

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Hanslope Parish Council, held
on 13th September 2021 at 7pm
at the Community Hall, Recreation Ground, Hanslope.**

Present:

Parish Councillors: -
M Palmer (Chairman)
E Price
R Simpkins
G Duffield

D Courtman
J Cass
A Andrew
S Proctor

Cllr C Wardle (MKC)
Clerk: G Merry

0 Members of Public

MOTION: To agree to exclude the public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, for item 21.104 iii. PROPOSED by Cllr Duffield SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED.

21.098 Apologies for Absence: There were no apologies.

21.099 Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 12th July 2021, 21st July 2021 (E.M.) and 12th August 2021 (E.M.):

The 3 sets of minutes had previously been circulated and were all PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Cass and AGREED.

21.100 Declarations of Interest: Cllr Cass declared an interest in item 21.104 iv

21.101 Public Time: No items.

21.102 Council:

- i **Clerk's Report:** At 31/8/21, income stood at £74,094 (56%) of budget and expenditure at £52,982 (42% of budget). The council is carrying a reserve of over £200,000, although much of this is allocated. The summer has been busy with the allotment project and the community hall progressing to plan. The allotment committee met in August and are managing the allotments well. Mr Cass had overseen the installation of the new items and was thanked. MKC Ward Cllr Chris Wardle has been proactive in liaising between both Highways at MKC and the LLFA regarding the drainage condition placed on the MUGA application and was also thanked. Guides/Brownies start back in the hall on 14/9/21. Signed agreements were issued and a set of keys. Scouts are working on recruiting more adult volunteers and have been in contact over the summer. Additionally, the bench has been installed at the pond, the play scheme days were well attended, and the picnic event went off without incident, enjoyed by all. The clerk was thanked for her work on getting the hall ready for opening
- ii **Cllr Training:** The clerk recommended councillor induction training for all new Cllrs and also more experienced councillors to refresh their knowledge. However, BMKALC are not running sessions for the remainder of this year and have offered a bespoke session where they would come out to Hanslope @ £380. Cllrs were asked to consider this.
- iii **Complaints Policy:** The clerk stated that although most parish councils have a complaint's policy, she gets few complaints and usually addresses them straight away. However, it had become necessary to have a vexatious complaints policy and so both would need to be implemented. This was discussed and it was agreed the clerk would circulate a straightforward policy, to be agreed at the next meeting.

- iv **Highways and traffic update and flooding issues:** The clerk expressed disappointment that MK council had refused the application for white village ‘gates’, even though the PC was offering to pay for them. This was generally agreed, and it was felt that the village signs being offered would be ineffectual against speeding, as well as potentially obscuring the required 30mph limit. Cllr Courtman talked through the speeding statistics produced by the SID. Since most of the SID poles were now either missing or unusable, and had not been replaced by MKC, Forest Road was one of the few places that data could be collected. The graph showed speeds to be significantly above the 30-mph speed limit and up to 70mph in places. With no effective way of slowing traffic available to the PC, it was agreed the clerk would write a strongly worded letter to MKC, expressing disappointment at their refusal of the white gates and underlining that this was proposed entirely as a speed mitigation measure. Concern was expressed for resident’s safety and Cllr Courtman agreed to send the data to the clerk. Cllr Palmer added that Davidsons will be installing traffic calming measures on Long Street. Highways have stated the long-awaited zebra crossing will be installed in this financial year.
(Cllr Proctor arrived at 19.20)
- v **Parking Issues:** There had been an increase in cars in the village generally, without sufficient spaces to park them all. MKC Parking Control had advised that parking measures could only be enforced where there was appropriate signage and had sent a form to apply for these. Cllr Proctor added that for limiting parking on the public highway, a parking order would have to be applied for and could only implemented by Highways. It was discussed and agreed to form a working party to survey the parking issues in the village and report back to the November meeting. Cllrs Cass, Duffield and Courtman agreed to work on this and PCSO Richardson would be asked to be involved.
MOTION: Deferred until the working party have reported back.
- vi **Reports from outside bodies, training courses etc:** No items

21.103 Planning:

- i **Update on planning applications and agreement on PC responses:** The following were discussed, and responses agreed:

