Ayles reported that in response to a complaint from a resident MKC had examined the traffic calming measures on Station Road and had found them to be safe. They will respond to the complainant.  
There are currently rubber tube sensors in place in Hanslope Road to determine the extent of any speeding problem. This will be done later at the other end of the village.  
MKC are preparing a report on the state of 'the Dips' at the bottom of Wolverton Road and will send to the Clerk when complete.  
Cllr Keane said that MKC are going to post regular updates on pot hole repairs on their web site and will leave 'green markers' on roads where work has been completed.  
A box-in yellow lines had now been painted at the North Street bus stop.
- 17.5                **FILE NOTE: BMKALC Executive Committee** (SEE APPENDIX A5):  
No matters arising
- 17.6                **FILE NOTE - Rural West NAG** (SEE APPENDIX A6):  
Cllr Ayles had met with officers at MKC in preparation for bringing the matter to Regulatory Committee. He had suggested that Castlethorpe, Hanslope and Olney take part in a pilot scheme.
- 18                    **TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS**
- 18.1                A public excluded part 2 of the meeting was proposed by Cllr Ayles and agreed unanimously.
- 18.2                The previous newsletter editor and web master had resigned leaving a vacancy. The Chair suspended the meeting to allow Russell Forgham to volunteer to take on the roles. All registered their appreciation. Cllr Sweetland will take on the role of collating information for the web site and will liaise with Russell on how they will work together. **Cllr Sweetland**  
Cllr Ayles will arrange training. **Cllr Ayles**
- 18.3                Cllr Ayles proposed that the Clerk attend an SLCC course 'Working With Your Council' at a cost of £175. Agreed unanimously.
- 18.4                Cllr Ayles proposed that members of the public be invited to join a Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group. Agreed unanimously.  
Cllr Stacey withdrew to the public gallery
- 18.5                The Village Hall Committee and Pre-School had asked whether the back garden to the Village Hall could be extended into Castle Field. This would provide for additional garden and storage space. Cllr Ayles proposed that the Parish Council would not object 'in principle'. This was agreed by a majority vote. The Village Hall Committee would need to draw up plans before feasibility was examined to include permission for English Heritage and other interested parties.  
Cllr Stacey re-joined the meeting
- 18.6                Cllr Present-Collins produced a report showing the results of the village survey on the re-generation of the village centre. There had been 63 responses and the outcome was as follows:  
- 69% preferred asphalt over blocks  
- 74% said that BT cables should be buried  
- 58% favoured the application of the 'Colas' resin system

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MKC had said that if a decision is made in May an Order can be prepared and issued in August, the work would start in October and be completed by Xmas. They would prefer that the work be done before they change their contractors next year as the new company would have to provide a new quote that may be higher.

Cllr Present-Collins proposed that in light of the outcome of the survey, asphalt treated with a gold coloured 'Colas' resin surface should be applied rather than blocks. Agreed unanimously.

Cllr Present-Collins was opposed to the use of a grant to bury cables as he believed that there are better uses for the money elsewhere. Cllr Ayles re-stated that the burying of the cables to provide a 'signature view' of the village was always one of the main drivers for the project. The matter was put to the vote: to have the cables buried and to commission BT to provide a full cost and time estimate at a cost of £2,000. The vote was tied at 3 votes all. The Chair used his casting vote to agree the motion. It may be that BT's estimated timescales cannot fit in with the other parts of the project. Cllr Present-Collins to liaise with and to engage Karen Hill (role as Project Manager previously agreed) to establish whether:

- BT can provide the estimate in time to meet the WREN grant deadline
- If not whether WREN will accept an estimated figure
- BT can commit to do the work within the proposed timescales

Cllr Present-Collins to contact Simon Hill to consider current plans for Station Yard/pub development against plans.

