

**LAVENDON PARISH COUNCIL**

 Clerk

The Pavilion

 63a High Street

 Lavendon

MK46 4HA

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

**Present**: -

* Alex Mountcastle (Cllr)
* Ann Kelcey (Cllr & Acting Chair)
* Michelle Ramsden (Cllr)
* Mick Rutherford (Cllr)
* Martino Ginepro (Cllr)
* Louise McKenzie (Cllr)
* Pam Ayres (Clerk)
* Peter Geary (Ward Councillor)

**Welcome by the Chair**

Acting chair, Cllr Kelcey welcomed those present to the meeting.

**Open Forum**

There were two members of the public present. Also present was Mr Gary Manning who was seeking co-option onto the Parish Council.

One resident spoke regarding concerns over the recent planning application submitted for 26 dwellings at land South West of Uphoe Manor Farm, Bedford Road. He was particularly concerned in which the application had been received and the likely implications for the village were it to be given approval. The resident also voiced concerns surrounding the lack of consultation prior to the application being submitted.

**1**. **To elect Chair**

It was proposed by Cllr Mountcastle and seconded by Cllr Ramsden and unanimously agreed that Cllr McKenzie be appointed Chair. Cllr McKenzie duly accepted the proposal.

 **Resolved:** – That Councillor Louise McKenzie be appointed as Chair.

 **Cllr McKenzie took over as Chair for the remainer of the meeting**.

**2. To elect to Co-opt Councillor**

It was proposed by Cllr Rutherford, seconded by Cllr Mountcastle, and unanimously agreed that Mr Gary Manning be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

 **Resolved**: To co-opt Mr Gary Manning onto the Parish Council.

 **Signing of Acceptance of Office**

 The signing of the acceptance of office was duly completed by Cllr McKenzie and Cllr Manning.

**3. To accept apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Axtell, PCSO Arlene Ormston, Ward Councillors Debbie Whitworth, and Keith McLean.

**4. Declaration of Interest in items on the agenda**

Cllr McKenzie expressed a personal interest in item 10 on the agenda.

**5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2023
Resolved**: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2023 be approved. The minutes were duly signed by the Chair.

**6. To receive PCSO’s Report**

PCSO Arlene Ormston was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following crime report for the period 11/09/23 – 09/10/23.

 ***Crime Report Incidents from 11/09/2023 – 09/10/2023***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Antisocial behaviour | September 2023 |
| Theft | October 2023 |

***Other Incidents in surrounding villages***

|  |
| --- |
| Hare Coursing – Chicheley, Lavendon |
|  |
|  |
|  |

 **7 To receive Ward Councillors Report**

 Ward Cllr Peter Geary’s report included the following items: -

**7.1 Turvey – Bridge Closure**

The bridge closure at Turvey has caused considerable disruption to travel in the last few weeks. The disruption is not expected to last much longer as the roadworks are due to completed within the next couple of weeks.

**7.2 MKCCC - New City Plan**

CllrGeary recently attended a meeting to discuss the New City Plan which will take forward MKCC’s Strategy for 2050. It is a bold and ambitious vision for MK over the next 27 years. MKCC must grow and in the last year alone 60,000 more houses were allocated for development, 20,000 already have planning permission, a further 40,000 are needed. Undoubtedly, some of these will come from outside the city boundary. This is a watching brief for now.

**Ward Cllr Debbie Whitworth who was unable to attend the meeting provided the following report: -**

 **Buses**.

*“Much hype going around on social media regarding the buses, nothing has changed. The sum of money being branded about is not new, and what is for MK it’s not nearly enough.*

 *Ward are doing everything in our powers to make sure residents have what they need and I will continue to promote their use. Material for the big bus campaign will be ready soon and I will be circulating throughout the ward.*

 *Everyone has a part to play, and we all need to use them when we can. Let’s show the operators at the end of the year these routes ‘are viable’ to continue running into next year and beyond.*

 *When I’m out and about I’ve been telling our residents and the wider communities to use them or lose them. Everyone is aware of how important it is to use public transport and this winter we will be getting the message across*

