

Hanslope Parish Council

Minutes of an Open Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 12th October 2015 at 8.00pm. There were 26 people present. Ward Councillor Mr Andrew Geary was in attendance.

Mrs Green opened the meeting by welcoming those present to the October 2015 Open Meeting of the Parish Council. The Councillors introduced themselves.

1. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on Monday 13th April 2015.

The minutes of the April 2015 open meeting were accepted as a true reflection of the discussions that took place.

2. Matters Arising.

A Resident raised the issue of vehicles parking around the bus stop in Market Square which they considered to be dangerous and it also means the bus driver is unable to see people waiting at the bus stop unless they stand on the road to make themselves more visible. Mr Geary informed them Milton Keynes Council are due to undertake some works at the bus stop and Mr David Hall at MK Council, Highways dept. is aware of the situation. Cllr J Green said the parish council will look into the matter.

3. Annual Report from the Chairman of Hanslope Parish Council.

Both Cllr J Green and the parish clerk have been convalescing after having operations and the parish council did not meet in August so there has been a lot of catching up to do.

4. Annual report from Ward Councillors.

Ward Cllr Geary said the proposed development for 12 dwellings along Long Street falls just below the trigger for affordable housing. The application was refused by Milton Keynes Council however the applicant has now gone to appeal which was not of any concern until recently when an application not dissimilar to this one went to appeal and won as Milton Keynes does not have a sufficient 5 year land supply. It appears that any application made in open countryside is likely to succeed. The difference between the applications is the one which won on appeal was a brown field site and the appeal for the dwellings in Hanslope is on a green field site. Mr Geary believes the application would alter the character of the village and any residents wishing to make representations should contact the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol (full details can be obtained from the parish clerk or Mr Geary).

Cllr J Green had seen talk on the village website about the need for a defibrillator in the village and in her capacity as Ward Councillor, she held an event for a dig on the neighbouring farm which involved people turning out with their metal detectors to see what they could find. The event was held over two days so she opened up her paddock for people to camp in. The event raised approximately £1300 which will go to the First Responders in Hanslope and Castlethorpe to enable them to update their software and purchase another defibrillator to go in their vehicle which they have named Gloria. If anyone is interested in becoming a First Responder then please contact Mr John Sorrell for further information.

5. Crime report/update from Andy Hipkin, Thames Valley Police.

Unfortunately no one from the police was in attendance.

6. Report from Councillor Dorothy Courtman update regarding the Neighbourhood Action Group.

Speeding – the new SID records lots of information which the NAG have found very useful and have passed this onto Thames Valley Police who will assess the information provided and may attend the village with their speed awareness vehicle. Total number of vehicles passing by the SID when it was placed on Higham Cross Road was 9,484 in one week. Thames Valley Police have targeted Hartwell Road as next place their speed awareness vehicle will be placed. The SID had recorded 19 vehicles being driven at 40mph in one hour. They recorded some of the highest along Hartwell Road. There is speeding at every entrance and exit to the village. Unfortunately the police are short on police officers and PCSO. A lot of the traffic is going between the villages and not just from Hanslope Park. Vehicles do not appear to be slowing down before the 30mph sign but instead waiting until they get there. Some vehicles are doing more than 60mph at 3pm in the afternoon. The NAG will continue to move the SID around the village and send the information recorded to TVP for analysis.

Mrs Eaton (Resident) said the speed gun had been along Hartwell Road twice and the police were going to make it a designated area where they can bring the van at any time. Mr Alan Warner (Resident) – wanted to know if any record is kept of the amount of HGV coming through the village but unfortunately no records are kept.

SmartWater – The NAG have done a deal with TVP and the makers of the SmartWater kits. The kits are normally £40 but Hanslope residents can purchase the kits for £10. The kit will enable you to mark any of the valuables and each kit is unique to your house. In the event your property is stolen the police will be able to return it. If residents wish to purchase one, then they will need to contact the parish clerk with their name, address contact number and provide the money to the Clerk. The deadline for purchasing the kits is the 20th November 2015. When the kits arrive the PCSO will bring the kits to the village for collection at a designated point however people with disabilities and the elderly will have their kits delivered. Cllr Courtman is quite happy to hold the kits if you cannot get to the collection point on the day.

7. Open Forum

Mr Robin Coles (Resident) wanted to know why the parish council objected to the development of 12 houses. Mr Geary responded that he would have objected on the basis that the site did not offer affordable housing and there were more suitable sites. Mr Don Cook (Resident) believes the parish council objected as there was inadequate infrastructure within the village.

Mr Castle Smith (Resident) – Is the parish council going to object to the 15 wind turbines proposed near Salcey Forest. The applicant needs to provide further information to MK Council and as they have not done so, the application will remain in abeyance. Also the wind farm is a non-starter because the transmission capacity is now taken up by the solar farm.

Mr John Sorrell (Resident) – Vehicles parked on the pavement opposite the doctor's surgery and pedestrians could not get passed. Cllr J Green mentioned she was on Western Drive last

Thursday with two officers from MK Council discussing a planning application. As they walked through to Castlethorpe Road at approximately 3.20pm, a school bus was dropping off children who instead of waiting for the bus to leave, they started to congregate at the back of the bus to cross the road. Cars parked along Castlethorpe Road near Cuckoo Hill are obscuring the view which means you cannot see cars coming along. The Parish Council is meeting with the leader of the MK Road Safety Traffic Team to discuss various safety issues around the village. Cllr J Green has spoken with the doctor's surgery and suggested patients use the recreation grounds car park but patients do not want to park there especially as the nights are drawing in.

