

Hanslope Parish Council

Minutes of an Open Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 13th April 2015 at 8.00pm. There were 30 people present

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present to the April 2015 Open Meeting of the Parish Council. He introduced Miss Sarah Fuller, who will be taking over the post of Parish Clerk from Bert McDonald on 1st May 2015.

Item 1 Minutes of the October 2014 Open Meeting; Resolved “to accept the minutes of the October 2014 open meeting as a true reflection of the discussions that took place”

Item 2 Matters Arising and Chairman’s Report

- a) Mr Mongston (Resident) commented on Item E of the October Minutes and wanted to know when the work relating to the bus parking in Market Square is likely to be undertaken. Mr Cook responded that it is likely to take place in the new financial year 2015/16.
- b) There have been several planning applications which the council has made comment on. In particular, the new owners of The Globe Public House made a planning application to erect 4 houses and redevelop the public house. These plans were objected to by the parish council. Milton Keynes Council’s Highways department reported that a pub of that size would need at least 35 car parking spaces. There would need to be a separate entrance on the left hand side for delivery of items to the kitchen and cellar. The application has been withdrawn. The pub will remain closed.
- c) There are ongoing flood prevention measures being taken at Devils Dip and Tathall End but it will be a long process.
- d) Mr McClean is the village caretaker and his duties involve keeping the village tidy and he works in conjunction with the Parish Clerk to ensure any repairs are swiftly undertaken.
- e) Development of the old bus garage site seems to have started. The Parish Council did object to the large awning but in any event its erection was approved by Milton Keynes Council. There have been issues over where the kebab van will park as it only has a 3 month permit for where it

currently is. It appears residents in the village are keen to keep the kebab van local.

- f) The S106 money comes through development in the village. S106 money approximately £61,000 has been received from the development of Harkness Court. Initially it was thought the money would go to adult education services within Milton Keynes but with help from Cllr Green, the money has been diverted to the School for a security system, to maintain the pond and parking improvements at the Doctors Surgery (money only to be spent on the Hanslope Surgery).
- g) Milton Keynes Council has a repair budget of £1,000,000 and is currently stating that any repairs required from pot holes to street furniture will be assessed and if thought unsafe, a repair will be immediate. However if it is just unsightly, it will not be repaired and the Parish may have to fund these types of repair.
- h) The New Parish Council will be taking over in May and they will need to consider commencing a Neighbourhood Plan so they can have control over development within the village. It needs to be undertaken by local people who will need to volunteer their time. The Parish Council will be able to provide guidance and some assistance. Neighbourhood Plans can take between 12 to 18 months to complete. Castlethorpe have just completed one so they should be able provide some advice.
- i) The Planning Application to develop the Recreation Ground has recently been submitted to Milton Keynes Council.

Item 3 Thames Valley Police

PCSO Kirsty Martinson said there had been approximately 5 incidents of criminal damage on one Thursday night when a group of teenagers had been going around pulling up plants and smashing plant pots. Back gates had been smashed and damaged. Unfortunately the CCTV she had received was very dark and the images were not very good. Kirsty said it is someone local to the village however without a clear image of the people responsible; there is nothing she could do. Unfortunately she did not have any crime stats as the police computer system had recently been changed. Castlethorpe had had three burglaries since Christmas so please ensure all windows and doors are locked even when working in the garden. Keep garage doors

closed or at least pulled down so that no one passing by can see into them. If any of the Residents would like a security assessment on their property Kirsty would like them to contact her to arrange a suitable time and date. Thames Valley Police are due to lose two Police Officers and two Police Community Support Officers due to retirement and redeployment.

Item 4 Open Forum

- a) Mr Coles (Resident) would like to know which councillors will be retiring from the parish council. Cllrs Cook, Geary, Lancaster, Hayward. He also asked if there is any financial gain for the village from the solar farm at Littlewood Farm. Cllr Cook responded there would be however the offer given had been different to that initially offered by the developers so the parish council have written asking them to reconsider.
- b) Mrs Taylor (Resident) – Vehicles are speeding along Bullington End to the dip where Leamington Farm is so could anything be done about this. Cllr Geary is currently lobbying for a one way narrowing system to be put in place. There will have to be a consultation and this could be quite lengthy.
- c) Mr Rawcliffe (Resident) Neighbourhood Plan initiation – The residents will need to get a team together with the parish council assisting. Hopefully there will also be some assistance from Milton Keynes Council. The parish council have received an offer of help from a professional within the village.
- d) Mr J Geary (Resident & Chairman of the Historical Society) After the gathering of information relating to the old bus garage site it appears the site was purchased by Henry Bellham who operated a bus service from it for many years throughout the parish and was the first indication of motorised public transport to the village from Northampton on Wednesdays and to Wolverton on Saturdays. Henry Bellham was a keen gardener and well known. Therefore the Historical Society Committee unanimously voted for the site to be known as “Bellhams Gardens”. Mr Geary had approached the Bellham Family who said they would welcome their name being used. Mr Geary also thanked the members of the parish council who were retiring for their efforts over the previous years.

- e) Mrs Scripps (Resident) felt the site should be known as Johnson Close as everyone calls it the “old Johnson site”.
- f) Dr Sorrell (Resident) felt that the Kebab Van parking in the Recreation Grounds car park could be a deterrent for vandals. Cllr Cook explained that the parish council had discussed this matter during the full council meeting and had felt it was outside of their remit to tell the Kebab Van Owner where he should relocate to. It was up to the owner of the van to locate a site himself and get the permission of the landowners to site his van there. The Recreation Ground is not suitable as it is in use during the evenings and will potentially be redeveloped next year.
- g) Ms Greaves (Resident) is concerned about dangerous parking as you turn right out of Kitelee Close and wondered whether a concealed entrance sign could be put up to warn drivers. The parish council are going to look into this and perhaps write to the vehicle owners expressing their concerns.
- h) Mr Mobley (Resident) said when the estate was built, a mini roundabout was to be installed. Mr Geary who was Chairman of the parish council at the time said the residents at the time wanted to do away with the mini roundabout.
- i) The owner of the Kebab Van wanted to know if the parish council had any idea when he could relocate his van to. Cllr Cook explained that the parish council could only give permission for him to park on land they owned. Suggested sites The Cock public house car park, BT exchange car park but the van owner would need to get the landowners permission.

Cllr Cook informed the meeting that the current Clerk Bert McDonald would be retiring and has served the village well over the past 12 years. The parish council appreciates his efforts and wished him a very happy and relaxed retirement. Bert McDonald responded that he had enjoyed his time with the parish council and met some very interesting people. He was looking forward to a busy retirement with grandchildren. Bert McDonald was then presented with a digital camera.

Mr Lancaster (Vice Chairman) thanked Cllr Cook for his Chairmanship over the past 12 months.

With no further questions being raised by members of the public, the meeting was closed at 8.55pm