

# NORTH CRAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 1 September 2020 at 7.30 pm

(Under the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020, this meeting was held using video conferencing)

Present:	Parish Councillors: R Hatton (in the Chair until Item 3), Steve Garner (in the Chair from Item 3), Sue Garner, D Harpur, M Hold, G Ridgeley and T Smith Clerk/RFO S M Bushnell Ward Councillor D Hosking Five members of the public	
01/09/2020	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Ward Councillor P Geary and K McLean PCSO C1018 Arlene Ormston	
02/09/2020	<b>Membership of Parish Council:</b> Cllr Hatton read out her resignation letter. After 14 years as a Parish Councillor, she had reluctantly decided that, for personal reasons, she had to resign from the Parish Council. She thanked the Clerk and the Ward Councillors for their support and Cllr Harpur for his persistence and tenacity over planning applications. Cllr Hatton then left the meeting.	
03/09/2020	<b>Election of Chair:</b> Cllr Steve Garner indicated his willingness to stand as Chair and was proposed by Cllr Ridgeley and seconded by Cllr Smith. Cllr Steve Garner was thereby elected and took the chair.  The Chair expressed his regret at the resignation of Roz Hatton as a parish councillor and thanked her for her work over the years. All councillors were unpaid volunteers and deserved support and thanks. As Chair he would like to see a survey conducted to find out what residents wanted and expected from the Parish Council. The Parish Council had nearly collapsed recently and four volunteers, including him, had put themselves forward to avoid Milton Keynes Council having to support it. The members of the Parish Council had diverse talents and skills and he hoped that during the rest of the current term of office much would be achieved and that other residents would be encouraged to become involved. He thanked the councillors for their support for him as chair and hoped that he would warrant that support.	
04/09/2020	<b>Declarations of Interests:</b> Under Minute 17/09/2020, Cllr Hold declared that she had a personal interest in the planning application for 7 Chequers Lane and would not participate in that agenda item. However, due to problems with her microphone, this was not heard at the time but was confirmed with the Clerk and Chair retrospectively.	

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05/09/2020	<b>Approval of Minutes:</b> The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7 July 2020 were approved.	
06/09/2020	<p><b>Items from members of the public:</b> Four residents were present at the meeting (Emily Tompkins, Lewis Tompkins, Claire Odell and Anna Shotton) who had concerns about the play area which they wished to raise with the Parish Council. The Chair asked for further details which were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More netting was needed to protect children in the play area whilst cricket was being played. The netting which was currently in place was inadequate and in bad repair and needed to be higher.</li> <li>• There were concerns about the safety of the play equipment itself, in particular the seesaw. Other pieces of equipment were outdated and some needed repair.</li> </ul> <p>The residents were hoping for the backing and help from the Parish Council and had set up a committee to look at these issues, register as a charity, apply for grants, etc.</p> <p>It was explained that the situation was complicated by the fact that four factions were involved – the Cricket Club, the IMC and the Parish Council who managed and owned the land and Milton Keynes Council who owned and managed the play park equipment. The point was also made that, due to the nature of the game of cricket, it may not be possible for the surrounding area to be made 100% safe whilst a game was being played, even with netting in place.</p> <p>Members of the Parish Council thanked the residents for their attendance and confirmed that their concerns were understood and supported.</p> <p>As the Chair had responsibility for Recreation, he suggested that the best way forward would be for him to attend the meetings so that he could give support and act as the conduit between the group and the Parish Council. This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to contact the residents in order to set up the working group.</p> <p>Ward Councillor Hosking advised that Philip Snell at MKC was the contact person for play areas and that Astwood and Hardmead PC had recently completed a similar project and so might be able to provide some advice.</p>	Clerk
07/09/2020	<p><b>Recreation Matters:</b> Recreation matters then continued as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mysterious excavation had recently appeared on the top of the mound by the MUGA but this had now been filled in.</li> <li>• The Institute was due to open on 1 September. A member of the IMC was present at the meeting who explained there would be slow progress in getting lettings back to pre COVID levels. However, there was now a major new client, Olney</li> </ul>	

