



Castlethorpe Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held on Monday 6th October 2021 in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors Ayles, Forgham, Markham, Merritt, Hinds, Sawbridge, Ward Cllr Wardle, the Clerk and six members of the public. Attempts to broadcast the meeting via Facebook and Youtube were thwarted by technical issues.

The Chair introduced the open session. A resident from Station Road raised several concerns, listed below accompanied by responses (*italicised*) all from Cllr Ayles:

- Previous minutes were incorrect in that the residents of Station Road did not resist the installation of Electric Vehicle Chargers but said that none of the scarce parking places in Station Road could be spared.
Point noted although the previous minutes were correct and reflected the councillors' debate at the meeting
- Parking area should be extended and a cherry tree that had been planted 'illegally' should be removed as it is beginning to encroach on power lines
MKC are responsible for the parking area as it is 'public highway'. CPC could ask them to extend the car park but it is very unlikely that they will do so due to budget cuts and next year's expenditure already committed. He asked that residents keep an eye on the tree and if it actually encroaches on any power lines to inform MKC.
- Why was the parking area resurfaced. The stones used are frequently flying up and damaging cars.
The parking area was relaid following a request from Station Road resident(s) who reported that the area was getting very muddy. MKC would not pay for the work so the payment had to come from the Parish Council. A quote to relay a hard surface e.g. tarmac came in at over £45,000 which the Parish Council could not afford. The only alternative was to re-stone the area which still cost over £6,000.
- Surface water drains are blocked and not effective as is the cattle grid at the entrance of the private road/bridleway going down to Lincoln Lodge. When there are downpours, water runs off to the row of cottages in Station Road
If the drains are blocked they should be reported to MKC. It is better that residents report it as they can describe the problems at first hand and provide evidence to support the complaint.
- There are a significant amount of speeding motorists on Station Road. The road narrows do not slow traffic down, even cause motorists to speed up to 'get through' and the white lines are badly faded.
The road narrows were installed many years ago. The Speed Indication Device is moved around the village and had been deployed to Station Road several times. Thames Valley Police will only act if average speeds exceed 35 mph which they never have up to now. The SID is currently with Haversham but on its return it will be deployed in Station Road again. Cllr Ayles will raise the matter of the faded white lines with MKC.

A question was asked about what will now happen to the paddock at South Street and whether it could be used for off street parking. Cllr Ayles responded that the area was defined as 'Local Green Space' and as such it cannot be used for any such purpose. When Maltings 1 was proposed Cllr Ayles recalled that we requested to sign the paddock over to the village, but the landowners said that they want to 'retain and protect' the plot.

There being no further matters raised by the public the Chair opened the meeting proper at 8.11.