 *With the cost of fuel and the ever-increasing awareness of environmental issues, there’s never been a better time to either try the bus for the first time, or in fact return to choosing this as a regular mode of transport.*

 *Getting our residents and those from our surrounding villages and visitors to use these buses will go a long way to ensure the long term sustainability for ‘all’. keeping everyone connected and I'm campaigning hard on this.*

 *Buses are a lifeline – they connect us and provide access to life’s opportunities through education, training and work.*

 *They also boost the economy, reduce congestion and pollution and improve our health and wellbeing.*

 *Together let’s USE them.”*

Ward Councillor Peter Geary commented that it costs around £100,000 per annum to keep the bus service running and it’s a case waiting to see what happens at the end of the year.

**8. To receive Finance Report**

**8.1 Receipts & Payments**

The Parish Council received the schedule of receipts and payments for September 2023.

**Resolved:** That the schedule of receipts and payments made during September 2023 as circulated, be approved.

**8.2** **Scrutinising volunteer**

Cllr Kelcey

**8.3** **Purchases for approval**

The Clerk provided details of a quote received from Quercus Tree Specialists in the sum of £650.00 for tree work to be carried out at Soames Green and other parts of the village. A discussion took place, and it was agreed to accept the quote and for the work to go ahead.

**Resolved:** That the quote be accepted and the Clerk to arrange for the work to go ahead.

**9. Clerk’s Report**

**9.1 Old School – Proposed toilet Refurbishment**

A proposal has been received from Little Birches Nursery for the refurbishment of the toilets at the Old School. The proposal is for the fitting out of new toilets, flooring and painting the walls and ceilings. A discussion took place, and it was agreed that in order to reach a decision further information was needed.

**AP1:** Clerk to request from the tenant a detailed plan of the proposed works.

**9.2 Gate - Launden House in the Harrold Road.**

 The owners of Launden House in Harrold Road wanted to make the Parish Council aware that they are proposing to put a small gate in the hedge (1m wide gate) on a plot of land adjoining the A428 which they purchased in 2007. At the time of purchase, they contacted MKCC to enquire if they needed permission and were advised permission wasn’t needed. They plan to do the work sometime this winter when the foliage is at its minimum.

It was noted that permission had been sought from MKCC to erect a gate, but it wasn’t deemed necessary.

**9.3 Application for Exclusive Rights of an ashes plot**

An application has been received for the purchase of ashes plots, to include exclusive rights of burial at the Cemetery. The applicant is not a resident but has very close ties with the village. Several close family members have lived in the village and are buried at the Cemetery. A discussion took place, and it was unanimously agreed to accept the application.

 **AP2.** Clerk to inform the applicant accordingly.

**9.4** **Waste Collections Update**The Clerk reported that she’d received an email from MKCC advising that as they near the end of the first month of the new waste and environmental services contract with Suez, they are close to reaching 100% collections on refuse (black bins/sacks) and recycling (blue and red bins/sacks). There are, however, a few issues in a handful of areas with food and garden waste (green). MKCC Waste Officers are working closely with SUEZ to resolve the issue.

From Monday 2nd October the Performance Management Framework (PMF) will begin. The PMF has performance (payment) damages for repeated incomplete rounds and missed collections. It also covers public bins and several other key areas of service.

Cllr Geary commented that the main problem seems to be due to the lack of vehicles and crew.

**9.5 Replacement Bench (Bedford Road/Harrold Road) Update**The bench was originally presented to the village by the Lavendon Old Peoples committee in 1964. The Clerk would like to contact the committee to notify them that the bench is being replaced but wasn’t sure who to contact. Cllr Mountcastle stated that she has the contact details of a committee member and would pass them on to the Clerk to follow up on. Cllr Ramsden asked if there was S106 money available to purchase the bench.

 **AP3.** Clerk to investigate the possibility of S106 funding.

**9.6** **Upgrade - Play Park**The Clerk and Cllr Mountcastle recently met with an independent consultant to discuss revamping the play area at the park and at Dodds Hill. Further specialist advice is to be sought to assist with the development and implication of a design plan. Suggestions are currently being sought from children at the local school as to what type of play equipment they would like. The Clerk commented that this is a large project which will require careful planning to ensure that it provides value for money whilst providing long-term sustainability for children of all ages.