21/001724 /FUL	65 Eastfield Drive, MK19 7NT	Detached 2-bed bungalow plus parking & new access onto highway	Highways are objecting in any case, but the PC would not comment as the proposed dwelling is in the applicant’s garden.
APPEAL:			
20/02959/ OUT	65 Newport Road, MK19 7ND	9 new dwellings plus access rd. and associated works	This appeal is distinct from the recent re-application for the same land, for 8 dwellings. It will be determined by written representations and the planning group were recommending submitting a new letter of objection to the inspectorate . It was felt that the previous objections may not be considered in full and new letter summarising all grounds, including some new evidence, may have more success. This was discussed and agreed

MOTION: To agree the parish council’s response to the above applications, as outlined PROPOSED by Cllr Cass SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED.

- ii **Enforcement:** The clerk reported that the protruding wall at Earl’s Row had been allocated an MKC Enforcement officer for assessment.

21.104: Finance:

- i **Reconciliations and financial situation report to 31/8/21:** Cllr Price had checked the reconciliation reports for the current account and was happy the figures balanced. The clerk had circulated the budget figures to 31/8/21 and there were no questions.
- ii **Future Projects, financial planning and budget 2022-23:** Cllr Palmer stated that earmarked reserves had been allocated and should be spent when possible. The clerk explained that the precept demand must be agreed in January therefore the budget needs to be finalised by Dec/Jan, with discussions from now so plans may be costed. The precept is based on the budget needed and must be justified. She advised it is good practice to start planning a year, 2 years and potentially 3 years ahead. To this end Cllr Simpkins offered to work on the potential specification for landscaping costs for the 2 new estates. Cllr Proctor offered to find out if the play areas (LEAP) were included in the transfer, as this would significantly increase costs. The adoption of the play area in the Rec. Ground was not going to be compulsory yet.
- iii **Caretaker's Contract and Rate:** A meeting had been held between the caretaker and the working group for the Rec. Ground, to discuss the job description and employment status. The group had been satisfied that the caretaker can remain engaged on a self-employed basis, on the following grounds: He has his own self-employed public liability insurance; he has other clients; he chooses his own working pattern; he provides his own tools and vehicle; any holiday or leave time taken is not remunerated. The clerk had prepared a self-employed contract and the working group were recommending an increase in rate to [REDACTED]/hour. Both were discussed and agreed.
MOTION: To approve the contract and new hourly rate for the caretaker PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew, SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED.
- iv **Approval of Payments:** The list below had been circulated and there were no queries:

Date	Invoice from	For	Net	Vat	Total
05/08/2021	MK Play Association	Summer play sessions	£ 2,704.00	£ -	£ 2,704.00
11/08/2021	Rubbish2Go	Allotment clearance	£ 245.83	£ 49.17	£ 295.00
17/08/2021	1st Containers Ltd	Container for allotments	£ 5,898.00	£ -	£ 5,898.00
27/08/2021	Xtreme Cleaning	PAT testing - community hall	£ 65.00	£ 13.00	£ 78.00
30/08/2021	RTM Landscaping	Aug Landscape Maint	£ 979.17	£ 195.83	£ 1,175.00
30/08/2021	Tara Davies	Pavilion & hall Cleaning Aug	Expected		£ -
31/08/2021	John Sharpe	Aug Caretaking + materials	£ 389.95		£ 389.95
31/08/2021	Trendrevel Services	Ground and Drainage Investigations	£ 3,522.50	£ 704.50	£ 4,227.00
01/09/2021	Marcus Young Environmental Services	Bins and dog Bins - Aug	£ 484.50	£ 96.90	£ 581.40
05/09/2021	Tove Landscapes (Lotte)	Aug Rec Ground Maintenance	£ 788.33	£ 157.67	£ 946.00
06/09/2021	Milton Keynes Council	Business Rates - Community Hall Monthly	£ 194.00		£ 194.00
13/09/2021	A & B Services	Fire Safety Inspection - Hall	£200		£200
03/09/2021	G Merry	Expenses reimbursement			£ 62.92
03/09/2021	Brian Cass	Reimbursement - allotment items: post sockets & drop bolt, lock for container, lock bars, steel tube, nuts/bolts/washers	£384.65		£ 384.65