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTION
1.1	Cllr Keane, Ward Cllr Bowyer. Accepted.	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
2.1.	None	
3	APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
3.1	Previous Minutes from the general meeting of 4 th September: Cllr Ayles pointed out that at item 7.4. reference was made specifically to South Street. They should read 'other sites'. The Clerk will amend the minutes. This excepted, the minutes were proposed by Cllr Forgham seconded by Cllr Ayles and agreed unanimously.	
	TO RECEIVE REPORTS	
4.1.	Clerks Report & Review of Actions (See Appendix A1) – matters arising:	
4.1.1.	Item 6 – Cllr Ayles added that the Allotments Association need a shareholders' meeting before they can make any commitment to transfer the ownership of the sports ground to the Parish Council.	
4.2.	Report on Rural Gigabit Scheme Cllr Ayles reported that all residents that expressed an interest in joining the scheme have now received an email. Openreach have calculated the cost of installation at c. £450,000 and require individual and business property grants to add up to that amount + 30%. Cllr Ayles has asked for some small changes to be made and is waiting for a revised costing. He is also trying to get some support from MKC as West Northants County Council are funding rollout to their rural communities. Additionally, he will look at potential alternatives to Openreach to provide the scheme.	
4.3.	Report on Maltings 2 development The development is currently going ahead according to already agreed design and layout although the condition to gain approval for materials before start of development has not been satisfied. Cllr Sawbridge raised concerns about storm and foul drainage. Cllr Ayles responded that these will be the subject of reserved matters to be approved through the MKC planning process.	
4.4.	Report on deployment of Electric Vehicle Chargers to village A response is awaited from BP Pulse and MKC to questions asked as agreed at last meeting: is it safe to locate two points at the east end of South Street, would the Chequers car park be applicable given that it is not public highway, are there any further spaces that can be reclaimed at the Station Road car park. A sub-set of cllrs and the Clerk will then meet to determine way forward as agreed at previous meeting.	
5	TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS (previously viewed on line by Councillors)	
5.1.	21/02619/LBC - Listed building consent for internal works to the living room floor and hearth 11 School Lane - no objections	
5.2.	21/02655/FUL - To convert existing garage into habitable room and remove existing up & over garage door, brick up opening leaving apertures for two no. windows 7 The Chestnuts – no objections	
5.3.	21/02767/FUL - Loft conversion with two front dormers and three rear roof lights - 21 Lodge Farm Court It was agreed by a majority that there should be no objection but that the Clerk should ask for a condition that the upper dormer windows remain consistent in size and proportion to the existing windows.	Clerk
5.4.	21//02497/FUL - Erection of single storey rear extension with flat roof and roof lanterns; new pitched roof above each bay window at front 36 Shepperton Close Castlethorpe – status 'registered' objections made last month by parish council and several residents. Applicant has submitted revised proposals following sight of objections from the parish council to be further considered It was agreed unanimously that the revised proposals resolved the objections that had been made previously and that the Parish Council should withdraw them. The Clerk to ask the Case Officer to ensure that the front bays of the final design mimic those next door at number 38.	Clerk
6	TO RECEIVE REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS PLANNING APPLICATION – no further comments	
6.1.	21/01017/FUL - Loft conversion with front rooflights and rear dormer (Resubmission of 21/00369/FUL) 23 Thrupp Close Castlethorpe – application permitted by DCP following a site visit.	

- 6.2. **21/02170/LBC** - Listed Building Consent for adding lime plaster to part of internal wall: 11 School Lane Castlethorpe
21/02261/LBC - Listed building consent for the replacement of the front first floor window: 11 School Lane Castlethorpe
21/02619/LBC - Listed building consent for internal works to the living room floor and hearth: 11 School Lane Castlethorpe

All status 'registered'

- 6.3. **21/02217/DISCON** - Approval of details required by condition 2 (External Materials), 3 (Pumping station and boundary), 4 (Hard and soft landscaping), 5 (Boundary Treatment) & 6 (Ground levels, earthworks and excavations) of permission ref 19/02444/REM. Land To The East of Maltings Field Castlethorpe – status 'registered'

- 6.4. **21/02358/FUL** - Change of use from light industry (Class E) to swim school for children with special needs (Class F2) Lodge Farm Business Centre Wolverton Road Castlethorpe status – 'awaiting decision'

- 6.5. **21/02590/FUL** - Erection of a single storey timber conservatory to the rear of the property Castle House 5 North Street Castlethorpe - **status 'registered', further questions raised by MKC archaeologist about a 'stone wall of likely 16th to 18th century origin' revealed by trial trench evaluation**

TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS

7

- 7.1. The following Covid precautions for physical meetings at the Village Hall were agreed unanimously:

- Seating will be laid out to observe social distancing
- Face masks are to be worn except when speaking including Members of the Public attending.
- Use the hand sanitiser provided on entry.
- The hall will be ventilated as best as possible.
- Do not attend if you are ill or have any Covid symptoms

- 7.2. Cllr Forgham reported that although Pre-School had attracted some new children, they need more to make the concern viable. They had asked whether they can put up advertising boards at village entrances. Cllr responded that it would be an MKC Highways decision. He proposed that with this in mind the Parish Council do not object to the erection of the boards subject to MKC approval for a maximum period of 3 months. Agreed unanimously. Cllr Forgham to notify Pre-School.

Cllr Forgham

- 7.3. It was unanimously agreed to replace the 5 bar gate at the Fishponds. Cllr Markham agreed to obtain some quotes. The Clerk will talk to the contractor that installed the kissing gates about providing hard surfaces at the bases.

