

## **ASTWOOD & HARDMEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 13th May 2021 at 8pm in Astwood Village Hall

Present: Clls John Durden (Chairman), Piers Sheddon and Teresa Giddings  
Jane Brushwood (clerk)  
Ward Councillor Peter Geary  
Kim Durden  
Derek Philips

**1. To Elect a Chairman of the Council** - Cllr Durden volunteered to stand, Cllr Sheddon proposed, Cllr Giddings seconded. Cllr Durden was appointed Chairman.

**2. To receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance** - Cllr Durden to sign.

**3. To Elect a Vice Chairman of the Council** - Cllr Sheddon volunteered to stand, Cllr Durden proposed, Cllr Giddings seconded. Cllr Sheddon was appointed Vice Chairman.

**4. To fill vacancies on the Council** - MKC need to be informed and the official notice advertised for 14 days. There are some residents willing to stand, they will be asked to write a short summary before voting by council to co-opt them.

### **5. To appoint Sub-Committees**

**5.1 Neighbourhood Plan** - Derek Philips volunteered to continue

**5.2 Play Areas** - no volunteers

**6. Chairman's Annual Report** - Cllr Durden reported that Government insisted that Parish Councils revert to meeting in person, no longer able to meet via zoom. This has been a difficult time and has resulted in several councillors resigning; Cllr Durden thanked them for their hard work and contribution to the council.

Cllr Durden thanked the Ward Councillors for their support over the last year and for their grant which went towards the defibrillator.

PCSO Arlene Ormston was also thanked for her support.

The major sub-committee run by Derek Philips has done a fantastic job on the Neighbourhood Plan, allocating 2 new houses over the next 5 years.

The village play area has had £3,000 allocated for the next year, looking to accommodate the under 5's.

The two major assets being the Village Hall and the Village Green Garden have been worked on, the hall having new windows, the VH committee have worked hard to clean and decorate it. The planters look good.

The speed and traffic calming continue to cause concern, the speedwatch has had to be on hold due to Covid, the radar van did attend twice but unfortunately in the wrong place at the wrong times.

We're looking forward to welcoming Jane Brushwood as our new clerk.

Cllr Sheddon had arranged for a house in Hardmead to site the defibrillator, we need further training. We're looking forward to the village hall running social events again.

**7. Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 14th January 2021** - approval proposed by Cllr Sheddon and seconded by Cllr Giddings, the minutes were signed.

**8. Declaration of Interest on Agenda Items** - no declarations of Interest were declared.

**9. Parish Clerk** - Cllr Durden introduced Jane Brushwood, Cllr Sheddon proposed and Cllr Giddings seconded to approve the appointment of Jane from 1st May 2021.

**10. Financial Report** - future reports to be presented by Jane Brushwood as the appointed RFO. £10,347.68 in the bank, this includes £6,000 already transferred to the new Nat West account, the balance to be transferred once the last cheque has been cleared.

The final balance of 20-21 is £8,630.05, the defibrillator has been purchased, to be installed imminently.

Invoices outstanding for payment, BALC £38 for councillor training and B&MKALC £78.93 for annual subscription.

It was agreed to purchase a laptop for the clerk's use to ensure continuity work.

**11. Standing Orders** - Cllr Sheddon proposed and Cllr Giddings seconded to approve to adopt the existing Standing Orders with the change of name and address, with a review for the next meeting.

**12. Neighbourhood Plan Report** - Derek Philips reported that the NP was submitted to MKC for review, it was passed and is now in Regulation 16 for comment, a six week period ending 21st May, once complete MKC assign an examiner and share any comments, ensuring it meets the basic conditions. Once the examiner approves it, it goes to referendum, likely to be around the end of July or early August. The NP committee plans to ensure all residents have access to posters and flyers reminding them of the importance of supporting it.

**13. Village Hall and Village Green Garden report** - Kim Durden reported that there have been no events and therefore, no income but costs still apply. The wind farm grant of £1,800 paid half towards the new village hall windows. By end June the funds are likely to be less than £3,000; as the parish council normally contributes 25% of the running costs, the committee requested that this be paid early, it was agreed to pay £1,000 now and review in September. The Village Hall is reopening again soon.

**14. Play Areas** - Cllr Giddings has completed some research on the requirements at Astwood, parents of under 5's would like to see some equipment that parents can encourage their children to play with distanced supervision. Items cost a minimum of £5,490 for a "village shop" to a "toddler tactile village" for £7,680, these exceed the budget.

The fencing at Hardmead is in serious need of repair for safety reasons and it was recommended that Phil Snell of MKC be invited to both areas to advise.

**15. Planning Items** - there has been an appeal for the 5 houses at Cranfield Road, Cllr Geary recommended that we establish if Highways even did a site visit. There will be a site inspection and the traffic will be taken into consideration, additionally, there is a flooding problem in the area every time it rains, the council should be resolving this. All correspondence and pictures already sent to Highways to be forwarded to the Ward Councillors so they may assist in this, along with the flooding problem at the culvert at Hardmead.

It was reported that the application at 3 Main Road was refused as it is outside the village envelope.

**16. Crime Report** - the fly tipping problem has become worse since the local tip requires attendance by appointment.

TVP invited locals to become part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, it was agreed to ask residents via the village whatsapp and the parish website who would like to be the liaison for the villages.

**17. Speeding & Traffic Calming** - there is still concern about speeding in the villages, we have had the SID's twice and the radar van twice, although it was appreciated, it was considered to be in the wrong place at the wrong time of the day. The community speedwatch to be set up again.

**18. Public Question Time** - one email was received from Jayne Thomas who lives opposite the proposed housing development, she asked for assurance that the PC will hold firm on their objection. Two councillors declared an interest and abstained, a dispensation was granted, Cllr Durden to confirm to Jayne Thomas that the PC will maintain their objection and he will attend the site meeting to reiterate the concerns about the access and speeding.

Cllr Sheddon mentioned that Davina Millership had responded to him concerning the A422 that there were not enough significant injuries and the road doesn't cause enough of a safety concern. Cllr Geary to take up the concern on receipt of the correspondence.

The speed on the A422 makes joining the road highly hazardous, it might be worth requesting a permanent VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign). Check with Arlene the hit rate on the radar vans.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

Signed: ..... Chairman

Dated: .....