

Minutes of an Open Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 10th April 2017 at 8.00pm.

There were approximately 30 people present.

Councillor Jeannette Green opened the meeting by welcoming those present. The Councillors and the clerk introduced themselves.

1. Minutes of the last Annual Meeting held on Monday 10th October 2016 were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
2. To address matters arising from these minutes: In point 6 could we amend 40 to 40mph (this has been done}. A member of the public commented that the minutes should be available before the next meeting. The clerk confirmed they will be made available within 4 weeks of the meeting.
3. Bi-Annual Report from the Chairman of Hanslope Parish Council. Cllr Jeannette Green gave the following update: Several changes have taken place over the last six months:
 - Councillor Shelia Mobley has resigned as Parish Councillor. Cllr J Green commented that, “We will, I know, all miss you but do understand your personal circumstances which must take precedence. I would like to thank you on behalf of all the councillors for the help and support you have given to the council over the years and take this opportunity in wishing you and Tony much happiness and relaxation.”
 - We have completed the following projects:
 - Fence at the recreation ground
 - Gate will go in shortly – although the car park extension was not put in for use by residents using the doctors surgery but for the users of the rec ground to stop them parking on the footpaths / roads, we have listened.
 - Village hall car park is also complete, positive responses have been received
 - The ponds have been maintained to a high standard, at this point Cllr J Green handed over to Marcus Young the maintenance contractor responsible for maintaining both ponds and the recreation ground playing fields / children’s play area. He stated that the High Street pond is a mature and robust asset to the village and was noted in the Best Kept Village. It has been redefined and cut back and the corners has been redesigned. Photographs were distributed. The High Street pond is maintained in April, May (for BKV competition) and October. He continued to explain that the Harkness Court Pond is a different scenario but is also being maintained according to plan. Whilst there have been complaints he assured the public that it was healthy and progressing as planned. MY asked the public if there were any questions. No questions were offered.

- (Cllr J Green continued) We have installed signs in St James Car Park to stop the long term parking of illegal vehicles and removed the abandoned trailer.
- Best Kept Village – we have entered again this year, fingers crossed!
- New website will be designed and maintained by the clerk to ensure that we no longer have access issues. This should be available by September.
- Information signs giving visitors information about the village will be placed at 6 places around the village. We are awaiting permission from the church to attach one of the signs.
- CCTV has been installed at the recreation ground.
- Dog fouling signs will be put up shortly.
- Purchase of Christmas Tree and Reindeer (The Reindeer was subsequently stolen and will not be replaced.
- Phone kiosk outside the exchange has been removed.
- The Globe – Asset of community value progressing.
- We have purchased an ANPR camera, which is now up and running!
- Hedge cut back along Castlethorpe Road
- Play sessions have been booked for the following dates:
 - 27th July 2017.
 - 1st, 10th, 24th and 29th August 2017.

4. Bi-Annual report from Ward Councillors. Cllr Geary gave the following update:

- Milton Keynes Council now have a 5yr land supply, it is currently 5.1 so we are not out of the woods yet.
- Long Street Road was turned down as policy S10 (the building of land in open countryside) is now active.
- Sadly the lack of 5 year land supply was why the Castlethorpe Road development was put through.
- Plan MK:
 - initially included 6,000 houses around Haversham / Castlethorpe which was withdrawn at the 11th hour.
 - 'Protect Rural MK' canvassed support.
 - Hanslope Parish Council contributed financially to the defence but it was thrown out before consultation.
 - This means densification of current rural areas.
 - 1000 dwellings in the rural areas, Hanslope is not exempt but the 150 houses in Castlethorpe Road will be counted.

- Plan MK is out for consultation, please support it as it is the best deal available.
- We need to bring forward the NDP!
- A large developer has acquired expansion sites to the East and west of the city
- Gallagher own the land originally planned for the 6,000 houses, they will put it back on the agenda and, the planning consultant will be retained to keep fighting it.
- Speeding – Long Street Road, Cllr Geary has contacted the police who have asked for evidence to be put forward before they can allocate the speeding van. Tubes across the road have been agreed and should be rolled out in the next 6 months
- Green bin tax – decision has been made that bins for garden waste will no longer be free. You will be provided with a food waste caddy but not if you have paid the £33 bin tax. As it is unlawful to charge for food waste, a legal challenge has therefore been issued. Both Cllr Green and Cllr Geary opposed the tax. The **public** commented that this will increase fly tipping and queried what we pay council tax for!
- Castlethorpe Road development – (**public**) will they provide money for schools / roads etc? £3 million has been allocated, some will be available directly to the village. (**public**) what is the split? There will be about £500k available to the village, full section 106 detail is available with the planning application. Cllr J Green has worked hard getting as much as possible for the village.
- Roads – (**public**) with Castlethorpe road going ahead will there be help to improve the road system? Yes but we don't know the detail. The highways officers report was not sufficiently detailed but more work will be done to ensure the least amount of impact.

5. Crime report and update from PCSO / Police Officer: PC Andy Hipkin gave the following update:

- There has been a spate of residential burglaries in the last 12 months, 10 over the last year which is a significant increase on 0 last year. There is no obvious reason why. Of these 10 crimes:
 - 1 person has been charged and jailed
 - 1 person has been charged but went AWOL before their case was heard
 - 1 is continuing to be investigated
 - 2 were given bail, these are residents of Northamptonshire
- Cross border crime is an issue, the ANPR camera should help!
- Prevention is the answer:
 - Smart water
 - Vigilance
 - Neighbourhood watch

- We need to work together
- There have also been 12 burglaries in the last 12 months (sheds / garages/ farm buildings), report anything suspicious as the police cannot respond if they aren't aware!
- Drugs – 2 convictions for personal use (although they had enough for supply). One arrest for supply, Hanslope villager. Although it appears that dealing has stopped in the Rec Ground it may well have just moved else where. Keep vigilant and report anything suspicious, call 101 or speak to the local officer when you see them.
- Overall reported crime is up 30% including domestic crime
- The usual advice applies:
 - Stay vigilant
 - Safe and secure – make sure you lock up
 - Tell your neighbours if you go on holiday
- Neighbourhood team has slimmed down. 2 PC's to cover the rural area instead of 6 but the number of PCSO's remains the same. The rural PC's are ring fenced for the community and will not be pulled away. It is slimmed down but focused – split into 3 teams, Neighbourhood Team, Response Team and the Investigation Hub. This will all begin on the 1st June.

Cllr Geary commented that the increase in crime in Hanslope is not isolated as Castlethorpe and Haversham have also seen an increase. Rural burglaries are on the increase it seems to be a popular crime at the moment.

Cllr Geary added that dogs worrying livestock is also a crime and appealed to residents to keep their dogs under control not just because of the impact on the livestock but also to be aware that a farmer can and will shoot a dog which is worrying their livestock.

(public) Concerned that they are cutting down on staff numbers, will there be 'grading' of calls? The public were reassured that nothing will change:

- In progress – 'blues and twos', immediate response
- Not in progress – 45 mins to 1 hr response

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

- Speed gun now regularly deployed in the area, they cannot just pull up and start recording anywhere. Currently these positions are:
 - Forest Road
 - Hartwell Road
 - Park Road
 - Castlethorpe Road
- SID Results – Speeding is a problem throughout the village:

- most exceed the speed limit by less than 10mph
- 94 people were recorded doing more than 60mph in Forest Road
- 3 people have been recorded doing more than 60mph over the speed humps!
- Vehicle numbers:
 - 5500 vehicles coming in down Forest Road
 - 4500 vehicle coming in down Hartwell Road
 - That's 10,000 vehicles coming into Hanslope in just one direction
- All SID data goes to Thames Valley Police, they use the information to decide where / when the van is positioned.
- **(public)** Why does the SID record the speed of vehicles going out of the village? Can you put up additional poles? Cllr Courtman will investigate.
- **(public)** SID results should be published for the residents to view. We will publish stats on the new website when it is up and running.
- **(public)** Why don't they do covert surveillance? Police confirmed that they do not have a covert van. The aim of the enforcement vans is to slow the traffic down not to catch people speeding that is why we are visible. PC Hipkin suggested that it may be worth considering community speedwatch which is being trialled elsewhere. The new scheme has no police presence, some concern was expressed about safety.
- **(public)** Why can't we have a 20mph – Police confirmed that they can only introduce a 20mph zone where safety of children is involved not the whole way through a village.
- **(public)** What can be done to stop HGVs travelling through the village? Shouldn't the police stop and prosecute them? Police confirmed that they should be stopped and prosecuted however, as with everything, it is a matter of priorities.

7. Neighbourhood Development Plan update. Cllr Palmer gave the following update:

- It's been 1 year since the process was started.
- A working group which consists of Parish Councillors and residents was formed.
- The survey has been distributed, returned, analysed and used as the basis for the draft NDP plan.
- A pre-submission plan has been submitted to MK planning for review and comment
- There are several steps of review and approval before it goes to the residents to ballot for adoption.
- **(public)** How long will it take? Cllr Palmer confirmed that some NDP projects have taken up to 3 years. We are hoping to complete the process in 6-9 months.

- **(public)** Why is the current plan not being taken into account? Cllr J Green explained that the 'Parish Plan' which exists currently is considered by planners but it does not have the same weight, we need to push on.

8. Open Forum: The following points were raised by members of the public:

- Why did the precept go up? The clerk confirmed that the Parish Council showed an 'overspend' of £22,000 in 2016/2017 due to inaccurate budget forecasting done before the precept request. There was no allowance in the budget for grants, including the £4000 for the village hall or for legal services and no allowance for items such as the village hall car park. Therefore just to 'stand still' the precept needed to be increased by £44,000 (£22,000 to replace the overspend in 2016/2017 and an additional £22,000 to bring the forecast for 2017/2018 up to the correct figure based on the actual spend in 2016/2017), we have then added a contingency to the budget to ensure that we are not exposed to the risk of not being able to afford vital expenditure.
- Mr Grout thanked the Parish Council on behalf of the village hall committee for the village hall car park. He stated that the village hall payment is not a grant but a precept. The clerk confirmed that the only institution which is able to request a precept is the Parish Council, no other body is able to request such a payment be collected from the residents. Each year the Parish Council can budget for a payment to the village hall (a grant) and include the funds for this in their precept request but the payment remains a grant from the parish council and must be requested, discussed and approved annual by the Parish Council. The paper trail which includes the grant application, minuted discussion and approval and then issue of the cheque are then kept for audit purposes. Without the grant application this would be an illegal payment.
- In a village of this size why have only 20ish people turned up? Very little activity from the Parish Council on the Facebook page, why are you pulling away from the website as it is a good website. Castlethorpe have a good website and they are very active on Facebook. Cllr J Green confirmed that we are not 'pulling away' from the village website and we are happy to continue to support it financially and access to the new website will be available directly from there. NALC have confirmed that the Clerk needs direct control over the content of the Parish Council website and, despite numerous attempts, we have been denied access so we have been left with no choice. Cllr Green also commented that at the annual meeting in Castlethorpe there were only 18 members of the public.
- Cllr Geary commented that we need to be more proactive with communication, lots of people did not know about this meeting. Cllr Courtman confirmed that the details had been on the

noticeboard. A member of the public commented that if there was anything controversial then the public would turn out.

- Who will own the open spaces / play areas in the Castlethorpe Road development? Cllr J Green commented that section 106 monies will pay for the maintenance of these areas, we will ensure that we get as much for the village as we can out of this development.
- Development of 7-17 Castlethorpe Road, residents have sent letters to the planning officer, what will the Parish Council do? Cllr Green confirmed that this is on the agenda for the monthly meeting and it had been decided that the Parish Council would object.
- Who is responsible for street naming? Cllr Geary confirmed that MK Council have the final say but the Parish Council and Ward Councillors are approached for suggestions.

Cllr J Green thanked the public for their attendance and continued support and the meeting closed at 21:30