Cllr Markham
Clerk

- 7.4. Cllr Forgham proposed the use of a free facility called 'Mailchimp' to 'broadcast' news to a list of subscribers' email addresses to improve communication, as not everybody uses Facebook. Agreed unanimously. Cllr Forgham to organise.

Cllr Forgham

- 7.5. It was unanimously agreed to give dispensation to the Clerk to complete on-line surveys along the lines of normal Castlethorpe Parish Council working practices

- 7.6. It was agreed that Cllr Forgham will seek suggestions and any volunteers to progress arrangements for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year. Clerk to enter item on Clerk's report to bring up again next year.

Cllr Forgham
Clerk

- 7.7. The Clerk reported that neither MKC nor the Canal & River Trust had responsibility for where the graffiti had been sprayed by the river Tove. The Clerk had talked to Luke Stacey who farms the land on the Castlethorpe side of the river and he will talk to the landowner. Two thirds of the graffiti is on the Cosgrove side of the river. A member of the public that was present who is also a Cosgrove parish councillor will bring up with his council.

Clerk

- 7.8. It was agreed that the Clerk obtain quotes for an additional litter bin to be located at the sports ground to be considered at next meeting. The concrete base of the bin by the shop had crumbled and had affected the functionality. Cllr Markham will see if he can repair it or replace it and if not notify the Clerk to get further quote.

Clerk

Cllr Markham

- 7.9. It was agreed unanimously to install a new dog bin at the gate between Castle Field and the path to Thrupp Close and also one adjacent to Maltings 2. Clerk to place order with contractor after having discussed the location of the Thrupp Close bin with the resident that lives adjacent to the location. Cllrs must decide where they want the Maltings 2 bin located.

Clerk
All cllrs

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 8.1. The payment schedule was proposed by Cllr Merritt seconded Cllr Ayles and was approved unanimously.

Payee	Description	Invoice	Amount
S Bradbury	Salary September 2021	per pay slip	£624.62
Stacey Blease	VH Cleaning	per attached invoice	£0.00
R Wontner	Trim hedges, strimming, cut VH lawn and general village maintenance. Petrol & new chords for strimmer.	invoice 7	£80.00
RTM	Landscaping September	invoice 3033	£391.67
RTM	Cut wildflower meadow &? Remove arisings, prepare ground around 3 trees SG, crownlift trees SG	invoice 3026	£540.00
Thomas Ladyman	Clear village bins September	attached invoice	£50.00
Rentakeeper	Remove further wasps nests Village Hall	attached invoice 4789	£60.00
Flint Bishop	VH consumables	attached letter	£121.38
Royal British Legion	Remembrance wreath	Annual contribution	£30.00
Bradwell silver band	Bugler	Annual contribution	£30.00
PKF Littlejohn	External audit	SB20212788	£300.00
TOTAL			£2,227.67
Google Ireland	26107096G05ASYDKH7		£32.20
XLN	4976199 16674975		£27.64
EON	089208742670A		£112.00
EDF	671070653836.00		£76.00
DD Total			£247.84

9 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED (email circulated prior to meeting)**

9.1. None

10 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for noting, or for inclusion on a future agenda)**

10.1. Cllr Markham reported that large holiday homes were being delivered to Cosgrove Park along Fox Covert Lane. The Clerk replied that this is contrary to the delivery plan approved with the planning application to site the homes. Additionally, there is a 5 ton total vehicle weight on the railway bridge. The Clerk had already raised the matter with MKC Planning Enforcement. Cllr Markham to give Clerk details and he will then forward them to MKC.

Cllr Markham
Clerk

10.2. Cllr Markham said that some trees in Wolverton Road need attention. Clerk to put on next agenda.

Clerk

10.3. The Clerk had received a request for a donation for the Senior Citizens Xmas lunch but it was after publication of the agenda.. Cllr Wardle will see if he can provide from the Ward Cllr's budget else Clerk will put on agenda for next meeting.

Cllr Wardle/
Clerk

11 **TO AGREE DATE AND ATTENDANCE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS**

11.1. Next parish council meeting will be held at 7.30 on Monday November 1st. It will be held physically at the Village Hall if Covid circumstances at the time allow. It is hoped that the meeting will be available in the same way via live recording.

