

**LAVENDON PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk

The Pavilion

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Lavendon

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Minutes of the Monthly meeting of **Lavendon Parish Council** held at The Pavilion on **9th January 2023**

**Present**: -

* Steve Axtell (Chairman)
* Ann Kelcey (Cllr)
* Mick Rutherford (Cllr)
* Martino Ginepro (Cllr) Present for second half of the meeting
* Alex Mountcastle Cllr)
* Michelle Ramsden (Cllr)
* Keith McLean (Ward Councillor) Present for second half of the meeting

**Apologies: -**

* Louise O’Boyle (Cllr)
* David Hoskin (Ward Councillor)
* Peter Geary (Ward Councillor)
* Arlene Ormston (PCSO)

Meeting commenced at 6:35pm

1. **Introductions & Welcome**

The Chair welcomed those present.

1. **Budget proposals 2023-24**

Following discussion at December meeting the draft budget was amended and presented to Cllrs for comment/discussion. The following items of projected income and expenditure and were considered in further detail: -

**2.1 Landscaping –** It was decided that there should be a separate landscaping budget for both the Cemetery and Allotment. It was agreed to allocate £720.00 for the Allotment and £2,970 for the Cemetery.

**2.2 Allotment** - It was agreed not to increase allotment rents in the short term but to review this again in the coming year.

**2.3 Village Events Costs** - It was decided to set aside £1400.00 to be specifically used as a donation towards the costs of organising a village event to mark the coronation of King Charles in May.

**Resolved:** It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the draft budget for 2023-24 as amended be accepted.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2022 were confirmed as correct and signed by the Chairman, Steve Axtell.
2. **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of interest were received.

1. **Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

1. **Ward Councillors Report**

Ward Councillor Mclean report included the following items: -

* 1. MKCC Budget 2023-24 – The draft budget is out for consultation with a proposed increase in Council Tax of 4.99% and social housing rent increase of 7%.
  2. MKCC has been approached for information regarding temporary road closures during the Coronation weekend in May.
  3. The A509/Sherrington bypass has been repaired but there are signs of deterioration. MKCC have been asked for an update.
  4. MK East Development plan is well underway, there has been an application put forward for 800 houses alongside the 4000 already agreed.
  5. There has today been some disruption to traffic in Olney to due to a water leak. Traffic management is in place but at this stage it’s not known how long the repairs will take.

**6.6** Bus Services- Britannia propose to run a bus service between Olney/Lavendon and Northampton. Normally an operator would have to give 10 weeks’ notice in order to start a new route, however they may be given an earlier start date. It’s not known at this stage whether Britannia will apply to run a service to Bedford. Ward Councillors have however, approached MKCC for funding to enable Stagecoach to continue the service to Bedford.

1. **PCSO’s Report**

PCSO Arlene Ormston was unable to attend the meeting – no crime report provided.

1. **Finance Report** –

a. Payments and receipts for December 2022 were presented and approved.

b. Purchases for approval – None.

c. Scrutinising volunteer – Cllr Kelcey

1. **Clerk’s Report**

**9.1 Grant** **funding**

£500 in grant funding has been received from MKCC to help support the Baptist Church towards it’s Warm Welcome Space Initiative.

* 1. **S106** **Pre-School**

Funding for the project has been agreed and a draft funding agreement between MKCC and LPC has been drawn up for signing. The clerk reported that the amount of grant funding was slightly less than requested but would however cover the majority of the costs appertaining to the project.

* 1. **Old School**

The insurance claim has now been settled.

**9.4 Devolution of Landscape Services**

MKCC have confirmed that the devolution of landscaping services has been extended until 3rd September 2023. Funding has been uplifted from April 2023 by an inflation figure of 5%.The pro rata Grant given by the Council to the Parish Council for the Extension Period is £1,170.67 and will be paid in March 2023.

**9.5 Parking**

A resident has raised concerns regarding vehicles parked in front of the give way line at the junction of Olney Road and Northampton Road (Opposite the Post Office). The concern is that drivers wanting to turn left onto the A428 have to move to the wrong side of the road just at the junction. This presents a safety risk if there are drivers turning into Olney Road from the A428 at the same time. The resident wanted to know if the painting of double yellow lines on the last few yards of Olney Road up to the junction had been looked into. A discussion took place regarding the issue and parking in general. Another area of concern identified was Castle Road, in particular the bottom end towards the junction with Northampton Road. Vehicles parked close to the corner of Castle Road make it difficult to enter and exit the road safety. Ward Cllr McClean stated that MKCC are responsible for enforcing double yellow lines and suggested a letter be sent to Highways asking them to consider parking controls in the areas affected. Also discussed was parking along New Row. There have been reports of a vehicle parking on the corner close to the junction. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the PCSO for advice regarding illegal parking.

**AP**: Clerk to write to Highways and ask them to consider parking controls in both Olney Road and Castle Road and in addition, contact the PSCO for advice regarding illegal parking.

**10. Specific Agenda items**

**10.1 Parish Precept 2023-24**

A discussion took place regarding the Parish Precept for 2023-24 and it was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Precept should be increased by 4.9% noting that the increase which is below inflation is necessary to meet its spending requirements for 2023-24.

**AP:** Clerk to notify MKCC of the precept required.

**10.2 Devolved Landscaping**

Following discussion, it was agreed to continue the devolved landscaping contracts for the next 3 years.

**10.3 Ward Councillors’ discretionary budget 2022-23**

Ward Cllr McLean reported that each Ward Cllr had a budget of £1000 to be shared across all parishes. Applications are welcome from Parish Councils and community organisations associated with the Parish. Suggestions for funding be sent to Ward Cllr McLean and copied to Dave Hosking and Peter Geary by Friday 10th February 2023 at the latest. Cllr Axtell ask if it would be possible to use the funding to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles. Ward Cllr McLean advised that he is aware of one Parish Council that’s considering erecting a flagpole to mark the occasion. Cllr Ginepro suggested planting trees to mark the occasion. A discussion took place, and it was unanimously agreed that this was a good idea and an application for funding should be put forward. Ward Cllr McLean stated that as the funding is for the current year, any grant funding received would need to be spent before the end of the year.

**AP**: Cllr Ginepro to provide the Clerk with a quote for the purchase of trees ahead of the deadline date.

1. **Planning Applications**

**Previous applications – updates**

* 1. **22/02429/HOU -** 45B Northampton Road - Part single/part two-storey side extension -**Approved.**
  2. **22/02384/HOU - 55 Langlands** - The demolition of the existing porch and garage and the erection of a single storey front extension, single storey rear extension, two storey side extensions. **Approved.**
  3. **22/02922/NMA** - Abbey Farm House - Non-material amendment seeking to change the pile type for the installation of a pile type underpinning solution to support the existing three storey stone farmhouse - **Non material amendment approved.**

Next Monthly Meeting is to be held on **Monday 13th February 2023.**

The meeting closed at 21:00

Signed: ………………………………………………………… Chairman

Dated: ……………………………………………………………