**Astwood & Hardmead Parish Council**

Minutes

9th November, 2023 – Astwood Village Hall

**Present**:

John Durden (Chair), Derek Phillips, Paul Das, Piers Sheddon, Teresa Giddings, Pauline Mitchelmore (Clerk), PCSO Arlene Ormston, Keith Mclean, Peter Geary & 1 member of the public

**Apologies:** None Received

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| 1. | **Welcome & apologies for absence** |
|  | None received |
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| 2. | **To approve the minutes of last meeting – 20th July, 2023** |
|  | Approved & signed by Chair |
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| 3. | **Declarations of Interest in agenda items** |
|  | None received |
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| 4. | **Public Question Time** |
|  | No questions received |
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| 5. | **Ward Councillors report** |
|  | **PG** reported that the Provisional Parish and Town Council Tax Base and Funding Allocation 2024/25 would have minimal impact, if any on our parish council.  Damaged drain in Hardmead is still not replaced/repaired. Changeable Summer weather has caused a delay and **PG** will speak to Carl Devereaux at MKC for an update. **PS** to chase  Any defective street lights are to be reported to MKC quoting the pole number. If there is no action within 10 days, then raise with **PG/KMC**.  Check that our single grit bin is full. If not contact MKC for fill up. **PM** to action  **PG** reported that the MK Local Plan is a concern to every parish, less so for our PC, but still a concern. Government has requested that MKC has a 10-year plan. MKC has stepped outside this plan and moved to 18 years, bringing it up to 2050. MKC are targeted to supply and build over 60K. There are still 40K houses to find sites for and these will be outside the city limits, potentially creating a new town. There is a plan to gather all the rural parishes together to understand what the ramifications could be.  **KMC** reported that the access road to the M1 will still be closed for 18 months despite raising concerns on the impact for the immediate communities.  It is likely that the No.41 bus may not continue due to insufficient usage.  Consultation continues on Proposed Changes to Ousedale School’s Admissions Policy for School Entry in September 2025, which may cause similar problems to this year and entry for local children  Hospital has the capacity to support the current MK population, but this will be stretched come 2050. The existing site does have further room and plans for expansion  **TG** commented that bins were not being placed back outside properties and left in road. **PG** asked to be sent a photo next time it happened. |
| 6. | **Police Report** |
|  | Report from 20/7 - 9/11  Astwood - Logged one report to Action fraud and theft of a trailer.  Hardmead – attempted theft of a van or intention to steal tools.  Community Speedwatch – PCSO’s are now able to participate in community Speedwatch and will be receiving training in the new Year.  This will not be held in conjunction with the residents’ planned schedules  Two new recruits are in training and are awaiting confirmation of their placements in the community.  Neighbourhood Watch – **AO** has been actively signing residents up for TVP alerts.  **AO** offers a free security assessment to all residents.  The next Rural Community Forum in Emberton is on Wednesday 6th December at 7 pm in Emberton Sports & Social Club & Pavilion, Hulton Drive, Emberton, MK46 5BS. |
| 7. | **SIG – Traffic & Speeding Report** |
|  | **DP** tabled report from Aug – Nov 2023  Currently a small team of 8 volunteers and still recruiting. Weather and daylight hours are inhibiting sessions.  Initially witnessed a downward trend on speeding but now seeing higher speeds and higher volume. Have requested assistance from TVP to identify frequent offenders.  **KMC** – New Commander is keen to be involved with speeding issues.  Still awaiting confirmation from MKC regarding several outstanding issues, white lining, speed reduction, signage. **DP** to chase  **JD** – How many letters have been sent to the 107 offenders? **DP** unable to confirm and will request a report.  **DP** will represent community Speedwatch on 20th Nov at the Task & Finish Group.  **DP** concerned that without more interest from the Police and MKC, we will lose the volunteers.  30mph Speed limit for Hardmead promised by the end of the year seems to have been forgotten by MKC. **DP** to chase  SID grant application is in and awaiting outcome. |
| 8. | **SIG – Play Areas** |
|  | Hardmead – Serco had not completed work before the end of their contract. **KMC** suggested that Nicholas Hannan is the contact at MKC and **PS** to chase installation of new equipment.  **TG** commented that mole holes have appeared. **PG** suggested we investigate forms of eradication. The litter has increased but then the area has been well used in the summer months. **JD** to look into |
| 9. | **SIG – Village Hall & Garden Report** |
|  | Annual report shows a loss of £488 due to a substantially large electricity bill. Three main events, plus coffee mornings have been successful and well supported by new residents. New hedge about to be planted between the new development and the village green. |
| 10. | **Marston Vale Covenant** |
|  | Donate and assist with new hedge planting will be managed for 15 years. Agreed by Councillors |
| 11. | **SIG – Planning Matters** |
|  | Green Valley Farm industrial unit approved.  Solar Farm has been approved but will not commence for a further 2 years as there is currently no grid capacity. Although **JD** has not seen any official documentation to confirm application has been approved.  Cranfield Road development is complete. No drop kerb at the entrance. **JD** to contact Keith Wheeler at MKC for guidance. |
| 12. | **SIG – Financial Report** |
|  | Current balance is £12,695  £500 Hardship grant received via MKC  Cllrs agreed budget for 2024/25  Julie Betts, Bromham PC Clerk paid £300 for doing Internal Audit and finalising AGAR documents  Exemption from Full Audit is available, as turnover is less than £25k. **TG** proposed **PS** seconded  **DP** to upload to website documents as soon as **JD** has finalised them |
| 13. | **Approval of Standing Orders** |
|  | Approval received from all councillors |
| 14.. | **Chairmans Report** |
|  | Flooding on Cranfield & Main Road junction resolved  Pothole repairs in Astwood are substandard. **PG** will investigate with MKC  **JD** attended the North East Rural Community Forum, which includes the Police, MKC Highways and Councillors & Clerks. Next meeting is December 6th in Emberton VH at 7.00pm  Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator to be invited to the next meeting. **PM** to action  Overhanging hedges & brambles on boundary line of properties in Astwood – **JD** suggested we speak directly to homeowners to make them aware of the infringements on public footpaths. |
| 13. | **Dates of next meeting** (2024) Jan 11th, May 9th, July 18th, October 10th |
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| 14. | **Close** |