There being no further business the meeting finished at 9.20

Appendix A - Schedule of Reports & File Notes

APPENDIX A1 – CLERK’S REPORT 4/10/2021

1. Sports Ground Committee meeting was held on 8th September. Main outcomes as follows:
 - no operating fee is required by the CSA for 21/22
 - Clerk will find someone to do fire and safety checks for pavilions
 - Doors at football pavilion need fixing/replacing
 - Roof tiles at football pavilion need repair
 - CSA will get 3 quotes for regular servicing of mower and for already identified replacement of cylinders
 - Cllr Ayles will contact the Allotments Association for their agreement to hire out the cricket field to Stony Stratford cricket club and to install an all surface wicket
 - No further additional expenditure was identified for next year
2. Neither MKC nor the Canal & River Trust have any responsibility for removing the graffiti by the river Tove. The Clerk has talked to Luke Stacey who farms the adjacent land (owned by Lord Carrington) on the Castlethorpe side of the river and he will have a look and consider what options are available. The Cosgrove side of the river is farmed by a Mervin Alderman.
3. Hedgerow on either side of SUSTRANS cycle track to Haversham has now been cut back. Clerk to ensure with MKC that it is on a regular schedule.
4. SUSTRANS have requested some assistance from Hanslope and Castlethorpe PC’s in investigating the provision of a cycleway between the 2 villages. The Clerk has asked their project manager attending, Rosalind Bacon, for dates so that he can arrange a face-to-face meeting.
5. In response to CPC’s complaint to MKC Planning Enforcement about the felling of trees at 1 Wolverton Road, contrary to a planning condition, we have been told that they are not in breach as they have yet to start development.
6. Cllr Ayles has met with Allotments Association to gain some traction on CPC’s request to transfer over the freehold for the sports ground
7. MKC have told us that the matter of replacing the black tarmac at South Street with the originally coloured material has been escalated within Anglian Water.
8. The base of the litter bin outside the shop has crumbled and is no longer fit for purpose.
9. MKC have responded to Cllr Ayles’ request to make a new PSPO to exclude dogs from the sports ground. In order to do so evidence must be provided to show a real problem in dog fouling on the ground. Cllr Ayles had written to CSA and they had replied saying that there is no problem at this time.

No progress/unknown status on outstanding actions:

- The MKC Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan was not produced in August as was indicated but we have been told that the route from Castlethorpe to Haversham will receive ‘high priority’ but not necessarily the highest.
- The parish council approved the proposal from MKC Rights of Way for the replacement and re-siting of one of the ‘public footpath’ fingerposts. The work has now been placed on MKC’s workbook.
- Cllr Ayles has placed an order with MKC to replace current streetlights in Thrupp Close and The Chequers with heritage style lanterns when they convert the streetlights in the village to LED, date as yet unknown..
- Floodlight on side of cricket pavilion now repaired and working but light now operating is ‘dawn to dusk’ and not triggered by motion sensor. Neighbour has reported that light is shining into one of his bedrooms. Electrician has been unable to investigate due to ill health. New contractor to be contacted.
- MKC have committed to send an engineer to review whether more parking spaces can be provided outside of Acorn Nursery and at the east end of South Street when an engineer becomes available.
- Cllr Merritt and Clerk to survey area by water tower for potential leisure purposes and report back.
- Cllr Merritt to agree public sessions for defibrillator awareness with village First Responder for when date for end of lockdown confirmed.
- Anglian Water have repaired the road following works at South Street with black tarmac. Cllr Ayles has written to MKC asking for the repair to be re-done using same material as the rest of the area that was laid as part of the village centre upgrade.
- No pipes in loft are lagged in cricket pavilion. SGC to consider remedial action for future.
- SGC to agree model for sharing cost of cutting sports ground with CSA.
- Review of draft plans for possible development of club house at sports ground
- There has been no update on looking at replacement of street nameplates since meeting with MKC 15th January 2020. Low priority for MKC and on hold due to Covid.
- Cllr Ayles & Geary to consider MKC decision not to sell land at the side of 6 The Chestnuts
- CCTV at Sports Ground – clerk to contact suppliers to understand the management overheads. No progress this month

Steve Bradbury
4/10/21