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	<p>Masonic Lodge, which would provide a welcome source of income.</p> <p>The Institute had been redecorated, was having a new sound system installed and the floor had been cleaned and re-sealed.</p>	
	<b>Matters Arising from the minutes</b>	
08/09/2020	<b>Minute 05/07/2020 Bryans Crescent car park:</b> This had been followed up again but the MKC officer concerned was currently on holiday. The Clerk would email again.	Clerk
09/09/2020	<b>Minute 06/07/2020 – Installation of mirror:</b> The Clerk reported that police data had been checked and there had been no injury collisions in the five year period up to 31.12.19 at the junction of Chequers Lane and the High Street. Bearing this in mind and also the fact that mirrors could present their own problems with road safety, this matter would now be closed.	
10/09/2020	<b>Minute 07/07/2020 – Churchyard matters:</b> A meeting would be arranged in due course to discuss issues in the churchyard/cemetery. It was suggested that an area for wildlife could perhaps be included in the area.	
11/09/2020	<b>Minute 08/07/2020 – Brook End pavement crossing:</b> The Clerk reported that an MKC Traffic Engineer had responded who did not think bollards would deter parking as it would move the problem to another section of the verge. He suggested continuing to pursue through the police and also possibly writing to nearby residents to request that they or their visitors did not block the access or park on the verge. It was agreed to continue to monitor the situation and to inform PCSO Arlene Ormston if the problem persisted.	
12/09/2020	<b>Minute 25/06/2020 : Gog Lane:</b> Cllr Harpur reported that he had not received a response from the Enforcement Officer at MKC about this property extension. Ward Cllr Hosking suggested that he emailed Gary Dunn about this and copied in the ward councillors.	DH
13/09/2020	<b>Minute 15/07/2020: Refuse bins by the MUGA:</b> The Clerk reported that she had been informed that these bins should be emptied fortnightly although an actual schedule as requested had not been received. Ward Cllr Hosking suggested that this was requested from Nick Hannon – MKC Head of Environment and Waste.	Clerk
14/09/2020	<b>Minute 17/07/2020 Trees:</b> <b>Nixey's Walk:</b> The Clerk reported that the work to the trees that needed to be lifted had been completed. A quote had been received for clearing the overgrowth along Nixey's Walk but the Clerk was asked to obtain another one or two quotes for comparative purposes. It was also agreed that the residents on whose boundary this work would take place should be informed.	Clerk

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15/09/2020	<p><b>Minute 23/17/2020</b></p> <p><b>Nixeys Walk</b> – The Clerk reported that Nixeys Walk would shortly be resurfaced. Thanks were due to Roz Hatton for pursuing this matter with MKC. Cllr Sue Garner suggested that a note be put on the Facebook Community Page to tell residents that this work would soon be happening. The Clerk agreed to do this.</p> <p><b>Landscape</b> – The windows of the bus shelter had now been cleaned free of charge and thanks were due to M Chilton for this. It was agreed that quotes should be received for re-staining the bus shelter.</p>	Clerk  Clerk
16/09/2020	<p><b>Update from PCSO Arlene Ormston:</b> The Chair expressed concern that a report had not been received from Arlene for some time and the Clerk agreed to contact her.</p>	Clerk
17/09/2020	<p><b>Planning:</b> The following new planning applications were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20/02007/FUL - Erection of two dwelling houses and change of use to residential at land adjacent to 10 Brook End, North Crawley: This was a resubmission of a previous application which had been for four dwellings. The main objection to the original application was due to highway problems and these still seemed to exist with this new application. It was agreed that a similar objection would be sent for this second application but it was advised by Ward Cllr Hosking to contact Phil Caves in Highways to ascertain his view on it. Cllr Harpur agreed to contact him.</li> <li>• 20/02039/FUL - Single storey front extensions, internal alterations and roof lights at 7 Chequers Lane, North Crawley: This was a resubmission of a previously approved application and the extension now appeared to be much larger. It was agreed that a site meeting would be arranged to understand the application further.</li> <li>• 2000133/OUTEIS – Tickford Fields Farm, North Crawley Road, Newport Pagnell: This outline planning application for a major development was to be considered by MKC on 3 September. Concern was expressed about the effect construction lorries would have on old cottages on the High Street and also on road safety. On the advice of Ward Cllr Hosking, the Clerk would email MKC to ask for a condition to be put on any planning approval to deter construction vehicles from accessing the site through North Crawley.</li> </ul>	DH  DH  Clerk
18/09/2020	<p><b>White Paper – Planning for the Future:</b> The Chair referred to this consultation document that had been circulated to Councillors. There may be some changes to the scope of future Neighbourhood Plans although the specialist company we are working with on our Plan urged us to continue with it as it provides significant protection against unwanted speculative</p>	

