



# Castlethorpe Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of Castlethorpe Parish Councillors held remotely by video conference 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**PRESENT: Councillors Ayles, Forgham, Markham, Merritt, Sawbridge, Hinds, Ward Cllrs Wardle & Bowyer and the Clerk. Members of the public were viewing the meeting via Facebook and YouTube.**

Cllr Ayles (the Chair) explained that the meeting is not a formal parish council meeting but that following a resolution the councillors will meet each month and reach agreement on providing advice for the Clerk to make any decisions that are deemed necessary until it is safe to hold physical meetings once more. He hoped that this would be when the September meeting is due; there is normally no scheduled meeting in August.

The Chair introduced the open session. Two members of the public spoke on the planning application to be considered at item 5.1. one in objection and one (the planning applicant) in support. All comments were noted.

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

Clerk's decisions are underlined against the appropriate minute.

- |        |  |               |
|--------|--|---------------|
| 1      | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b>   | <b>ACTION</b> |
| 1.1    | Cllr Markham. Accepted.  |               |
| 2      | <b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>  |               |
| 2.1.   | Cllrs Ayles a pecuniary interest in item 5.1.  |               |
| 3      | <b>APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</b>   |               |
| 3.1    | Previous minutes from the annual meeting of 7 <sup>th</sup> June were proposed by Cllr Forgham seconded by Cllr Merritt and agreed unanimously.  |               |
|        | <b>TO RECEIVE REPORTS</b>  |               |
| 4.1.   | <b>Clerks Report &amp; Review of Actions (See Appendix A1)</b> – matters arising:  |               |
| 4.1.1. | Item 6 – Cllr Ayles had placed the order for the streetlight replacement but had received no response as yet. He had also reported issues that had been raised by residents in their responses to the questionnaire asking for their preference of style of lantern.   |               |
| 4.1.2. | Item 10 – It had been reported that parents were blocking School Lane whilst delivering children to the Nursery and to the School and this was hampering rubbish collection. In addition to the emails that he had written to MKC Cllr Ayles had asked the PCSO to attend the following Friday & observe when the rubbish is being collected.  |               |
| 4.1.3. | 'No progress' Item 7 – Anglian Water have been given 18 weeks to restore the repaired Tarmac in the village centre to its original colour.   |               |
| 5      | <b>TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS (previously viewed on line by Councillors)</b>  |               |
| 5.1.   | <b>21/01637/FUL</b> - Single storey rear extension and rear terrace roof canopy 38 Shepperton Close<br>After some discussion it was unanimously agreed that the parish council should not object to the application but should request a condition that the downstairs casement window be in the same style as the upstairs window and the surrounding houses.<br><u>Clerk will write to MKC asking for this condition to be applied.</u>  | Clerk         |
| 6      | <b>TO RECEIVE REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS PLANNING APPLICATION</b>   |               |
| 6.1.   | <b>21/01675/NMA</b> – Non-material amendment to application reference 20/02628/FUL to amend the location of the new access. Bartholomew Farm Wolverton Road Castlethorpe – <b>application permitted. – No further comments</b>   |               |
| 6.2.   | <b>21/01017/FUL</b> - Loft conversion with front rooflights and rear dormer (Resubmission of 21/00369/FUL)   23 Thrupp Close Castlethorpe – <b>the Clerk reported that the application will not be on the agenda for the July DCP meeting. The case officer is still reviewing the application and if she has a mind to recommend its approval it will be on the agenda for August. It was agreed that Cllr Forgham would in that case attend to represent the parish council's objection.</b> |               |

**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. James Walsh Rights of Way officer at MKC had written proposing that the 'public footpath' fingerpost' currently sited in Maltings Field in a private garden be removed and that a new post be erected at the bottom end of Fox Covert Lane to denote the path across the fields. In addition, he suggested that whilst there is a 'technical requirement' for a sign at the bottom end of Maltings Field pointing towards the railway footbridge that this is not needed as it could cause upset to residents being in a tight space next to house fronts and driveways and would really serve no purpose. It was unanimously agreed that the parish council should support the recommendations

Clerk to write and support the recommendations

Clerk

7.3. After some discussion it was unanimously agreed to apply only for a Community Infrastructure Fund grant to re-paint/restore the tennis courts surface. Cllr Forgham had been in discussion with the Sports Association (CSA) and had agreed that despite considering a 2G surface, re-painting would be the best way forward. The cost would be in the order of £6,500 and the tennis community had committed to put up £3000 so if we are successful in obtaining a grant for 50% there would be little cost to the parish council.

