**Astwood & Hardmead Parish Council**

Minutes

20th July, 2023 – Astwood Village Hall

**Present**:

John Durden (Part), Derek Phillips, Paul Das, Piers Sheddon, Teresa Giddings, Pauline Mitchelmore (Clerk),

PC Arlene Ormston, Kim Durden

**Apologies:**

Keith McLean, Peter Geary

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| 1. | **Welcome & apologies for absence** |
|  | Ward Councillors not present |
| 2. | **Approve the minutes of last meeting – 11th May, 2023** |
|  | All approved and signed |
| 3. | **Declarations of Interest in agenda items** |
|  | None declared |
| 4. | **Public Question Time** |
|  | No members of public present |
| 5. | **Ward Councillors report** |
|  | Not available |
| 6. | **Police Report** |
|  | From 11th May – 20th July no reports of any incidents in Astwood. One incident of car vs cyclist in Hardmead. Report of a suspicious man in Hardmead on two occasions. ASB in Olney Rec & Newport Pagnell (Bury Fields). Three sheds broken into in Stoke Goldington. Car set alight in North Crawley plus damage to a post box. Neighbourhood watch – what interest is there in the parish to provide a representative? AO will send details to DP. |
| 7. | **SIG – Traffic & Speeding report** |
|  | There has been an increase in volumes and speeding since the last report. Possibly due to dry and clearer weather. Attitudes/negative behaviours towards volunteers has also increased. If this continues, we will escalate to TVP to ask for support. Summer sessions are likely to be challenged due to volunteer holidays.  Traffic – DP to write to Graham Cox (cc KMc) regarding road safety, i.e., Repaint white lines at the junction of Cranfield/Main Road, installing a No Right Turn at the same point and reducing the bypass to 50mph at the Astwood junction. PS stated that on the approach from Astwood he is considering painting trees on his land black and white, in an attempt to slow traffic down. |
| 8. | **SIG – Play Areas** |
|  | TG stated that Serco is changing to Glendale. The maintenance/inspection fee is £250 and visit 3 times pa. The MKC supervisor has downloaded all reports to TG. TG sent reports to JD. Report of large holes/dips in the playing field. PM to query with PC clerks as to who maintains their play areas. In the meantime, holes need to be filled with soil.  PS stated Phil Snell (MKC) does not provide any additional fencing. PS will install his own fencing to deter garden waste being dumped. Trim trail is ordered and residents are happy with the design. A basket swing and frame will be added at no extra cost. |
| 9. | **SIG – Village Hall & Garden report** |
|  | The Plant sale & fete have helped funds with £1866 & c £1400 in the accounts. Income is low compared to previous years, but some private events have been held in the hall in recent months. Hog Roast is on 17th Sept and a disco on 30th September. |
| 10. | **SIG – Planning Matters** |
|  | * Snakes Meadow solar site is still waiting for a decision from MK Council. * 23A Main Road application refused. * Dovecote Farm – repainting (samples - continued assessment). * Moat House, Main Road 35 - demolition of conservatory (application withdrawn) * Green Valley Farm - awaiting decision from MKC. * PS added that verges need trimming back even further causing dangerously obscured views. This needs to be raised with MKC Highways. |
| 11. | **SIG – Financial report** |
|  | Accounts are complete and added to the website. Hardmead monies back from VAT return. TG raised a question about playground report costs. PS to forward document to JD.  Grass cutting costs are reduced, as friends of Hardmead church are paying Wayne directly. Invoice to church for the last 4 years will now be issued annually. Julie Betts at Bromham Council is managing the audit and is paid £300. The defibrillator in Hardmead is to be added to the insurance policy. PM to ask Zurich for a reassessment of the assets with Zurich. PM to be added to the mandate. Current balance stands at £10,357. A SID monitor could be purchased as funds are available in the budget. AO confirmed that data captured by SID go straight to the monitoring vans and will support their efforts. PS commented that 2 x SIDs are required in Hardmead – JD will make enquiries. |
| 12. | **Chairman's Report** |
|  | Thanks to PM and DP for support during his absence. Next Police Forum is being held in Astwood village hall on 16th August at 7pm. Opportunity to raise issue about 50mph on bypass and reduction of speed in Hardmead. North East Rural Forum PM & PS to represent the parish. MKC Community Forum (RRK is Chair). JD has applied for two electric charging points to sit outside VH and possibly the pub/Hardmead. Standing orders to be discussed/updated at the next meeting. Church sale is still not completed. Original list for pews etc has been mislaid. New request to be issued to the current Diocese custodian. Tower lights need to be moved and possibly used at Hardmead Church. CIF fund option with a SID available JD & PM to action. |
| 13. | **AOB** |
|  | TG: Overgrown hedges entrance and culvert to Lewenscroft – MKC had dealt with this previously. KMc will establish who is responsible. PM to chase KMc for a response to TG’s email. Add an article to scan to request residents help with trimming? |
| 14. | **Date of next meeting** |
|  | Thursday, October 19th @ 8pm |
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