

ASTWOOD & HARDMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Friday 20th January 2022 at 8pm in Astwood Village Hall

Present: Cllrs John Durden (Chairman), Piers Sheddon, Teresa Giddings, Derek Phillips and Paul Das
Jane Brushwood (clerk)
Kim Durden, Cllr Peter Geary, PCSO Dave Huckle

1. Welcome and apologies for absence - The Chairman welcomed those present and accepted apologies from Ward Councillors McLean and Hosking.

2. To approve the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 19th November 2021 – The minutes were approved and signed.

3. Declarations of Interest on agenda items – none

4. Public question time – none

5. Ward Councillors Report – Cllr Geary congratulated council, the Neighbourhood Plan was passed, Keith McLean seconded the motion.

The MKC budget consultation is open for comment, it has been increased but not as much as it could have been.

MK East is still going ahead with the outline permission granted; the process will be a detailed application for housing and highways to start in the summer with housing constructed for 2024. This is the largest application ever seen in MK.

MK Connect is working well for some but for others it is a disaster. Please let the WCs know how it's worked here so they can report back. It isn't possible to book in advance or it becomes a taxi service.

Cllr Giddings asked with the MKE housing, how would the hospital cope, Cllr Geary informed that it is already being expanded.

Cllr Durden asked if they'd had any results about the Hardmead play area fencing?

6. PCSO Report – PCSO David Huckle reported that Arlene is back to work on light duties with a phased return and is raring to go. She and David will be crewing together so may be seeing him again.

David recommended Immobilise, a free to use database to register valuable items so that, should they get stolen and subsequently retrieved, it will be easier to return items to their owners. He is happy to come to an event to sign people up.

David is meeting with Keith Wheeler, the new MKC Traffic Officer, he is recalling the SIDs and looking to repair or replace them, he has also recommended a new method of Speedwatch.

7. Financial Report – Payments for approval were agreed, leaving a balance of £7710.10

8. Neighbourhood Plan Report – the committee were congratulated on the NP being formally adopted, it had been commented that the marketing was a success and the committee have met to formally dissolve.

9. Village Hall & Village Green Garden Report – the committee have £1845 plus £875 on deposit. The hall bookings are starting again for various classes. A new kitchen is needed, they are getting old photos to put on the walls. When the church sale completes, the war memorial will go on the wall outside. A meeting is being held to enter the Bucks Best Kept Village Competition.

10. Planning – Cllr Phillips is happy to take on the responsibility for this. The Solar Farm is currently having archaeological trenches dug, we need to make sure the construction phase is managed well but is likely not to affect the village much. The Neighbourhood Plan steering committee have submitted a neutral comment against the solar farm planning application; whilst the Neighbourhood Plan contains policy EN1 (Renewable Energy) which is supportive of renewable energy projects, that same policy requires the proposed

development to avoid adverse impact on the amenity of homes in the Parish. As such the neutral comment requested that, should the application be approved, the visual amenity of homes bordering the development be protected by permitting solar farm-bounding hedges to be grown to full height, and hedge gaps permitted to be filled (by growth).

11. Play Areas – clerk to meet with a play equipment supplier and will report back

12. Traffic and Speeding – Cllr Phillips is happy to take on the responsibility for the three areas, Astwood, Hardmead and the bypass.

13. Additional Councillors – the chairman thanked Derek and Paul for joining the council and would still like to recruit one other.

14. The Queen’s Jubilee – Hardmead are looking to arrange a party and the village hall committee will also do something, the chairman proposed £100 towards each event, Cllr Giddings seconded, all approved.

15. Ward Councillors Budget – clerk to apply for contribution towards village hall kitchen.

16. Chairman’s Report – meeting just 4 times a year can result in lacking momentum and chairman suggested meeting 6 times a year and restricting to 1 hour. Decision to be voted on at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

The next meeting is set for Thursday 12th May.

Followed by 21st July and 20th October.

Signed Chairman

Dated