



Castlethorpe Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held
on Monday 7th February 2022 in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors Ayles, Forgham, Sawbridge, Markham, Merritt, Keane, Ward Cllrs Bowyer & Wardle (via video link), the Clerk and four members of the public. Others were viewing through Facebook & YouTube.

Cllr Ayles (the Chair) opened the meeting by paying tribute to Ward Cllr Andrew Geary who had represented the parishes in the Newport Pagnell North Ward and Milton Keynes itself, including a spell as Mayor, in an excellent manner. All agreed and wished Andrew and his family all the best for the future. Two members of Castlethorpe Cricket Club (CCC) had approached the Parish Council detailing an opportunity to hire out the cricket field and associated facilities to Stony Stratford Cricket Club (SSCC) for their junior and ladies' teams. SSCC would though require that an artificial wicket be made available and CCC had approached three ECB approved companies and obtained quotes to install one. The hire of the pitch would bring in much needed additional revenue, giving financial protection to the club and also strengthened links with SSCC providing potential for additional players to join up. The existence of the artificial wicket would add correspondingly to the value of the Sports Ground as an asset and would make it easier to hire out elsewhere should anything happen to CCC. They had, previous to the meeting, asked the Parish Council whether they would fund the upgrade. Of the three companies they had obtained quotes from they expressed a preference on a functional level for the Exclusive Leisure bid. The Chairman responded that there are resolutions tonight, first to agree to fund the project and if so then to select a supplier in Part 2 of the meeting.

The Clerk had circulated an email from a member of the public making the point that the signage that had been put up by the developer around the Carrington Close development is inaccurate and as it is contrary to the s106 agreement, illegal. In particular the format of the signs suggested a 'partnership' with MKC. Cllr Ayles responded that he had received similar comments from another resident and had circulated the mail to parish cllrs asking whether they wanted any action on the signage. Nobody had expressed any desire to do so. Cllr Ayles went on to say that as agreed at the last meeting he had written to MKC questioning their view that nothing could be done legally to stop 100% 'affordable' housing being built, asking to see the legal advice given and the questions asked to solicit that advice. That had been 2 weeks ago and MKC has yet to respond. He suggested that if they have not done so in one more week he will write again and then raise the matter of the signage and the implication of a partnership with MKC.

Agreed by all.

There being no further matters raised the meeting proper commenced at 8.10

		ACTION
1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
1.1	Cllr Hinds - accepted.	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
2.1.	None	
3	APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
3.1	Previous Minutes from the general meeting of 10 th January were proposed by Cllr Forgham seconded by Cllr Keane and agreed unanimously.	
	TO RECEIVE REPORTS	
4.1.	Clerks Report & Review of Actions (See Appendix A1) – matters arising:	
4.1.1.	Item 9 – MKC will be receiving a fresh stock of blue recycling boxes on the 14 th and will then fulfil the back orders for replacements	
4.1.2.	Item 10 – Cllr Markham will attempt to provide information for Sustrans about who owns what land between Castlethorpe & Hanslope on a hard copy of a map that the Clerk had given him. Sustrans can then continue their feasibility study into whether a cycleway can be provided between the villages.	Cllr Markham
4.1.3.	Item 12 – Cllr Ayles will ask the MKC Conservation Officer what can be done to restore the Water Tower.	Cllr Ayles
4.2.	Carrington Close development (oral update by Cllr Ayles) There were no further updates beyond what had been discussed in the public session.	
4.3.	Visit by MKC Road Safety Officer (oral update by Cllr Ayles) The MKC Road Safety Officer had attended the village and was met by the Clerk and Cllr Ayles. He had been shown the areas at the village entrances at	

Hanslope Road, Wolverton Road and Bullington End Road and Cllr Ayles had asked him for any advice to lessen the amount of speeding. He was also asked to re-emphasise the importance of getting the destroyed road narrows and signs configuration at Hanslope Road repaired, especially as MKC should be claiming the repair costs from the motorist that ran into it – the Vehicle Registration Mark is known to MKC. Also, he was asked to raise a request within MKC to provide lighting for the road narrows at Hanslope Road as the only streetlight is some distance away and is blocked by a tree.

4.4. **Meeting with Hanslope Surgery (Cllr Ayles)**

Cllrs Ayles & Keane had met with the Hanslope Surgery Practice Manager and Hanslope Parish Council. The Surgery want to extend the practice building and perform other upgrades. Cllr Ayles had advised that there is £50,000 available in s106 allocations from Castlethorpe. Hanslope also have s106 commitments to a far greater extent.