Cllr Stacey questioned whether the work would cause problems with the amount of parking space that would be available. His comments were noted. Cllrs Sweetland and Hinds had obtained Health & Safety recommendations for maximum numbers of people allowed in a Hall with two fire exits. There had been a previous suggestion that there should be a maximum of 90 people at any event but it was felt that a limit below 100 would make certain events non-viable. Cllr Sweetland proposed that a maximum limit of 150 people where there is no stage erected and 120 where there is be agreed. This is in line with the recommended limits. Agreed unanimously.

Cllr Present-Collins

Cllr Present-Collins

18.7

19

### TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL MATTERS

19.1. The Clerk had provided first drafts of the end of year financial reports. Cllr Ayles said that a Finance Committee meeting should consider. Clerk to arrange.

Clerk

19.2. The Clerk said that the matter of insurance renewal should be deferred to the public excluded part 2 of the meeting as quotes had been provided in commercial confidence. Agreed unanimously.

19.3. The RFO Payment Schedule was proposed by Cllr Ayles seconded by Cllr Hinds with a place for the annual insurance amount when agreed. Agreed unanimously.

Payee	Description	Invoice	Amount	VAT	Sub-Total	Total
S Bradbury	Expenses 2013	per expense sheet	£81.17	£12.39	£93.56	
S Bradbury	Salary April 2013	per pay slip	£454.84	£0.00	£454.84	£548.40
F.Price	Apr 2013 invoice	per attached	£196.00	£0.00	£196.00	£196.00
Hanslope PC	Subscription to NAG	See minute 7.12. meeting 3/9/12	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	£100.00
Anthony Parisi	Replace lock cricket pavillion	per attached 18	£120.00	£0.00	£120.00	£120.00
A. Webster	Fence round propane tank	per attached	£2,161.87	£432.37	£2,594.24	£2,594.24
AH Contracts	Dog bins	per attached 6719	£37.50	£7.50	£45.00	£45.00
Studiospares	Acoustic panels VH #1	per attached	£443.30	£88.66	£531.96	£531.96
t.b.a.	Insurance payment	per attached quote	t.b.a.			t.b.a.

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<b>Grand Total</b>			£3,513.51	£528.53	£4,042.04
					£4,135.60

E.ON	electricity SG -Mar DD	4166 2268 6480	£16.00			£16.00
E.ON	electricity VH -Mar DD	4151 7257 7000	£213.79			£213.79
E.ON	gas VH - Mar DD	89208742670	£177.00			£177.00
	<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>£406.79</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>	<b>£406.79</b>

19.4 Precept paid into BOI – noted

19.5 Annual Audit and Annual return submission due by 30 June 2013 - noted

In light of the time and the necessity to conduct the business in part 2 of the meeting the Chair proposed that the remainder of (part 1) business be suspended until the next meeting. Agreed unanimously.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 10.05.

#### **APPENDIX A1 - Clerk's Report 13/5/13**

- No progress on litter bins. Awaiting MKC to get back to confirm additional bin can be emptied on normal collection route and advice what type of bin to buy (since early April). Officer dealing not in today. Asked for phone back this week. Do we need a replacement for bin vandalised on village green?
- Clerk & Cllr Ayles need to update Standing Orders with agreed changes for acceptance at June meeting.
- John Green has given the bell tower at the Village Hall a 'rigorous shaking' and reports that he does not consider it dangerous. He will not charge us – thanks John!
- John Foakes has all of the curtains and some of the panels for the VH acoustic improvements. He has taken a panel to see how best to fix it and will then ask for volunteers to help him fix them. Still some panels to arrive as complete order not fulfilled. Grant will be called in when all invoices received and paid.
- Fencing around propane tank complete. Padlocks to be applied. Grant will be called in next month. Work required to tidy up ground where trench has been dug.
- Still nothing received from Valuation Office on rateable value of remainder of sports ground. Assume that the valuation that we have is for the entirety.
- Tennis net broken on second court and wind mechanism needs attention on first. Have attempted to get people in but been let down. Any help would be appreciated.
- Grants to be applied for before month end. Despite several attempts have only one quote for church wall. Will use this for purpose of grant but two more will be needed. Youth Club grant application should be straight forward.

Steve Bradbury

#### **APPENDIX A2 - Neighbourhood Planning Update Report**

For Castlethorpe Parish Council Report Prepared by: Paul O'Hare, Project Manager 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013

## **CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

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At present there is very little to update Castlethorpe Parish Council on. We have been working on producing an acceptable project plan for the steering group; which is attached to the covering e-mail of this report. Now that this project plan has been updated, revised and agreed we are now in a position where we can proceed to delivery of the project. We are expecting the approval letter from Castlethorpe Parish Council and the Neighbourhood Plan steering group to arrive any day now. This will give CIB the assurances that we can proceed with implementation knowing that the Neighbourhood Planning Steering group and the Parish Council are fully behind the project.

As the Parish Council are aware the project involves Community Impact Bucks leading and supporting the project steering group in the community consultation elements; and our planning partners rCOH Ltd. will be undertaking the writing of the planning specific elements of the Neighbourhood Plan. The project plan clearly states who is responsible for each element (many of them are joint responsibilities between CIB, CPC and rCOH Ltd.).

Over the coming weeks it is expected that there will be some open events and workshops to kick start the consultation with the community and interested stakeholders. This is an important part to the process and will help to shape the initial thinking of the plan.

In setting out the project plan it was initially difficult to plan consultation activity and the household questionnaire "live period" so that it didn't clash with the school summer holiday period. Best practise tells us that this is not an ideal period to consult within. However, a delay on this has worked in our favour in the sense that the main household questionnaire and consultation period will be well clear of the school summer holidays. Previous iterations of the project plan showed a delay further down the line to ensure key consultation did not happen during the summer holidays. We feel the balance is now right and that the range of consultation offerings will provide everyone within Castlethorpe the opportunity to engage in the process.

It is also worth mentioning that Winslow is also going through the same process, and that we are supporting them in the same way. They are slightly ahead of Castlethorpe, having started a couple of months earlier; but this will allow learning from Winslow to be applied to the Castlethorpe Neighbourhood Plan process. It should also be pointed out at this stage, even though this has been said many times before; Neighbourhood Planning is a relatively new and untested process. Being a frontrunner community means Castlethorpe is leading the way for others. Therefore there is the need for all of us to embrace the process, to get on and deliver it and see where it takes us. While we have planned what we are going to do, there needs to be a fluidity to it which will allow it to evolve and adapt to which ever circumstance presents itself.

Paul O'Hare

Community Development Team Leader

E-Mail: [paul@communityimpactbucks.org.uk](mailto:paul@communityimpactbucks.org.uk)

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APPENDIX A3 - Neighbourhood Planning Workshop, Oxford Brookes University

17<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Attending: S Bradbury, P Ayles

The day focussed on a number of case studies. Some were not particularly relevant such as Somers Town (Camden) which was more about setting up a Neighbourhood Forum as they are not parished.

Similarly, Thame, which is normally regarded as an exemplar for NPs, was mainly concerned with re-siting a large number of houses imposed by the principal authority and amending the site allocations, building a school and providing for shops.

Woodcote was probably most similar to Castlethorpe though about twice our size. It has a population of 2,500 and they wanted to protect the rural look and feel. They have a dedicated website at

<http://www.woodcotendp.org.uk/> It's worth look at their draft NP.

There were some general lessons from the day:

- Note that Neighbourhood Plans are mainly about local land use policies. They can be extended into considering housing types and styles. For example, Thame amended the housing mix from the proposal by South Oxfordshire.
- There was quite common use of consultants with some speakers saying that a community could never produce a plan on an amateur basis. (Reinforces our decision to use CIB.)
- The planning authority also has to provide quite a lot of support. South Oxfordshire had an officer spending about 10-15 hours per week in the latter stages of the Thame plan. (Worrying as Sarah Pullin is moving on without immediate replacement)
- The parish or town councils struggled to do this as their normal activity. Woodcote established an 'advisory group' to the parish council of about 15 people who worked on things such as housing need, sites and style of buildings. Camden did the same with their Neighbourhood Forum and a Neighbourhood Plan sub-committee. I have placed an item on our agenda to consider doing the same as I think we will struggle otherwise.
- The process doesn't stop with the referendum of the NP. Thame are now working to maintain the community interest.

Philip Ayles

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APPENDIX A4 - FILE NOTE Hanslope Park Consultative Area Forum

24<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Officers Present: John Pryor, Rob Ward, Heather Baker.

Castlethorpe Cllrs Present: Phil Ayles and Geraldine Sweetland. John Keane sent apologies.

1. **Matters Arising.** John Pryor reported back on the **traffic calming on Station Road**. A safety issue had been raised by a resident at the previous HPCAF meeting. The head of road safety has inspected the site and he drives it daily. He has also looked at the road accident record and there has only been one minor incident in 10 years. He regards the traffic calming as safe. A report will be sent to the Castlethorpe Clerk and can be forwarded to the resident.

Arising from this, I asked if we could have speed recording devices on village side of the new traffic calming at the other entrances so we can see what impact they are having. John said he would look into that.

A report from engineers on **flood prevention measures at The Dips** will be received by MKC Highways in May and will be sent to the three Clerks for distribution to parish councillors.

2. **Traffic and Transport.** John Pryor said that his role had changed due to re-organisation so that he was now 'Assistant Director, Transport and Public Realm'. 'Public Realm' represents the inclusion of Neighbourhood Services so Rob Ward and Heather Baker now report to John.

The list of **Highways improvements** as submitted by parish councils will be published in the next fortnight. Generally, the demand for improvements was lower than expected and most should be accommodated if they complied with the published criteria. It is possible that some parishes didn't understand that they had to complete the applications so there may be some revision but the plans are substantially set. Minor works, I quoted the kerbing on Bullington End Rd, will be managed under maintenance.

The patching of potholes is well underway with work split 50-50 between urban and rural areas. There was a (very) long discussion about the process for repairs but basically they will be inspected and repaired if they are sufficiently serious (typically 50mm deep).

John also spoke about the new resurfacing programme which will resurface seriously damaged highways rather than repairing them. They expect to spend £10m over the next 2 years and £50m over the next 5 years. List of road works is on the MKC website. *(Post meeting note: a quick look just shows 2 entries for Castlethorpe being works by Western Power on Fox Covert and Shepperton)*

3. **Public Access.** Rebecca Peck gave a presentation on the new public access system which is going live shortly on a narrow number of issues and will then be expanded over the next year. The system would give residents who report problems progress updates and other residents can piggy-back onto an issue to get updates too.
4. **General Updates.** Mike Morris advised that the traffic notice for the **Haversham bridge works** is from 30<sup>th</sup> April to end August with 24x7 traffic lights. There is no update on the **A508 junction improvement** as this now needs Northants CC commitment. Andrew Geary will address again in June.

**Dog Control Orders.** Rob Ward raised progress on dog fouling. I explained that Karen Ford, Head of Enforcement Services, had written a report explaining the process (which I had written to MKC in



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January to explain) but recommending no action was taken until the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill 2012 becomes law. I have responded at some length asking her to consider acting under the existing legislation because (i) it may be a year before the ASB Bill becomes law and is fully enacted (ii) previous practice is that existing dog orders are carried forward so would not have to be re-made and (iii) dog fouling is a particular nuisance in summer and we are already tight to get the orders in place for 2013 as they take about 2 months to make.

