

ANNUAL PARISH/VILLAGE MEETING

25 APRIL 2013

Present: Mrs C Porter (Chair), Mr D Tomkins (Vice-Chair),
Mr D Deacon, Mr T Usher, Mr A Tourle
Mrs H Patton (Clerk), Mr M Lankester (RFO)
28 Members of the public
Cllr P Geary
Police: NSO A Perry
MKC Neighbourhood Management Team: Ms H Baker

Apologies: Cllr D Brock

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr D Brock- chairing another meeting this evening inaugural meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19 April 2012. These were resolved and signed by the Chair.

The chair introduced all the cllrs- several new faces; also 3 new cllrs- Kaye, Debs and Justin, and new RFO Mark Lankester and Clerk- HP.

3. Reports for the year 2012/13

a. Chairs Report –

Welcome

Intro of Cllrs. As you can see we are but few on Councillor Row this year with one new face in that of Dave Deacon, however since our recruitment drive in February/ March time we are looking forward to welcoming Justin Taylor, Debs Campion and Kaye Brown on board at our Annual Meeting in May.

Before we embark on the Parish Council report for this last year we have two more new faces to introduce to you.

The first is Mark Lankester, who joined us after Mary Franklin's retirement from the role as Responsible Financial Officer. He's not had a particularly easy year but is still with us and doing a very good job of managing the money.

The second is Hannah Patton who joined us as Clerk from the end of May last year and has also not had a good year - not all due to the Parish Council. Hannah was unlucky enough to have been flooded out of her home with her family in July and is still in temporary accommodation. She has impressed the councillors with getting to grips with all that the Parish Council have thrown at her and also managing her family. So well done Hannah!

Back to the Agenda

On to Council Business and to confirm mins of last years meeting (available on website tomorrow).

Chairs Report '12/'13

It has become a tradition to mention at this point all the thank you's for people who have helped the Parish Council behind the scenes this last year. First of all I would like to thank Kaye Brown who is here tonight serving refreshments. The following are almost a repeat of last year but always very important people, in no particular order: Gerald Stapleton, who although not as sprightly these days still lends his expertise in matters pertaining to the cemetery, Tony, Pam and Mark Collins for their assistance with the cemetery extension, Nigel Stickells, our webmaster. For a number of years now we have had a planter under the village sign coming in on the Olney Road and it continues to look well attended to. For this we would like to thank Colin Wright from Langlands. This year again we have cause to thank the Community Payback Scheme which provided workers to complete the final sessions of back breaking work at the cemetery extension. Last but not least, our continued thanks for the Cony Christmas tree, which is always a fine specimen on display outside the Old School.

Thank you to our Ward Cllrs Debbie Brock and Peter Geary who have supported the Parish Council and the village over the past year.

We have with us tonight Heather Baker, from the MKC Neighbourhood Management team. The Neighbourhood Management Team do have a lot of input into our daily lives although you may not realise it. The rural team cover the biggest part of Milton Keynes and are present at most of the meetings our councillors attend. Heather covers Lavendon more often than not and has been a real treasure over the past few years so a big thanks for the personal touch!

I would like to make a personal thank you to everyone who has supported me in the last five years in my role as Chair. I've thoroughly enjoyed the role but time for a new broom and new ideas.

Moving on: A very quick round up of the Parish Council's activities since last April.

Accomplishments:

1. The Cemetery Extension – This has become a mammoth task, which for the most part has been handled by Tony and Mark Collins with a little help from the Community Payback Scheme and our councillors. Weather permitting; the last of the topsoil should soon be in place along with a healthy dose of grass seed. To date we haven't spent a lot of money on this project but unfortunately that will all change with the need for professional expertise in the future.
2. Following the completion of the Playing Field and Play Area refurbishment and the Big Picnic, we gave free rein to the Jubilee Committee to hold the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations, which were a great success despite the foul weather that threatened to rain us off! Daytime events led to a great evening in the marquee only curtailed by the power going off a little earlier than planned. A big thank you to all on the organising team and for the support given by all who attended.
3. The Community Speedwatch team suffered a set back this last year in that a part of the equipment was damaged and had to be replaced. Unfortunately that delayed the scheduling but I am reliably informed that things should be back under way soon.
4. Pot holes and fly tipping is an accomplishment in that, we and a new Pothole Patrol, report them and Milton Keynes Highways department do repair them but unfortunately they are also ongoing since they appear almost constantly.

5. Allotments – We have had several hiccups this year. The water meter that didn't want to be found under the mud and debris. The never ending saga of the flooding of the plots nearest the ditch, which we hope has been solved for this year by having the hedge and the ditch dealt with. There will be no passing on of the costs involved for this exercise!

Following on from that with other ongoing issues that never seem to go away:

1. The Pavilion - Still home to a very successful Lavendon Pre-School with children looking forward to attending.

There is a management change taking place and the Pre-School will be run once more by a Parent Committee from September. The Council would like to congratulate Karyn, Kaye, Mandy and all the new Committee members for battling with the PSLA and taking charge during trying circumstances. Well done!