10/09/2021	All Round Property & Garden	Bench installation at pond	£360.00		£360.00
Grant Applications					
01/09/2021	Hanslope Village Hall	Annual Support Grant	£ 4,000.00		£ 4,000.00
01/09/2021	Hanslope Hornets Football Club	Grant towards portable floodlights	£ 4,000.00		£ 4,000.00
01/09/2021	Church of St James the Great	Funding towards Repair of Church Clock	£11,942	Total cost of repairing clock - VAT to be added	
PAID					
02/08/2021	Reimburse Mr Cass	Asbestos testing kit	£ 59.95	£ -	£ 59.95
02/08/2021	British Gas 603150042	Pavilion Elec	£ 34.34	£ 1.71	£ 36.05
02/08/2021	British Gas 603150043	Pavilion Elec	£ 8.88	£ 0.44	£ 9.32
02/08/2021	EON	Hall - Elec	£ 114.82	£ 5.74	£ 120.56
22/08/2021	Zoom Communications	Monthly fee	£ 11.99	£ 2.40	£ 14.39
12/08/2021	Argos	Smoke alarm and cutlery holder - Hall	£ 38.00		£ 38.00
22/08/2021	EON	Hall Gas	£ 27.07	£ 1.35	£ 28.42
23/08/2021	Amazon	Tumblers - Hall	£ 18.29	£3.66	£ 21.95
23/08/2021	Amazon	Tumblers - Hall	£ 18.19	£ 3.64	£ 21.83
23/08/2021	Amazon	Printer Ink	£ 32.49	£ 6.50	£ 38.99
26/08/2021	British Gas	Pavilion Elec - 603150042	£ 36.71	£ 1.83	£ 38.54
26/08/2021	British Gas	Pavilion Elec - 603150043	£ 11.59	£ 0.57	£ 12.16
20/08/2021	Adobe	Monthly subscription	£ 12.64	£ 2.53	£ 15.17
26/08/2021	Property Care Bucks	Removal climbing wall and painting - Hall	£ 300.00	£ 60.00	£ 360.00
28/06/2021	G Merry	Aug Salary			
28/06/2021	HMRC	Aug Tax and NI			
28/06/2021	Bucks CC	LGPS - Aug pension contribution			
31/08/2021	Argos	Storage box - Hall	£ 5.63	£ 1.12	£ 6.75
31/08/2021	Argos	3 x pedal bins - Hall	£ 15.00	£ 3.00	£ 18.00

MOTION: To approve the invoices as presented, PROPOSED by Cllr Price SECONDED by Cllr Cass and AGREED.

21.105 Recreation Ground:

- i **Community Hall Updates:** The clerk had circulated the project update and the remaining items were the replacement doors and windows, tiling in the bathrooms, painting one section of floor and some further clearance of the attic. The clerk will action these and advised a couple of applications for hiring the hall. It was discussed and agreed that the council does not need to approve new hirers and this can be delegated to the clerk, unless the workload becomes onerous. It was agreed to look at disabled access as part of longer-term plans.

MOTION: Not needed as arrangements for new lettings will be delegated to the clerk.

- ii **Community Infrastructure Fund:** Cllr Andrew had prepared and submitted an application to the CIF, for a grant to fund the new ceiling for the hall. She advised the outcome should be known in November.
- iii **Trading at the Rec. Ground:** A vending van had been trading from the Rec. Ground and the clerk had written to advise they need a permit. The clerk asked for clarification on council's policy on this. It was discussed and agreed that for health and safety reasons, no trading would be permitted at the Rec. Ground. The clerk agreed to let the applicant know.
- iv **Hornets Request re. Winter Training:** The Hornets had requested portable flood lights for the darker nights and had used the council's grant scheme to apply for some funding. The flood lights in the MUGA had failed last winter and a decision taken not to replace them, as the new MUGA was supposed to be installed this summer. Lack of lighting would mean parents driving further afield to MUGAs in other areas, unless lights could be arranged. A specification for 4m high, portable, collapsible lights was circulated. Concern was expressed that if too much of the Rec. ground was used, the neighbouring houses may be disturbed, including from light spill. It was discussed and agreed that 4 lights would be purchased by the council and loaned to the Hornets for as long as needed, dependent on an initial meeting with the Hornets, to discuss use of the ground.
MOTION: To agree to purchase 4 x portable lights @ £660 plus VAT each, conditional on agreement between the Hornets and council PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Duffield and AGREED
- v **Artificial Cricket Strip – update:** A section of artificial turf from the practice strip had been stolen over the summer and the clerk had instigated an insurance claim. It was necessary to replace the entire strip, as partial replacement would be a trip hazard. A quote had been received from the current contractors for £6302.13 and this had been accepted by the insurance company, less £125 excess. It was discussed whether to replace the strip at all and concern was expressed that this may happen again. It was agreed however, that the strip would be replaced, and insurance offer accepted. It was agreed the clerk would enquire whether the insurers would accept the work being carried out next Spring in time for the next cricket season.
MOTION: To agree the above course of action @ £6177.13 PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Duffield and AGREED
- vi **Trees in the Rec. Ground:** The clerk circulated details of 3 quotes received, to reduce the trees behind the Pavilion. Cllr Palmer stated that only one had quoted for what had been requested i.e. a simple reduction of the lower branches. It was discussed and agreed to accept this quote.
MOTION: To accept and implement the quote from All-Round Property and Garden Maintenance for £350, PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