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	development. Ward Councillor Hoskins agreed. The White Paper also stressed the importance of community involvement and local engagement. The Chair felt that confirmation was needed from the Parish Council that it was still supportive of having a Neighbourhood Plan. The Council unanimously voted in favour of continuing with the Plan's progress with all reasonable speed.	
19/09/2020	<p><b>Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group update:</b> The Chair reported that Helen Beauchamp had indicated that she would be willing to be Chairwoman of the Steering Group and members of the Group considered her to be an excellent candidate. Councillors decided unanimously that Helen should be appointed to chair the Steering Group. Unfortunately one member of the Steering Group had resigned which was regrettable. However, there were still sufficient members to carry out the work.</p> <p>Helen had applied for a grant towards the costs of producing a second plan and £2,570 had been received. Funding for Technical Assessment Support was also being provided. Thanks were due to Helen for the level and amount of work she had carried out so far.</p> <p>Site assessments would begin later this week. There were 15 to be carried out and it was hoped that the work would be completed by the end of September. Cllr Harpur was on the Assessment subcommittee and the Chair was on the Landowner subcommittee. The focus of the latter was to consider compromises and mitigations with a view to identifying viable sites which would then hopefully be supported by any resident affected.</p>	
20/09/2020	<p><b>Ward Councillor's report:</b> Cllr Hosking referred to the 8,000 houses plus industrial development which formed part of the MKE (MK East Strategic Urban Expansion Framework). All the Olney ward members were against it and also the £95m HIF Bid (Highway Infrastructure Fund) which supported it and was essential for MKE to progress. However, the HIF Bid had been successful, subject to the meeting of 26 conditions between MKC and two other parties. This plan was the biggest issue facing Newport Pagnell and surrounding villages but it could be stopped if MKC chose to do so. The Olney ward councillors were therefore asking the other ward councillors for their support and also suggested that the parish council wrote to its MP. It was understood that the Parish Council had already written to the previous MP some months ago and the Clerk was asked to locate this for circulation to councillors.</p>	Clerk
21/09/2020	<p><b>Finance Matters:</b> The Receipts and Payments report for August 2020, having been previously circulated was approved along with the Finance Report for the period up to the end of August. It was also confirmed that Cllr Steve Garner and Cllr Smith had been added on as bank signatories.</p>	

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22/09/2020	<b>Review of Policies:</b> The Freedom of Information Policy, having been previously circulated, was approved.	
23/09/2020	<b>Churchyard Matters:</b> A suggested amendment to Item 16 of the Rules and Regulations for the Cemetery, to add the word “biodegradable” was not approved as it was not considered to be necessary but it was agreed that the regulations should be amended to include the prohibition of plastic flowers and foliage.	Clerk
24/09/2020	<p><b>Councillors’ items:</b>  Following the resignation of Roz Hatton, it was agreed that the following responsibilities would be reallocated:  Highways – Cllr Harpur  Community Safety – Cllr Ridgeley  Defibrillator – Cllr Steve Garner  Plant Trough – Cllr M Hold</p> <p><b>Highways:</b> It was reported that there were three blocked drains in Folly Lane. Cllr Harpur agreed to report this.  The road sign to Chicheley had disappeared and was consequently causing problems with motorists missing the turning and then having to turn round in gateways. Cllr Harpur agreed to report this.</p> <p><b>Landscape and Streetscape:</b> Cllr Sue Garner was pleased that the bus shelter windows had been cleaned and re-iterated the need for a coat of stain being needed (Minute 15/09/2020 refers).  She had noticed that some of the seats and benches around the village needed maintenance and suggested that there should be a programme to carry out this work on an on-going basis. The Clerk agreed to send Cllr Garner a list of the seats in North Crawley so that they could be put in order of priority for maintenance.  It appeared that, despite a letter having been sent, the Cock Inn website was still giving the impression that the wasteground was its car park. It was agreed that Cllr Sue Garner and the Clerk would visit and mention this to the landlord again.</p> <p><b>Rural Paths:</b> Cllr Smith reported that he had made MKC aware of 3 stiles that needed replacement but had received the response that the necessary metal kissing gates had been ordered but had not yet been received. This would be monitored and chased as necessary.  Cllr Smith also reported that the Parish Council had entered into a PSGA (Public Sector Geospatial Agreement) which would allow it to access Ordnance Survey data. This was very important for the future as it would allow parish councils and others in the public sector to access digitalized information which would be able to be used in many different ways. He was currently working through this system to ascertain ways that it could be of use.</p>	<p>DH</p> <p>DH</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>SueG/Clerk</p> <p>Clerk/TS</p>

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