We, the Council are still battling for WREN funding for the proposed refurbishment of the Pavilion. For those not aware our plan is to convert the redundant and flood damaged changing rooms of last year into a Parish Council office and meeting room. We were asked by WREN to submit a petition showing support from the village and were very pleased with the result – a big Thank You to those who signed. The result of our current application will be known in July, although if we aren't successful we intend to go ahead over the summer with the exception of the solar panels. If you would like to see a plan of proposed works we have one on view at the back of the room.

2. Cycle Path – No news

3. The ever elusive re-surfacing of the middle bit of Olney Road is still being chased both by the Parish Council and our ward cllrs. The Highways team at MKC have confirmed that re-surfacing will be done only up to Jacks Close at the time the culvert works take place much to our disgust. We will continue to pursue this.

4. Planning issues – You will be pleased to know that we have no contentious planning issues going on at the moment. Some of you may have attended The Saltbox exhibition held at the beginning of this month with proposals displayed. It was an excellent turn out and I am told comments made at the time will be taken into account when the development company make their planning application but this will not be in our immediate future.

I will leave our ward councillors to cover the wind farm issue.

6. Dog fouling – Always a favourite topic and still a very big and ongoing problem, particularly on the playing field and other main pedestrian areas. Although MKC have continued to support us by sending a letter to all residents it appears we have some very unpleasant neighbours. We are in the process of putting up our own signage but as always rely on residents to report any favourite spots.
7. Floods – Although we have all received updates regarding the culvert on Olney Road there remains the problems that occurred at New Row, Northampton Road, Castle Road and Joiners Way. These areas were touched on at the public meeting held late last year but there have been no further updates. We are concerned on behalf of our residents as potentially this disaster could happen again - and our clerk will probably resign.

Any questions?

Tabled - Finance Report and Village Hall Report

Debbie and Peter

TVP – Andy Perry – Neighbourhood Supervisor covering the whole of the Rural Area

Public Question Time

Break for refreshment and networking!

Q: Was there any money left over from the Jubilee Celebration? The bus shelters are in need of renovation.

A: There was a profit made, but because the money came from lottery funding we are awaiting confirmation on what that can be used for.

b. Police Report –

Andy Perry – Neighbourhood Supervisor, Rural MK.TVP.

AP reported boundary changes- described new area he is responsible for policing, which is far larger than previously.

Sanitised Crime Figures- LAST financial year (12/13)- Total of 30 reported crimes in Lavendon.

6 thefts

7 theft from motor vehicles

3 burglaries (non dwelling- outbuildings etc)

4 dwelling burglaries

4 criminal damage

2

1 drug offences

1 making off without payment

1 outrage of public decency

AP 24 May- annual farmers meeting has now been extended to include cllrs etc.

Q: PCSO patrols have been very welcome; what is the strategy for these patrols?

A: there are 4 PCSOs in the area; have to react to calls as and when, but when they are available to do so they are asked to patrol the village as much as they can.

c. Ward Councillors Report –

Cllr Geary- Commenced by thanking the Chair for all her work over the past 5 years.

Wind Farm- New appeal has now been timetabled for 11 June in Bedford (10 Days). MKC has instructed a QC to deal with this case.

Reported MKC had put together a policy on distance to property for wind farms. This was challenged by N.Power; they won overall (despite having lost on 3 of the 4 points made) the policy was therefore quashed. A further policy by MKC will be put in place in future.

Flooding- Caused by wet summer, very high rainfall in a storm event, and inadequately maintained water courses. MKC has done detailed surveys of the area to model water flow, the report this produced is now available and MKC are considering the appropriate measures. £150K had been budget in MKC capital budget for this.

Also the Olney Road culvert also needs work, but this has been delayed by ecological factors (bats that may or may not be in residence!)

Saltbox- possible planning application in the near future. Villagers will be consulted when the application is made.

Potholes- these cannot be repaired in cold/wet weather, hence the significant problems that have developed over the winter. 11 gangs are going around currently doing repairs. Also MKC are planning to employ significant contracts to work on road maintenance.

Cycle Path- MKC had no strategy for this up until this week. This should assist the case, but remains to be seen.

Q: Wind Farm Policy

Q: For the June appeal for the wind farm- do the local objectors (BLOT etc) all work together?

A: Yes, it is a joint submission all being handled by one barrister.

d. Finance Report – This was introduced by CP; and any questions were invited.

Public Question Time

Q: Parking in New Row- please could you update us?

A: Resources at MK were very stretched, so it has been delayed. However, a sum was put aside in the PC precept for this; but we can only move as fast as MKC allow.

Cllr G added that R Duffil has now moved roles. However, as flood attenuation work is due to take place in New Row the parking work can be addressed simultaneously.

Q: A comment was made that the Minutes from the PC meeting had been slow to appear. It was suggested that “draft” minutes could be uploaded to the website directly after meetings.

A: this had been noted and would be considered.

Break for refreshment and open session

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Signed

Dated

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