**Astwood & Hardmead Parish Council**

Minutes

11th May, 2023 – Astwood Village Hall

**Present**:

Derek Phillips, Piers Sheddon, Teresa Giddings, Pauline Mitchelmore (Clerk),

Kim Durden, PC David Huckle & 1 member of the public, Cllr Keith Mclean, Cllr Peter Geary, Cllr Shazna Muzammil

**Apologies:**

John Durden (Chair), Paul Das

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| 1. | Welcome & apologies for absence |
|  | As vice-chair DP led the meeting due to JD’s absence |
| 2. | Elect a Chairperson of the Council |
|  | JD was proposed by DP (prior to the meeting JD had expressed his interest in remaining Chair) |
| 3. | Receive the Chairpersons acceptance of office |
|  | Seconded by TG |
| 4. | Elect a Vice Chairperson of the Council |
|  | TG proposed DP |
| 5. | Receive the Vice Chairpersons acceptance of office |
|  | Seconded by PS |
| 6. | Receive declarations of acceptance of office from Councillors |
|  | Declarations were signed by Cllrs present and passed to clerk |
| 7. | Approve minutes of PC meeting held on 19th January, 2022 |
|  | Approved and passed to clerk |
| 8. | Declarations of interest in agenda items |
|  | No declarations |
| 9. | Public Question Time |
|  | Flooding – Lisa (12 The Close) stated that MKC had visited site, action was taken and confirmed that the problem had been resolved. It is still and issued and was told that it was the water draining off the field. PS said that photos were sent one month ago to Graham Cox at MKC and he has had no response to date. PS explained that its the culvert backing up and causing the flooding. PG suggested to contact Carl Deveraux at MKC. Lisa commented that there has been an increase in rats and mice, deliveries are unable to be met and it’s impacting a disabled resident at No.11. |

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| 10. | Ward Councillors report |
|  | KMc – Reported that Dave Hosking had not been relected as Cllr. Debbie Whitworth will be the new ward Cllr.  Sherington has seen the travellers return with 5 aggressive dogs. Has written to MKC suggesting that the exclusion zone be extended. A process adopted by Northampton Council which appears to have the been impactful.  Housing development at Junc 14 started and there is an expectation that the volume of traffic and congestion will increase in the coming weeks.  Ousedale School – there is a bulge in students but not enough teaching staff, with 26 parents unable to place their children. Stantonbury is being offered as an alternative. Ousedale have an option to add another class but awaiting confirmation of recruitment of more teaching staff. |
| 11. | Police report |
|  | PCSO David Huckle reported that there had been 2 crimes in Astwood, one drink driving and a theft.  Following a community forum discussion regarding speeding, PCSO’s are now allowed to support with speeding and four speed guns are being purchased. Data will be fed back via community meetings and the Speedwatch team are to advise PCSO’s when events are taking place to be able to be actively support.  Fly tipping – Advise is to report via the MKC website. Have identified 49 sites in the north of the area. |
| 12. | SIG – Traffic & Speeding report |
|  | DP reported session have been less during winter months. Challenging due to the light and weather and such a small volunteer group, but have trained volunteers from the Woburn Sands team.  STATS – some sessions have resulted in no speeding, which could mean the presence is having an impact. Identified a trend in the morning from Bedford & early evening from Cranfield. Have written to Nissan asking them to share our concerns of speeding in the village with employers. There is an anticipation that Marshalls move to Cranfield will increase volume of traffic and DP will, therefore, also write to them requesting the same.  Will be looking to encourage the young family members to participate and volunteer.  One successful prosecution, for a repeat offender.  MKC are currently looking at ways in which they can reduce the speeding in Hardmead.  Main Road sewerage work – underway and will run until early June.  KMc – praised the work done on Speedwatch and asked DP for permission to share with other pc’s the process and data that had been created. |
| 13. | SIG – Play Areas |
|  | TG – checked with MKC regarding current safety reports. PG stated that MKC will have made repairs regardless who installed them. PG suggested contacting Phil Snell.  PS stated that the play area grant has been obtained -75% grant available but need to raise an additional £1.5K ourselves. Hardmead residents have said they would be able to raise funds to meet this figure. PG said it would be possible to take from reserves in the interim and replace the next financial year. Decision was to proceed with the grant.  Flyer sent to Astwood residents as a reminder to tie up dogs does appear to have the desired effect. |
| 14. | SIG – Village Hall & Garden report |
|  | Garden – Astrum removed trees on the boundary belonging to the village green and have since funded the replacement.  Current funds stand at £2,156.  Variety of events planned: June 11th – Village Fete & Hog Roast Sept 17th |
| 15. | SIG – Planning Matters |
|  | Green Valley Barn – DP confirmed that this application has not been withdrawn.  No. 35 Main Road – has been turned down  Solar Farm has been approved by Bedford only at this stage. |
| 16. | SIG – Financial report |
|  | Not available at this time |
| 17. | Chairman’s report |
|  | Not available at this time |
| 18. | Date of next meeting |
|  | Thursday, 20th July @ 8pm – Village Hall |

Signed as approved: …………………………………………………………………………………………..

Date: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….