**ASTWOOD & HARDMEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes** of the meeting held Thursday 19th January at 8.00pm in Astwood Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs John Durden (Chair), Teresa Giddings, Derek Phillips, Paul Das & Piers Sheddon

1. Welcome & apologies for absence
   1. The Chair welcomed those present including 1 member of the public, PCSO Arlene Ormston and Ward Councillor David Hosking
2. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 20th October 2022
   1. The Minutes were approved and signed
3. Declarations of interest
   1. There were no declarations of interest
4. Police Report on Crime & Traffic by PCSO Arlene Ormston
   1. AO noted that in the 3 months to 18/01/23 there were no reported crimes or traffic incidents
   2. AO reminded all that if a potential incident or problem was spotted, there should be no hesitation in ringing 999. The operator would decide how serious & how to deal with it
   3. AO and Cllr Durden had attended the North East Rural Community Forum last night, where the majority of concerned were about speeding issues and how to report them, using Speedwatch, SIDS or Sentinel devices.
5. Ward Councillors Report by David Hosking
   1. New waste arrangement will commence later in 2023. DH asked what was the feedback from Astwood, which was one of the trial villages.
   2. All thought it had been a success, but it was hard for terraced properties to get 4 wheelie bins in their front garden
   3. Fly tipping is becoming a problem again in MK. Please ring and report to the dedicated MK Council help line
   4. Ward Councillors discretionary grants are now available, and applications need to be made to a ward councillor by 10th February 2023
6. Traffic & Speeding Report – by Cllr Derek Phillips
   1. The Community Speedwatch programme is continuing, but more volunteers are required. The scheme has been on tickover in December and January due to darkness and weather, but should get going again in February.
   2. Discussions were had about the Sentinel and SID devices.
   3. DP & JD to meet Chicheley PC to discuss a possible joint purchase.
7. Play Areas Report – by Cllr Teresa Giddings
   1. The new equipment has been installed in Astwood and appears to be successful, but with the winter weather it is a bit early to tell
   2. Piers Sheddon has made an application for CIF Funding for further equipment at Hardmead. He believes it has been successful, but awaits confirmation. JD asked if it could be delayed by one year, as there was no money in the 2023-2024 budget for this.
   3. Zurich insurance have updated the policy to include the new equipment in Astwood
8. Village Hall & Village Green Garden Report – by Kim Durden
   1. As Kim was unwell, her written report was read out.
   2. Their bank account is very depleted, due to the Harvest Supper not taking place
   3. The main water heater for the kitchen, the wall heater in the kitchen, and the dehumidifier fan in the main hall, are all broken, and the estimate for repair is £1,254 which they cannot afford at the moment.
   4. Village Garden – the intention will be to meet the Developers closer to completion to discuss trees, planting and fencing. Some may be available from Trees for Communities
9. Planning Report – by Cllr John Durden
   1. Cranfield Road development proceeds but an Enforcement Notice has been issued regarding the drainage issue on the junction of Cranfield Rd and Main Rd. David Hosking thinks that the developer will now undertake the work, and he will now try and get a time frame and details of the work.
   2. Solar Farm at Stagsden/Astwood has been approved by Bedford, MKC approval still awaited
   3. Green Valley Farm Flexible Commercial Unit has been resubmitted, and there are no objections
   4. 3 Main Road Appeal has been turned down
   5. 37 Main Road, Astwood Single Storey rear extension – no objections
10. Financial Report – by Cllr John Durden
    1. £10,230.77 in the bank; copies of the detailed accounts were given to all councillors
    2. Payments that will be made before the financial year end are approx. £4000, which will mean a decline of £1,500 in funds over the year
    3. Budget for 2023 – 2024 was agreed at the last PC Meeting. Copies were distributed to all councillors
    4. The £1,600 grass cutting bill included both Astwood and Hardmead church yards. JD has written to both to request contributions
    5. It was agreed that an increase in the Precept will be 7.5%
    6. Serco to be asked for inspection report of play equipment
    7. VAT return needs doing once payment for new Play Equipment made
11. Chairmans Report – by Cllr John Durden
    1. JD attended the North East Rural Community Forum 18/01/23.
    2. Ward Councillors grants available. Request to be made for VH Water Heater
    3. Cost Of Living Fund – Meeting late January to review position if no requests received
    4. Cleaning up Dog Poo notice has gone to all households
    5. Astwood & Hardmead footpaths to be discussed with new walking group
    6. Hardmead Defibrillator to be added to Zurich insurance policy

Next Meeting: Thursday 20th April at 8.00pm in Astwood Village Hall

Meeting dates for 2023: Signed as Approved: ………………………………………

Thursday 20th April

Thursday 20th July Date: ……………………………………..

Thursday 19th October