Mr Robin Coles (Resident) wished to know how much money the village received for Stonepit Solar Farm, Hartwell – the parish council received £6,000 which has yet to be spent. The parish council has yet to receive the £50,000 community benefit money from the other solar farm however they are chasing this and hope to receive it shortly.

Mr Don Cook (Resident) asked what was happening with bus garage site. Despite Cllr J Green's best efforts to contact the developers, to date, she has been unable to speak with them. It appears no work has been undertaken since May this year. The hoarding can only remain there for 18 months.

Mr Tony Mobley (Resident) wanted to know what was happening with regards to the reopening of The Globe public house – Currently the application is with the planning office. Unfortunately the officer dealing with the application has left. The proprietors of the venue could reopen The Globe whenever they wish.

A resident suggested a sign could be placed at Kitlee Close to make people aware there is a concealed entrance there.

Mr Hodges (Resident) would like to know what the criteria is for making decisions on felling trees. Cllr Palmer explained that trees have become a problem because new housing developments are developed with existing trees and when people move in they complain the tree is blocking light. The parish council would like the trees to remain in the village however the parish council are sympathetic to people who want to prune a tree when it has gotten too big. Mr Hodges would like it clarified for the minutes that part of the parish council's decision making process for not wishing a tree to be felled was simply because it might be very nice. The parish council try and maintain as many trees as they can. Cllr Palmer has 150 trees still to plant and if anyone would like some, they are welcome to collect them.

A Resident asked if the parish council would consider raising or support an issue where a tree affected a neighbour rather than the owner. The neighbour can make an application for a tree removal/pruning order which will be sent to the parish council at which time it will be carefully considered and a decision will be made.

Mr Don Cook (Resident) asked why the two trees behind the recreational building have not been removed as they are very near to the building. The trees now have tree protection orders on them and cannot be removed. Cllr Palmer doesn't know about the trees and when the revised plans for the recreational ground were made, it was accepted the trees would be removed. If the recreational ground's plan wasn't going ahead trees could remain. Inspectors have visited the site and the trees are not currently interfering with the roof or drains or the recreational building.

A Resident asked when the road safety meeting happens will all residents be informed of the outcomes become any works etc are implemented. It has been noted that twice in the last fortnight cars have bumped onto the pavement in front of the Chinese. There is approx. 7-8 cars parked on the pavement there. Cllr J Green went into the Chinese and asked for the vehicle to be taken off the pavement and it was moved. On Friday evening because of an event at the Watts Arms there are a lot of the cars on the pavement.

Mr Tony Mobley (Resident) said that the pavement outside Chinese is quite wide and wondered whether this could be turned into a layby.

Kebab Van – Cllr J Green had seen some entries on Facebook asking where the kebab van had gone. The owner's street trading licence had expired and he had not been able to find a suitable site within the village. The owner had approached the parish council however it was not for them to decide where the van could be parked but up to the owner to find a suitable place and make an application to Milton Keynes Council. No application was made and the kebab van was seen parked on a nearby road and rodents had been seen around it so it had to be removed.

8. General discussion

The parish council has recently completed a walk around the village to try and identify potential spots that require attention because they look unkempt. Councillors have spoken to various residents who have left rubbish etc on the public highway/footpaths and requested it is removed. Unfortunately some of rubbish etc appears to be on public land when it is on privately owned property and therefore the parish council have little powers to request removal.

Cllr J Green has noticed the rundown appearance of the telephone exchange and are currently looking into what can be done. Ward Cllr Mr Geary stated it was a live exchange and British Telecom are likely not to want to do anything about it.

Harkness Court Pond – Cllr J Green has arranged a meeting with a specialist to see what needs to be done to get the pond looking good and then future maintenance.

Flooding at Devils Dip – Cllr J Green had a meeting with MK Council and it is hoped this problem will be rectified in the next financial year 2016/17.

Mr Stacey (Resident) stated the works at Tathall end has stopped as funding has been withdrawn. The foot bridge that goes over the brook has been removed which will raise flow rate at pinch point by 30% Left of Tathall Farm House – permission to do nature survey but not yet been done. Trees have been felled by Devil's Dip however the debris are yet to be removed from the brook. The flooding at devils dip has got worse and if a bigger pipe was inserted under the road, it would cure the problem. Instead, water is backing up and going over the top of the road. Milton Keynes Council did say it would be there priority but they have done nothing. The parish council are looking into the matter with Castlethorpe so hopefully something will get done but not this year. DEFRA are going to have a 20-40% cut in their revenue stream.

Revamping of the recreation hall – the parish council will shortly be arranging a meeting to discuss this. Mr Robin Coles (Resident) would like to be on the committee along with Mr Don Cook and Mr Bert Macdonald.

Cllr J Green would like to remind residents that they are welcome to attend the parish council meetings each month if they wish to discuss/raise an issue with the parish council. Meetings take place every second Monday of the month (except August). The meetings usually start at 7.30pm and the agendas and minutes are placed on the village noticeboard (located next to the village shop).

Mr Tony Mobley (Resident) wondered why the cottages were using the wide grass verge as if it was their driveway. He said Christmas Cottage has a right of way behind the building. Cllr J Green will look into this issue.

With no further questions being raised by members of the public, the meeting was closed at 9.12pm