21.106 Village Projects

- i **Long St/Gold Street Sign – update:** The blacksmith had stated the sign will be finished by the end of September. Cllr Palmer will collect the sign and arrange for re-painting and installation.
- ii **Electric Vehicle Charging Points:** Cllr Simpkins stated that electric vehicles are coming but the issue in the village was locations for charging points. BP Pulse, an NGO was offering funding and had offered to visit the village to discuss how this might work. Cllr Simpkins and Palmer stated they would be happy to meet. Loss of parking spaces was discussed, and Cllr Courtman suggested the representative from BP Pulse be invited to address a parish council meeting, if the scheme was considered viable for Hanslope.

- iii **Bins and Dog Bins:** The new dog bins had still not been received by the contractor. Cllr Cass requested a dog waste bin by the allotments and the clerk agreed to implement this, in place of the one in the Bloor estate which had been rejected by the residents. Cllr Simpkins expressed concern there were now not enough litter bins in the village and is working with the contractor to produce an audit of current bins. A specification will also be drawn up in preparation for tendering out this service.
- iv **Williams Close Hedge:** This hedge has been trimmed twice a year as a service to the pensioners in the bungalows in Williams Close, since no other authority would take it on. The clerk asked for agreement to spend the money which had been £1050 in February. Concern was expressed about continuing to offer the service ad infinitum, but it was agreed to have the work carried out this Autumn and review after that.
- v **Church of St James the Great:** The church had requested funding for the bells, spire and clock, although had noted the LGA 1894 does not allow parish councils to fund churches. The clerk had contacted the auditor who had advised the Parish Council Act 1957 gives PCs the power to provide public clocks. The amount required to restore the clock was £11,942. Some concern was expressed it might not be considered a 'community' clock. However, it was discussed and agreed that the offer of £11,942 would be made but the PC would pay the invoices and therefore reclaim the VAT.
MOTION: To agree to fund the cost of the clock repairs @ £11,942 + VAT PROPOSED by Cllr Palmer SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

21.107 S106 Projects

- i **Allotment improvement project:** Cllr Cass reported that the container has been installed, with the gates and toilet due to be installed from 17/9/21.
- ii **MUGA:** Cllr Palmer reported that the drainage investigations had taken place and the water had only drained away slowly. Although the drainage company had recommended larger soakaway capacity by use of storm crates, the play company were recommending natural drainage to the LLFA. This was on the grounds that natural drainage has always taken place and the area has not flooded. The LPA had given an extension until the end of September and the response from the LLFA officer is awaited.

21.108 Allotments – Update:

Cllr Cass reported from the committee, that additional items were required/requested as follows: Petrol Can £17.99, Secure Petrol Storage Box £256.33 (up to), Grasscutter £499.00, Siphon Pump TBC. The clerk advised that £3,074 remained in the allotment budget and the purchases were agreed.

MOTION: To approve the purchases as above PROPOSED by Cllr Cass SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

(The following items will be purchased from the S106 allocation: Container Divider, Boot scraper, Ramp.

21.109 Date of Next Meeting: Monday October 11th, 2021, at 7pm.

Signed Date