

Astwood & Hardmead Parish Council

Minutes

27th February, 2025

Present:

Derek Phillips (Interim Chair), Teresa Giddings, Piers Sheddon, Pauline Mitchelmore (Clerk), PCSO Arlene Ormston & 3 members of the public

Apologies: Paul Das

1.	Observation of remembrance for John Durden	
2.	Welcome & Apologies	
3.	Approve the Minutes of Last Meeting – 10th October, 2024	
	Signed by DP and passed to clerk	
4.	Declarations of Interest in Agenda Items	
	None	
5.	Public Question Time	
	Owners of the Old Swan thanked DP for his extensive and informed report regarding the drainage and “flooding” of the pub. This was submitted to MK Council and shared with the MP, who’s office has been in contact. At this point, no responsibility has been confirmed by any parties. The report has been submitted to the Loss Adjuster and are awaiting further updates.	
6.	Ward Councillors Report	
	None available	
7.	Police Report	
	<p>AO stated the mentoring of two pcso’s is now complete. She had investigated the church where the window had been broken but it had not been reported to TVP by the Diocese.</p> <p>The report of the smell of cannabis in the village has been reported to TVP and AO urged residents to report it immediately, should it occur again.</p> <p>Crime Statistics 29/9/24 – 27/2/2025</p> <p>Astwood – Public Order of animal cruelty, verbal abuse & property damage is now resolved.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Not crime related:</i> 2 x Action Fraud scams, theft from a vehicle, 3 careless/reckless driving & 1 road traffic collision</p> <p>Hardmead – None</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Not crime related:</i> Number plates cloned, 3 x road collisions</p>	
8.	SIG – Traffic & Speeding Report	
	Winter daylight times have limited Speedwatch sessions, therefore, 9 sessions were held between Oct – Feb. The SID records, volumes, times and speeds. Over a 10-day	

	<p>period 16,308 vehicles drove through the village, 39% were over the 30mph speed limit, 32% were over 60. Traffic was also recorded at over 90mph outbound and 100mph inbound to the village between the hours of 6am-9am.</p> <p>Three years of reporting has seen no action being taken by MKC. DP will write to the MP with the evidence. Traffic calming solutions are being looked at by the PC in the interim.</p>	DP
9.	SIG – Play Areas	
	<p>Astwood – New goal posts will be purchased TG will research. Fencing will need some attention in the not-too-distant future. Possibility of obtaining a grant (ward councillors?) TG to investigate. Dog owners are not using the tie up posts, although they are being kept on leads in the playground.</p> <p>Hardmead – no issues.</p>	TG
11.	SIG – Village Hall & Garden Report	
	<p>KD reported that monthly coffee mornings are a constant source of income and creates an informal way to catch up with neighbours. Thanks to all volunteers who bake and then still contribute to eat their own cakes! Banking online is now in process and requires a third signatory to support KD & BB.</p> <p>Finances are low at £1434.56 but repairs and decorating have been undertaken which has delayed plans for the external painting. Regular Joga classes, parties and family gatherings, help with income. Easter Egg hunt (21st April) and quiz night (21st March) are the next fundraising events.</p>	
12.	Grant Applications	
	<p>Petsoe Wind Farm provides funds for ecological and environmentally friendly projects. DP attended a meeting to understand and clarify how the fund is operated.</p>	
13.	SIG – Planning Matters	
	<p>Keepers Place – New development of 3,500 homes is in consultation to be sited A509/M1 heading towards Salford & Cranfield. This has the potential to significantly increase traffic volume through the parish. DP will communicate the details to the village in advance of the consultation dates.</p>	DP
14.	Other Items	
	<p>Memorial: Considerations were made for a tree and memorial plaque to be placed in the village green for JD. PM will speak to KD for her thoughts.</p> <p>Dog Fouling: Increased reports in our green spaces and pavements. Action that could be undertaken is to engage with the MKC Enforcement team. This is a prosecutable offence and fines range from £100 - £1000. Alternative is to place a camera at various and random points in the village.</p> <p>VE Day 80th Anniversary (8th May): Possibility of engaging with The Old Swan to host an afternoon tea on the 5th? PM to discuss with the Village Hall Team.</p> <p>Report It: MKC website to report issues within the parish. All encouraged to signpost and report any issues in the neighbourhood. PM will report, potholes, damaged road signage and faded road markings.</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>PM</p> <p>PM</p> <p>PM</p>

	<p>PM to investigate with MKC who owns the layby close to the permissive path on Cranfield Road.</p> <p>PS will contact MKC to establish the feasibility of reinstating the path on the junction of Cranfield Road and Main Road which has been obscured by hedging.</p>	PS
15.	SIG – Financial Report	
	<p>DP & PM are currently assessing the finances to understand the processes adopted by JD. Current balance stands at £4,418. All agreed to continue to support the village hall as in previous years and donate £1200 in April/May.</p>	DP & PM
16.	Chairmans Report	
	<p>DP read a dedication: Farewell to John.</p> <p><i>Since he passed in late December, there have been many moments to consider John's contribution to the Astwood & Hardmead community, and more widely. The fact that the congregation for his funeral service could not fit in the chapel demonstrated the regard that he was held in, by a vast number of people.</i></p> <p><i>This moment is simply to acknowledge the involvement that John had in village life, and his dogged determination to get things done, often in the background, without any fanfare. I have found, since stepping up to the Chair's role, that there were many activities which John simply progressed without the need for reward or recognition.</i></p> <p><i>John served as our Chair for over 3 years, and sought to find ways by which the Parish Council held more relevance to the community. I hope that this Council will continue that challenge and will build an engagement with our Parish that John would be proud of.</i></p> <p>Update on Astwood church is that it is now back on the market for sale but deteriorating rapidly. Diocese have agreed to repair driveway for access to residents' properties and to cut back overgrown vegetation.</p> <p>Hardmead have received confirmation of a 30mph speed restriction which will be in force in the coming months.</p> <p>In collaboration with MKC, it was agreed that the PC would sign the Armed Forces Covenant. This initiative is to signpost services and wide-ranging support for Armed Forces members, veterans, cadets and their families. PM to arrange.</p> <p>DP will produce a bulletin of points discussed after each meeting and share via WhatsApp, FB and website, to encourage more of an engagement with the community.</p>	<p>PM</p> <p>DP</p>
17.	Meeting Dates for 2025 – 22nd May, 21st Aug, 13th Nov	

Approved:

Date: