

HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL, CASTLETHORPE ROAD, HANSLOPE, MK19 7LG.

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Minutes of the meeting of Hanslope Parish Council, on Monday 13th March 2023 at 8pm at the Hanslope Community Hall, MK19 7LG.

MINUTES

Present:

Parish Councillors: -

M Palmer (Chairman)

A Andrew

S Proctor

D Courtman

E Price

R Simpkins

L Andrews and G Bowyer (Ward Cllrs - MKCC)

Clerk: G Merry

2 members of Public

23.025 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Scott. Cllrs Gregory and Duffield were absent.

23.026 Minutes of previous meeting held 13/02/23.

The minutes which had previously been circulated were PROPOSED by Cllr Courtman SECONDED by Cllr Andrew and AGREED.

23.027 Declarations of Interest: There were no declarations.

23.028 Public Participation: No Items

23.029 Council

- i. **Clerk's Report:** February closed with income at £182,820 (139% of budget) and expenditure at £211,439 (161%). Year-end closedown of the accounts will be on 3/4/23 with the accounting software providers. The internal audit has been requested in April, with a view to signing off the AGAR at the May meeting. Re. Management of the Hall: The Scouts are launching after Easter, on Thursday evenings with a Beaver's group and hoping to add cubs in September. There is a new Pilates class on a Wednesday and the cleaner has been asked to clean the hall on Wednesday afternoons. There are bookings most evenings of the week, with the occasional children's party on a Saturday. A fairly watertight letting agreement is in place and the clerk maintains the booking schedule, cleaning regime, stocking up on equipment and showing new hirers around. The clerk thanked Cllr Palmer for his invaluable help in being the 'man on the ground' and suggested the new Rec. Ground liaison group take on this role going forward.
- ii. **Forthcoming Elections and Arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council:** The clerk advised that the deadline for nominations for the PC election was 4/4/23 and had circulated the slides from the recent MKCC presentation for prospective councillors. She advised that the council as a whole stands down and anyone wishing to continue needs to reapply. If there are 9 or fewer applicants, there will be no election. However, if there are more than 9, an election will take place on May 4th. The clerk does not get involved in admin for applications, other than to provide elector numbers, and it will not be known how many applications there are until 5/4/23, the day after nominations close. The new council will be appointed on 9/5/23 and the AMPC will be held on 15/5/23. The first order of business will be

to elect a chairman.

- iii. **Social Media Policy:** The clerk had circulated the SLCC model Social Media Policy which identified the clerk as the person designated to post on behalf of the PC, on social media. It was discussed and agreed to implement the policy. It was agreed the clerk would convert the current Facebook page to a Facebook group, to facilitate more direct communication with the public. Cllrs Courtman, Price and Palmer expressed concern that giving too much information, prior to matters being debated by the council, may give rise to controversy or least public involvement, which may be time-consuming to navigate. The clerk agreed to post only what had already been resolved, and forthcoming events etc.

MOTION: To agree a policy and management of social media accounts as above PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED.

- iv. **Highways and Crime Updates:** Cllr Simpkins reported that parking is now prevalent on Castlethorpe Road opposite the Dr's Surgery, making it dangerous for children in particular, crossing the road to go to school or going home from the Rec. Ground etc. He suggested starting the process to apply for a pedestrian crossing. This was generally agreed and it was agreed that Cllr Simpkins should start the process.

- v. **Community Speed Watch:** Cllrs Andrew and Courtman attended the recent Community Crime Forum and TVP, as well as MKCC's Road Safety Officer had recommended parishes take on Community Speed Watch. Cllr Andrew outlined the scheme whereby volunteers are trained to use the handheld camera which collects data and sends it to TVP. Persistent speeders are written to by TVP and penalties may be applied. Cllr Andrew has done the training and will do a trial in Hanslope, borrowing Haversham's equipment and will report back. Cllr Bowyer suggested purchase of the camera may be a future use for the Ward Cllr's grant. The initiative was generally supported.

- vi. **Parish Newsletter:** Items deferred to next month

- vii. **Reports from Cllrs:** No items but the clerk suggested including a Ward Cllr's report in future meetings.

23.030 Planning

- i. **New Planning Applications:** The list of current applications was circulated and the following were the only new ones for the month:

Application Ref.	Address	Details	Deadline for Comments	Comments agreed
23/00413/FUL	3 Gold Street, Hanslope, MK19 7LU	Erection of 3-bed care home, associated parking & 1-storey garage	28/03/2023	Agreed to comment: Lack of detail in plans, change of use situation not clear, location of proposed site etc.
23/00414/HOU	38 Long Street Road, MK19 7BW	Single storey rear extension	17/4/23 (this is date of next PC meeting)	No comments

- ii. **The 'Globe' appeal:** Cllr Price advised there was no new information re. the appeal. However, she stated it would be worth going through the PC's original comments to see where these could be restated, as the applicant had disputed some of the original comments.

MOTION: To agree responses to applications, as above PROPOSED by Cllr Price SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED

iii. **Revision of Neighbourhood Plan:** Cllr Price stated that the group had not met recently. However, progress is still being made and a design and character statement will again need to be produced but the plan itself may not need to go to referendum. The next meeting will be this month.

23.031 Finance

- i. **Reconciliations and Financial Situation Report:** Cllr Price had checked the reconciliation reports to 28/2/23 and all balanced. The accounts by budget had been circulated and there were no questions.
- ii. **Internal Audit Report:** Cllr Proctor enquired re. the issue with balancing the VAT and the clerk explained that the accounting software gives the VAT situation up to the date of last entry in the books. For this reason it does not match the trial balance, unless the dates can be isolated to match the date of the trial balance. The figures however, always balance at year end.
- iii. **Grant Applications:** No items.
- iv. **Payments to be Agreed:** The list of payments had been circulated as follows:

Date	Invoice from	For	Net	Vat	Total
19/01/2023	MK Council	Supply and install White Gates	£16,585.87	£ 3,317.17	£19,903.04
09/02/2023	Tove Landscaping	Supply and plant new hedge inside playground	£ 621.32	£ 124.26	£ 745.58
28/02/2023	All Round Property (Daryl English)	Williams Close hedges	£ 350.00		£ 350.00
28/02/2023	RTM Landscaping	Feb Landscaping	£ 1,028.13	£ 205.63	£ 1,233.76
01/03/2023	Tove Landscaping	Feb Rec Ground Maintenance	£ 788.33	£ 157.67	£ 946.00
01/03/2023	Marcus Young Landscapes	Feb bins and dog bins	£ 646.80	£ 129.36	£ 776.16
05/02/2023	Anne Washington	Feb caretaking (463.53) plus expenses (£13.39)	£ 476.92		£ 476.92
10/03/2023	G Merry	Feb Expenses	£ 19.53		£ 19.53
10/03/2023	Tara Davies	Feb pavilion (£60)/hall cleaning (£90)	£ 150.00		£ 150.00
PAID -					
18/02/2023	Adobe	Subscription	£ 12.64	£ 2.53	£ 15.17
20/02/2023	British Gas	Hall Gas Dec-Feb	£ 379.81	£ 18.99	£ 398.80
20/02/2023	Wave (Anglian Water)	Mater read Nov 2022 (for summer months 2022)	£ 2,370.12		£ 2,370.12
22/02/2023	PhotoBox	Images for display	£ 42.25	£ 8.45	£ 50.70
23/02/2023	Amazon	Printer ink	£ 37.53	£ 7.51	£ 45.04
23/02/2023	Amazon	Kitchen items	£ 9.53	£ 1.91	£ 11.44
23/02/2023	Amazon	Kitchen items	£ 6.90	£ 1.38	£ 8.28
23/02/2023	Amazon	Stationery	£ 3.07	£ 0.62	£ 3.69
24/02/2023	British Gas	Hall Elec Dec-Feb	£ 124.83	£ 6.24	£ 131.07
27/02/2023	PhotoBox	Images for display	£ 20.05	£ 4.01	£ 24.06
27/02/2023	British Gas	Pavilion Gas	£ 40.39	£ 2.02	£ 42.41
27/02/2023	G Merry	Feb Salary	████████	████████	████████
27/02/2023	HMRC	Feb tax and NI	████████	████████	████████
27/02/2023	LGPS	Feb pension	████████	████████	████████

28/02/2023	PhotoBox	Images for display	£ 13.99	£ 2.80	£ 16.79
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MOTION: To agree the payments as presented PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Price and AGREED

23.032 Recreation Ground

- i. **Requests for extra weekly cuts and work to the cricket outfield:** Stony Stratford Cricket Club, who hold a pitch permit for Hanslope Rec, had requested extra weekly cuts during April, May and June, in addition to extra seeding and rolling of the outfield. The groundsman had supplied quotes @ £540 for 3 months' worth of extra cuts and £687.80 for the seeding and rolling. SSCC had agreed to pay for the extra cuts. Both items were discussed and agreed, providing SSCC committed to pay as offered.

MOTION: To agree the extra maintenance at the above costs PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Courtman and AGREED.

- ii. **Private Enforcement:** The contractor used by Stantonbury PC charges £17.50 an hour (2022 price) and is able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for dog fouling, dogs off leads, littering etc. and the clerk had circulated some information. Cllrs Palmer and Proctor expressed concerns that this may engender bad feeling in the village. Cllrs Andrew and Courtman felt in tackling low-level offences, this raised the general level of discipline in a community and this could have a knock-on effect on behavior. Concerns were expressed over the legality of the contractors' enforcement powers. It was agreed that Cllrs Andrew and Courtman would find out more, as well as devising a proposal for number of hours etc. and revert back to the PC.