Clerk will put together an application in conjunction with Cllr Forgham and the CSA

Clerk

7.4. Cllr Ayles had received a quote from BT Openreach for the Fibre Broadband upgrade. Given the per property/business grants that are available it would mean that 310 properties would need to sign up to the scheme to make it affordable. It would not be legal for the parish council or MKC to provide part funding. There were several matters arising from the quote, not least the locations of some of the properties included. Openreach had offered a contact to discuss further. Cllr Ayles proposed a working group be formed to take things forward. Cllrs Ayles, Forgham, Merritt, Sawbridge, Bowyer and the Clerk all volunteered to take part. Cllr Ayles will set up a session to determine next steps.

Cllr Ayles

Cllr Bowyer had asked MKC why they are not including rural communities in their fibre upgrade scheme as are Northants CC and had been told that it would be cost prohibitive (c. £30,000 per property). They had now completed their requirements for the contract and there is no opportunity to change course. Cllr Ayles did not accept that argument and had written to David Hopkins at MKC to ask why Northants can support Cosgrove and Hartwell but MKC will do nothing for their rural community.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- 8.1. Cllr Ayles retired from the meeting  
The payment schedule was introduced and proposed by Cllr Forgham seconded Cllr Keane and was approved unanimously.  
Clerk will make payments accordingly.

Payee	Description	Invoice	Amount
S Bradbury	Salary June 2021	per pay slip	£624.62
S Bradbury	Refund purchase of printer	per attached invoice (paid)	£153.40
S Bradbury	Refund purchase of tripods	per attached invoice (paid)	£21.32
Stacey Blease	VH Cleaning December		£0.00
R Wontner	Empty bins June	invoice 6	£40.00
R Wontner	Maintain hedges & water and feed VH lawn. Petrol for strimmer.	invoice 6	£77.00
R Wontner	Purchase second hand lawnmower for VH	invoice 6	£25.00
RTM	Landscaping May	invoice 2868	£391.67
TalkTalk	VH broadband provision June		£22.95
Tove Landscapes	Cut grass SG	invoice 12654	£135.00
Simon Bates	Village weedkill #2 of 3	per attached invoice 193	£400.00
Marlborough Electrical Contracting Ltd	Install further electric sockets VH	per attached invoice si 686	£100.00
GB Plumbing	fit pump for VH tap	per attached invoice 6401	£185.00
Philip Ayles	Refund Zoom annual license	per attached invoice 90910935	£119.90
MK Council	Supply & plant Chestnut tree at the Fishponds	Exact cost & invoice awaited	£400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£2,695.86</b>
<b>Direct Debits</b>			
Google Ireland	26107096G05ASYDKH7		£32.20
XLN	4976199 16674975		£27.64
EON	089208742670A		£112.00
EDF	671070653836.00		£76.00
<b>DD Total</b>			<b>£247.84</b>

- 8.2. Cllr Ayles returned to the meeting  
Clerk to check invoices from Google Ireland to ensure that payment details have not changed. Clerk

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

- 9.1. A member of the public had issued correspondence to all parish councils about MKC's strategy with wheelie bins. Cllr Ayles said that objections had already been made about having multiple bins in front of houses with no front drives especially the Edwardian terraces. Cllr Bowyer said that the current set of bin lorries would be very expensive to replace and that MKC were very keen on the multiple wheely bin strategy. Cllr Ayles asked the Ward Cllrs to repeat the objections raised previously.
- 9.2. A communication had been received from a company that were considering a planning application for change of use at an industrial unit at Lodge Farm Business Centre: to provide a swimming pool for disabled children. They had been given early indication by MKC that the application might not be successful and had asked the parish council whether they would give support. It was agreed that if/when the application is received then the Chair will call an extraordinary meeting to consider.

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

- 10.1. Refuse had not been collected from Maltings Field again. Cllr Ayles said that residents should contact MKC and they will arrange a collection. If the problem keeps recurring to give him examples and he will take the matter up with MKC. Cllr Bowyer added that residents can also contact Ward cllrs.