4.5. **Update on arrangements for celebrating Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Cllr Forgham reported that a lady named Ashleigh Barrie had agreed to coordinate events. Current suggestions are:

- Barn Dance at Village Hall
- Picnic in South Street paddock
- Jubilee garden on village green
- Procession through streets with children dressed up to mark the 8 decades of her reign
- Memorabilia to be identified and paid for by the Parish Council

Cllr Forgham said that there is another meeting arranged for 16th September at which the events will be agreed and 'kicked off' and he encouraged as many villagers to attend as possible.

It was noted that there are no sports matches on the Jubilee weekend so the Sports Ground would be available (perhaps as a better option than the paddock for the picnic)

Clerk will put an item on the agenda to agree what memorabilia to procure

Clerk

Cllr Forgham advised that he will be away on holiday on the Jubilee weekend.

Cllr Markham suggested replacing a dead cherry tree in the Chequers with a replacement

5 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS (previously viewed on line by Councillors)

5.1. **21/03701/DISCON Approval of details required by condition 5 (Implementation of WSI for Archaeological Mitigation) of permission ref. 17/01536/OUT - Land To The East of Maltings Field Castlethorpe**

Noted – no objections

6 TO RECEIVE REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS PLANNING APPLICATION – no further comments 6.1. to 6.4.

6.1. **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' MKC Senior Architect recommends conditions should not be discharged as yet**

6.2. **21/02767/FUL** - Loft conversion with two front dormers and three rear roof lights - 21 Lodge Farm Court **status 'awaiting decision' – no updates this month.**

6.3. **21/02533/OUTEIS** (1) Full application for the change of use of 68.65ha of agricultural land to a linear park and a new access road to the Linford Lakes Study Centre (2) Outline application (matter of access to be considered, with matters of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping reserved) Linford Lakes Nature Reserve Wolverton Road Great Linford – **status registered**. Highways recommend refusal

6.4. **21/03205/FUL** New dwelling including new access and amenity space, new access and drive to existing dwelling 1 Wolverton Road – **status registered – no significant updates this month**

- 6.5. **21/03346/FUL** Proposed siting of 25 static holiday caravans (to remain on pitch all year round) in lieu of 40 touring caravans on the eastern section of Cosgrove Park Main Street Cosgrove – Clerk had written to MKC saying that delivery should not be through Castlethorpe as was agreed for the previous application. Cllr Merritt had raised the matter of caravans being transported over the railway bridge with a Gross Vehicle Weight of 5 tons with the appropriate team in Network Rail. He will keep the council advised.

Cllr Merritt

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TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS

- 7.1. A public excluded part 2 of the meeting to discuss matters in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as defined in paragraphs 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act was proposed by Cllr Ayles, seconded by Cllr Keane and agreed unanimously.
- 7.2. Following the representation from the Cricket Club by earlier email and in the public session Cllr Ayles proposed that the Parish Council arranges for the installation of an artificial wicket at the cricket ground. Seconded by Cllr Keane and agreed unanimously.
- 7.3. Following a request by the Parish Council for the Allotments Association (AA) to transfer ownership of the Sports Ground to the village the AA had established that the request would have to be approved by the ten original shareholders, all but two of which no longer lived in the village. The current share owners had now mostly been identified and a majority had voted against the request, mostly on the basis that they were concerned that the land may subsequently be developed. Cllr Ayles proposed that to allay concerns a Deed of Transfer be drawn up by a solicitor with such concerns addressed. Seconded by Cllr Keane and agreed by a majority. Cllr Ayles to arrange; if cost is beyond £2000 then three quotes will be required.
- 7.4. No quote had yet been received from MKC for gravelling central area of car park on Station Rd.

Cllr Ayles

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FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 8.1. The payment schedule was proposed by Cllr Keane seconded Cllr Forgham and was approved unanimously

Payee	Description	Invoice	Amount
S Bradbury	Salary January 2022	per pay slip	£624.62
RTM	Landscaping January	invoice 3240	£391.67
R. Wontner	VH repairs (50) village (20)	invoice 11	£70.00
T. Ladyman	Clear village litter bins Dec & Jan	invoice 5	£90.00
Traffic Technology	Battery for SID	invoice DT6390	£65.00
Raymen & Co	Replace light cricket pavilion	invoice 151003	£150.00
TOTAL			£1,391.29

Direct Debits			
Talktalk	01560036/882		32.34
Everflow	B220925A		45.54
Google Cloud	26107096G05ASYDKH7		£36.80
XLN	4976199 16674975		£35.14
EON	089208742670A		£112.00
EDF	671070653836.00		£114.00
DD Total			£375.82

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

- 9.1. A parishioner had written thanking Cllr Ayles for persevering with MKC to remove the 30 mph speed limit sign on South Street at the top of Maltings Field

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

- 10.1. It would seem that the 'Free Little Library' on the village green needs some restoration. Cllr Merritt will liaise with Rebecca Hall to see what needs to be done and will commission any repairs from the contractor that built the unit – payment to be made under Clerk's devolved financial powers.