Councillors should note that the cost of making and advertising the Orders will be expected to be met by parishes as will the cost of enforcement officers such as wardens. I have said that Castlethorpe Parish Council has requested two Orders to exclude dogs from the sports ground and to require they be on leads in the Fishponds play area. I am aware that Hanslope PC and Olney TC also want dog control orders and I have suggested that MKC pilot with these three parishes. I await a response.

5. **AOB.** I requested a **structured Officer Contact List** be sent to all Clerks as agreed by MKC in the new Parishes' Protocol. Andrew Geary was not able to be present and asked me to update the meeting on the **Wind Turbine status**. As most attendees were already aware, I tabled an extract of a note I had prepared for BMKALC last week to be read outside the meeting. Castlethorpe councillors are already briefed on this.

Philip Ayles

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APPENDIX A5 - FILE NOTE – BMKALC Executive Committee

17<sup>th</sup> April 2013

This was a very straightforward meeting.

**1. County Officer's Report.** The 3 year Service Agreements with MKC and Bucks CC have now been signed. Together with the cost reductions made by moving 'Matters Arising' to an electronic format and a few other economies, the Association is now financially secure and can focus on its principal role of delivering training and giving advice. The training programme is available on the BMKALC website. A separate Training Subcommittee, on which I will serve, will be established to oversee the Training Programme and ensure it is relevant to the needs of members. There is one remaining annoying piece of administration in that Bucks CC will be relocating the BMKALC offices within the County Office accommodation which means an office move but this is part of their refurbishment programme for the estate and, at the end of the day, they are providing this as a grant in kind to the association.

**2. Report from Finance and General Purposes Subcommittee.** A financial report was circulated showing a small surplus for the year just ended. The amendments to the new Constitution made at the AGM have been incorporated and the Constitution distributed. A decision was made to adopt the discretionary policies as Bucks CC, who administers the plan for BMKALC, for BMKALC staff in the Local Government Pension Plan. It was agreed to incorporate the HR function into F&GPS.

**3. NALC Report.** NALC, by contrast, is having a financial crisis. It has already announced an increase in subscription for 2014/15 but more radical actions will be needed including the sale and leaseback of the London head office. There was considerable criticism of NALC though recognition that the county associations absolutely need national representation.

**4. Reports from District Associations.** Aylesbury Vale reported progress on the New Homes Bonus some of which will be payable to parish councils. I reported on the court decision on wind turbines and the opportunity for other district councils.

**5. Resignation of County Officer.** John Gibbs announced that he had submitted his resignation with effect from next year. Reasons weren't given except that the Chair said this was not changeable. Recruitment for a new County Officer will start. It is worth noting that the Association was in dire straits when John took over with no agreements in place for grants or office accommodation and most other administration matters, such as the website or even email addresses, badly in arrears. The Association is now in a good place.

Philip Ayles

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### APPENDIX A6 - FILE NOTE - Rural West NAG 16th April 2013

**1. Police Report.** Andy Perry gave a brief report on crime figures for the 12 months April 2012 - March 2013. The figures are subject to review and are Hanslope 55 crimes, Castlethorpe 17 and Haversham 50. The Haversham figure is inflated because of a children's home where a number of reports are made within the home which do not impact the parish as a whole.

Parking problems were reported again at the junction of South St and New Rd and Andy said he would watch out personally as well as asking the PCSOs to look out for inconsiderate parking at this junction.

New volunteers had come forward for CSW and they can be trained 'on the job'.

The MKC case for SIDs was progressing.

**2. Finance.** Funds stand at £137.40. A further receipt of £100 is expected from Haversham. After discussion, it was agreed to use these funds for supporting Andy in the schools. It was suggested that he be asked to use 'littering' as a topic.

**3. AOB - Dog Control Orders.** An MKC report recommends deferring this until the new ASB Bill becomes law later this year. I will take up with MKC as this will be after the summer season which is when we need it most.

4. Next Meeting. Tuesday 10th September at Haversham Hall subject to availability. Otherwise Castlethorpe Cricket Pavilion.

*Philip Ayles*