- 10.2. Cllr Forgham said that he would like to step down as editor of Castlethorpe News. Cllr Ayles thanked him for his excellent contribution over the years, agreed by all. Cllr Forgham will put up a request for a replacement on Facebook. He will provide training. Cllr Forgham
- 10.3. A further planning application had been notified with a deadline that would not allow consideration at the next meeting. The details had been circulated to cllrs. Cllrs to inform Clerk/Chair if they feel that an extraordinary meeting is required to consider any objections or conditions. All Cllrs

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

- 11.1. Next parish council meeting will be held at 7.30 on Monday September 6<sup>th</sup>. It will be held physically at the Village Hall if Covid circumstances at the time allow.

There being no further business part 1 of the meeting finished at 9.05.

**PART 2**

12 **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST by Councillors in any of the agenda items below**

- 12.1. None

13 **TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS**

- 13.1. A quote of £1300.00 had been received from M J Lever to repair/replace fence between Castle Field and adjoining bungalow(s). 30 new posts and 5 new rails will be required, re-using existing undamaged rails. Cllr Ayles proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Forgham and agreed unanimously. Clerk will authorise work to go ahead.
- 13.2. A revised quote had been received to replace post and rail fencing between Gobbey's Field and the Fishponds play area. The Clerk had responded to a previous quote, using all new materials, requesting that any existing undamaged rails be re-used. The revised quote from M J Lever is to the amount of £1450 to also include fitting two kissing gates that will be provided by MKC. Clerk  
Cllr Ayles proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Forgham and agreed unanimously. Clerk will authorise work to go ahead.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.25

# Appendix A - Schedule of Reports & File Notes

## APPENDIX A1 – CLERK’S REPORT 5/7/2021

1. Second village weedkill has been applied.
2. Contractor has been asked to secure the three benches when the concrete bases are laid. Work has been approved and is to be scheduled.
3. Meeting was held between parish councillors, CSA and sports ground landscaper and problems resolved. Sports Ground Committee will have to meet to determine strategy for replacing mower cylinders and ongoing servicing.
4. Mulberry & Chestnut trees have been planted at the Fishponds play area. Cllr Hinds has been keeping the trees hydrated but has found that one of the hydration bags does not seem to be working. Being pursued with Leo Hawkes at MKC. Leo will be visiting the village on 6<sup>th</sup> July to look at the health of other trees .
5. Pump has been installed to improve water pressure for tap at rear of Village Hall and electric points have been fitted. Handyman has fed the lawn an all work is now completed. Handyman has provided lawnmower at a cost of £25 and this will be kept in the shed.
6. 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.
7. Tom Ladyman has agreed to take over the role of clearing the village centre litter bins from the handyman starting with immediate effect.
8. Openreach have provided an 'initial' quote of £468,461 to upgrade 542 premises to fibre optic. To be further considered at tonight's meeting.
9. Revised quote received for fencing repair/replacement at Fishponds and also a quote to repair fence between Castle Field and the back gardens of North Street properties. To be considered at tonight's meeting.
10. Complaint received about multiple failures of waste collection in School Lane. Cllr Ayles has written an email to Waste Services, TVP and Highways to ask for improved service, prevention of blocking of School Lane in the mornings and possible road hatching / signage at entrance to School Lane. The last has been confirmed added to Engineers 'Project Request'. Awaiting other responses.

No progress/unknown status on outstanding actions:

- There have again been no further updates on the further intentions of the housing development at Maltings 2. The swale and the other area at Paddock Close has become overgrown and the swale still does not drain efficiently.
- 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.
- Tim Flach will raise the matter of transfer of the ownership of the sports ground to the parish council at the forthcoming, but as yet unscheduled, meeting of the Allotments Association.
- 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.
- We are told that a first draft of the MKC Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan will be produced in August.
- No pipes in loft are lagged in cricket pavilion. SGC to consider remedial action for future.
- SGC to consider the matter of whether to replace the cylinders at a later date.
- 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
- Clerk to get further quotes for maintenance of playground and outdoor aerobic equipment. No time this month.
- 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
- Cllr Ayles has had no response on PSPO Dogs but was not expecting one yet as MKC have not made Order. Previous decision was just to consult

Steve Bradbury

5/7/21

11.