Cllr Merritt

- 10.2. The elliptical unit at the sports ground is not operating smoothly. Cllr Markham will have a look to see if it can be fixed without having the fitters come out at probable significant cost.

Cllr Markham

- 10.3. Anglian Water had come out to look at damage caused to South Street by the recent burst water main. They had talked to Cllr Sawbridge and had said that they would

- repair the two potholes but had said that the crack in the road was already there before the incident. Cllr Sawbridge had told them that whilst the crack had already been there it is now considerably worse. They said that this particular matter will need to be escalated. Cllr Ayles will contact MKC Highways accordingly. Cllr Ayles
- 10.4. The swing seat at the Fishponds has gone missing. The Clerk responded that an inspection had found it to be deficient and MKC had taken it away to be replaced at some point in the future as repair of our playground equipment is their responsibility.
- 10.5. There have been many posters 'fly posted' around the village. Cllr Ayles said that although the circumstances are tragic, flyposting is not allowed without MKC permission. As such the notices should be taken down.
- 10.6. Cllr Bowyer has some Ward budget remaining that must be used before the end of February. Cllr Ayles asked whether it could be used for Jubilee commemorative items. Cllr Bowyer will find out and notify the Clerk. Cllr Bowyer
- 10.7. Cllr Sawbridge reported that the Youth Club are short of money and asked whether the Parish Council could provide financial report. Cllr Ayles said that it would need to be considered as a resolution. Clerk to include on March agenda.
- 11 **TO AGREE DATE AND ATTENDANCE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS**
- 11.1. Next parish council meeting will be held at 7.30 on Monday 7th March. A decision will be made nearer the time as to whether to hold the meeting physically at the Village Hall or whether to do it by video conference.
- There being no further business part 1 of the meeting finished at 20.50
- .
- 12 **PART 2**
TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST by Councillors in any of the agenda items below
- 12.1. None
- 13 **TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS**
- 13.1. Three quotes were considered for the installation of an artificial cricket pitch at the Sports Ground The Cricket Club had expressed a preference for the bid from Exclusive Leisure. This was also the cheapest of the quotes. It was agreed that on that basis the bid from Exclusive Leisure should be accepted. Clerk to make the necessary arrangements and notify unsuccessful bidders. Clerk
- 13.2. A local company had expressed an interest in cleaning the village entrance gates and signs and street name plates and had submitted a quote. The Clerk had omitted to bring the quote but did confirm that including the cleaning of the information plaque in Castle Field it was cheaper than the current cost. The Clerk had contacted the person who had previously performed the cleaning and asked him whether he would like to re-quote but he had declined to do so and was supportive of having the work done by a more local concern. It was agreed that on this basis this year's cleaning of village entrance gates/signs and street name plates be commissioned from Ecowash MK of Thrupp Close.
- 13.3. It was agreed that the position of village handyman be advertised on the village Facebook page. Cllr Forgham to attend. The work of Richard Wontner over the years was appreciated and commended. Cllr Sawbridge
- Part 2 of the meeting closed at 21.15.