 **AP4**: Cllrs to provide the Clerk with details of any playground design companies that may be able to assist with the project.

**9.7 Sycamore tree at playing field.**

The clerk reported that she’d received a complaint from a resident living in the Glebe whose garden backs onto the playing field. The issue concerns the height of the sycamore tree which is located close to the boundary of their property. The resident stated that the matter had previously been reported to the Parish Council and it had been agreed that the tree would be cut back but since then nothing has been done. The height and growth of the tree is causing the resident issues, as they are having to keep digging the saplings that keep appearing in their garden and they would like the Parish Council to cut it back as previously agreed. A discussion to place and it was agreed that Cllr Ginepro would visit the site and carry out a survey of the tree.

**AP5**. Cllr Ginepro to visit the site and conduct a survey of the tree. Outcome of the survey to be reported back to the Clerk.

**9.8 Proposed changes to consent streets list**

MKCC are proposing changes to the current list of adopted highways to be designated as consent streets. The proposal is to add the Salt Box to the list of consent streets. Currently on the list are Castle Road, Harrold Road, High Street, Jacks Close, Joiners Way, Langlands, New Row, Northampton Road, Olney Road, Rectory Orchard, Soames Close and the Glebe.

**9.9 Basket Swing**

Approval has been granted for S106 funding for a replacement basket swing at the Play Park. On receipt of funding, the Clerk will go ahead with the purchase and installation of the new swing.

**10. Specific Agenda items**

**10.1 To determine Parish Council’s response to planning application No: 23/02041/OUT**

The application is for a residential development comprising 26 dwellings including 18 self build plots and 8 affordable dwellings at Land South West of Uphoe Manor Farm, Bedford Road. Cllr Geary opened the discussion by stating that a petition does not carry any weight, the most effective way to object to the planning application is for individuals to submit their comments to MKCC via the planning portal or by email to DCadmin@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

Cllr Geary went on to state that if MKCC were to consider recommending approval for the application the Parish Council would have the right under the scheme of delegation to ask for the application to be determined at a planning committee or a panel. Were this to happen, the Parish Council could send a representative to attend the meeting. It is but by no means certain that the application could go before the Planning Committee in January next year. Ward Cllrs will try and co-ordinate people around what is going on with the application as things process.

A discussion took place during which various questions were raised regarding what would be considered as legitimate grounds for refusal of the application. Cllr Geary responding by saying that the grounds on which planning permission is most likely to be refused would be on the basis that the proposal is outside of the settlement boundary (Open Countryside) in contravention on policy DC5 of Plan MK and the proposal is also outside the adopted neighbourhood plan.

It was proposed by Cllr Rutherford, seconded by Cllr Ramsden, and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should oppose the planning application.

**AP6**. The clerk to notify MKCC of the Parish Council’s opposition to the planning application.

**11. Planning Applications – Update**

* 1. **Application no: 23/01924/TCA -** The removal of a small Plum Tree at Manor Farm High Street.

No objections logged by MKCC.

**12. Parish related matters**

**12.1** Cllr Kelcey reported that a set of waste bins have been left by the entrance to the footpath leading up to the park from Castle Road. The bins were blocking the path which is a public right of way. It’s not clear if the bins are being used. A discussion took place, and it was agreed that Cllr Kelcey would investigate and report back to the Clerk.

**AP7.** Cllr Kelcey to investigate and report back to the Clerk.

**12.2** Cllr Rutherford expressed concerns that the Cemetery is nearing capacity andthe urgent need for additional burial plots. The Clerk commented that the project to extend the Cemetery is progressing and that Cllr Ginepro has agreed to carry out a tree survey which when completed will be incorporated into the burial extension layout plan. Cllr Ginepro commented that consideration should be given to the long-term future of the cemetery in terms of plot availability and suggested that it would be prudent to plan for the next 20-25 years. All agreed.

**13.** **Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 13th November 2023 at 19:30 to be held at the Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 21:10

Minutes agreed …………………………………………………………

Date ……………………………………………………………