23.033 Village Projects

- i. **Landscape Maintenance Tenders – update and tender evaluation - dates/working group:** The clerk asked for volunteers to evaluate the tenders in April. It was agreed Cllrs Price and Simpkins would be on the working party. A date in April would be agreed, taking into account the Castlethorpe PC working group's availability.

- ii. **Planter update:** The clerk had heard back from Highways, who had suggested only Ringway would be suitably qualified to carry out the necessary groundwork and that a Streetworks permit must also be applied for. Cllr Palmer suggested that the unknown situation over the Christmas lights made it impossible to progress the planter idea, since one of the main reasons for the planter, was to house the Christmas tree. There was no clarity on this and no guarantee that Ringway would honour the design agreed by the PC. It was discussed and agreed to wait until the issue of the Christmas lights was resolved and then revisit this matter.

MOTION: To agree supplier for the work and application for Streetworks permit – NOT REQUIRED

- iii. **Coronation event – update:** Cllr Andrew advised that the 'Party in the Park (7/5/23)' would start at 7.30pm and it was hoped for a 10.30pm finish but this should be agreed by the PC, as owners of the Rec. Ground. It was discussed and agreed that an 11pm finish would be more in-keeping with the occasion but with the bar closing at 10.30. It was agreed to amend the **MOTION:** To agree to a 11.00pm finish for this event PROPOSED by Cllr Andrew SECONDED by Cllr Palmer and AGREED.

- iv. **Christmas Lights – update:** The clerk had submitted plans of the poles where the wires had been cut, to MKCC and had chased the officers concerned at for an update. None had responded and it was agreed she would continue pressuring them and involve the Ward councilors.

- v. **New dog bins - locations and costs:** Cllr Simpkins had circulated maps of the current locations of both waste bins and dog bins in the village and these showed there is already very good coverage.

He suggested holding off from spending the money unnecessarily at this stage, as there would need to be new bins on the new estates once those are adopted, and this was agreed.

MOTION to agree installation, cost and number of new dog waste bins – **MOTION NOT REQUIRED.**

- vi. **Request for grit boxes – update on current locations:** Item deferred to next agenda
- vii. **Fly-tipped mattress on private land (field behind Hazel Row):** Cllr Courtman advised that this matter had been dealt with because she knew who the landowner was. She stated the item did not need to be on the agenda. The clerk enquired how fly-tipping could be dealt with if the landowner was not known and therefore could not be contacted, because names and details could not be shared due to GDPR. Cllr Courtman advised no action by the PC if fly-tipping was on private land but also offered to find out from the police if they are permitted to give the names of landowners to the PC. Cllr Bowyer added that if fly-tipped items are thought to be hazardous to health, it could be considered negligent on the part of the PC not to report it.
MOTION: To agree cost of removal – **MOTION NOT REQUIRED**
- viii. **Village litter pick – update:** Litter pickers etc. will be borrowed from Great Linford PC and Cllr Proctor would collect and return these, as well as Stony Stratford TC and Cllr Andrew collect and return these. Cllr Proctor will give a safety briefing at 10 am on the day, from the Rec Ground and allocate groups with maps etc. The clerk will arrange for the extra bags to be collected by Serco.
- ix. **Fireworks:** A member of the public had raised this issue at the APM, stating that the use of fireworks in the village is increasing and people seem unaware of the effect on livestock but also on wildlife. It was discussed and agreed that although there was little the PC could do, it was agreed to publish a statement: "Parish Council land must not be used by private individuals for fireworks". In addition, material could be to educate of the effect on wildlife etc., as well as recommending silent fireworks. In due course the PC could consider an organised event when it adopts the POS on the new estates.
MOTION: To agree a position on use of fireworks in the village, as above **PROPOSED** by Cllr Palmer **SECONDED** by Cllr Andrew and **AGREED**
- x. **Update on the Bloor's handover of car park and land:** The clerk had sent written confirmation to Bloors at their request, that the PC agrees to adopt the POS etc.

23.034 S106 Projects:

- i. **Updates:** MKCC staff who inspect the playground in the Rec. had contacted the clerk to suggest the equipment and fencing was in need of an upgrade and to ask if the PC would agree to them seeking available S106 to fund this. It was discussed and agreed that the PC would support this initiative. Cllr Palmer confirmed that the Dr's Surgery project is progressing, if slowly. The designs have been agreed but funding is now needed to pay for the QS stage. He would advise them that phased payments of S106 could be arranged with MKCC.
- ii. **S106 Solar Panel allocation – update:** Cllr Simpkins has not yet been able to meet with the local consultant to progress this but will continue working on it.
- iii. **Public Art: Update from working group:** No progress yet.

23.035 Allotments – any updates: Cllr Simpkins confirmed that the Allotment Open Day will be on 1/4/23 from 10-12am and invited all to spread the word.

23.036 Date of Next Meeting: 17th April 2023 at 7pm.

Signed: D. G. Courtman Date: 13th March 2023