Appendix A - Schedule of Reports & File Notes

APPENDIX A1 – CLERK’S REPORT 7/2/2022

1. Sports Ground/Playground matters:
 - MKC have confirmed that they still have responsibility for inspecting and repairing playground equipment. Any faults should be reported to them.
 - Report on fire inspection now received. SGC to meet to review findings. No ‘red flags’.
 - Doors at football pavilion need fixing/replacing – to be included with quote for VH doors
 - Roof tiles at football pavilion need repair
 - Neil Humphrey of CSA is meeting a contractor this week to get quotes for regular servicing of mower and replacement of cylinders. Depending on amount of quotation others may also be sought.
2. Allotments Association (AA) still to give comprehensive answer to PC request for transfer of SG ownership. There is a resolution tonight to draw up a transfer agreement with clauses to protect against any future development that can be put to AA members to allay their fears on that matter. All heritage streetlight replacements now ordered. Clerk has asked property owners to clear space around lamp columns where hedges have overgrown, either by visiting the properties or where there was no answer by letter. Awaiting date for work from MKC.
3. Request to install Electric Vehicle charging points in Station Road has been cancelled. Awaiting response from BP Pulse/Energy Savings Trust on the request for South Street.
4. Litter bins + bases to be ordered as agreed: one + spare base for outside shop & one for Shepperton Close. No progress following MKC’s advice not to place a litter bin at the site suggested in Shepperton.
5. The contractor has confirmed that the two new dog bins at Castle Field and Fox Covert Lane/Paddock Close are on site and that they will be installed in the near future – message left with contractor asking for update.
6. Clerk did not receive a call back from Olivia Roche at Stonewater to discuss how social housing will be allocated at the Carrington Close site. In the absence of any alternative contact he has asked the Snowdon site manager to try and get the information from Stonewater – also to pass on that the swale is still not draining properly.
7. MKC Highways (Jonjo McBride) have asked Stonewater to provide heritage style streetlights at the Carrington Close development. They are still awaiting the design from Stonewater.
8. Clerk & Cllr Ayles met with MKC Highways to discuss parking spaces outside Acorn Nursery and Station Road parking. Awaiting response.
9. Cllr Ayles has written again to the MKC Waste Recycling Manager following further complaints about blue recycling boxes going missing across the village following collections. The 5 spare boxes that he said would be sent to the Clerk have not turned up It is thought that Serco have run out of the boxes
10. Rosalind Baker, Sustrans Project Manager, has asked for help in identifying who owns land between Castlethorpe & Hanslope in order to progress the feasibility study into a cycle track between the villages. A copy of the map provided has been given to Cllr Markham.
11. The light at the side of the cricket pavilion has been changed so it is now motion sensitive rather than light sensitive and neighbours are now happy that there is no light nuisance to their property. Electrician also checked power to defibrillator at the sports ground and found no fault.
12. Cllr Merritt & Clerk inspected area by Water Tower for potential leisure purposes and have recommended that it would not be feasible to landscape or provide hard surface on the grounds of cost and ongoing maintenance. If/when the cycle track is upgraded then the Parish Council should ask whether the area could be improved as part of the scheme. A resident has suggested that the Water Tower itself be refurbished as part of the Queen’s Jubilee activities.
13. Queen’s Jubilee –
Inexpensive commemorative pin are available at [https://www.trophiesplusmedals.co.uk/queens%20platinum%20jubilee%202022%20pin%20badge%2025mm%20\(1\)](https://www.trophiesplusmedals.co.uk/queens%20platinum%20jubilee%202022%20pin%20badge%2025mm%20(1)) at a cost of £0.62p each.
Bandit Street Food are checking their availability to potentially attend village events
Cllr Ayles is waiting to hear whether the current tenant of Manor Farm is happy to use the South Street paddock for an event – the Clerk had confirmed public liability insurance cover
Royal British Legion are inviting parish councils to get involved in ‘The Queen’s Green Canopy’ project, asking that a tree be planted and marked with a plaque made by veterans at a cost of £100 <https://rbli.shop/products/queens-green-canopy-plaque>
14. Cllr Ayles has had the Speed Indication Device (SID) checked and it was found that the unit was working but needed new battery. This has been purchased. The SID will now be kept by the Parish Council – MKC are looking at how to transfer ownership.

15. The Clerk has commissioned the camera survey of the drains from the Village Hall to main drainage at a cost of £130. On completion review to take place to confirm work to put in new drainage channel can go ahead.
16. A decision was expected by now on the Community Infrastructure Fund grant application to resurface the tennis courts but this has been delayed.
17. Two young people from the village are to work 1 hour per week on assisting the Parish Council as part of their work towards the Duke of Edinburgh Award. If Cllrs have any activities they would like to suggest please let the Clerk know.

No progress/unknown status on outstanding actions:

- Viktorija Versova at MKC is still going through the various schemes to complete the MKC Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan. She has reported that the track has been afforded a 'high' priority for improvement but there are higher schemes (mainly because of population density served by the other routes and complete absence of a route rather than improving existing ones). The route has though been accepted for improvements and funding is now being sought
- Clerk has not had time to arrange site visit to look at distressed trees with landscape contractor and Cllr Markham
- Cllr Markham still to confirm number of posts & rails required to fix fence between sports ground and Lodge Farm Court
- Cllr Markham has purchased a gate at the Chequers entrance to the Fishponds play area. He hopes to have it installed in the next couple of weeks.
- Clerk has still to contact a gas fitter to replace a radiator valve in the Village Hall.
- Awaiting notification for Cosgrove PC whether they have any thoughts on removing graffiti along the sides of the river Tove .
- Cllr Merritt to agree public sessions for defibrillator awareness with village First Responder for when date for end of lockdown confirmed.
- 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
- 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
7/2/2022