**20/06**

**20/JUL**

**ASTWOOD & HARDMEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes following an Extraodinary Meeting**

**Thursday SEPTEMBER 17TH 2020 AT 8.00PM via Zoom**

**Attended** Vice-Chair Cllr Rebecca Geldart (Chairing), Cllr Teresa Giddings, Cllr Piers Shedden

**Ward Cllr’s** - David Hosking

**Item 1 PC/Jul/2020** Apologies Keith McLean, Arlene Ormone (crime figures to be provided for next month’s meeting), Sarah Evans- Parker

 **Parish Clerk** – Andrea Jones

**Residents**

11 residents attended

**Item 2 PC/Jul/2020 Minutes – to be remotely agreed via email and signed by the Chair**

**Item 3 PC/Jul/2020** Co- opting Councillors - John Durden

* Andrea Jones
* **Co-opting Rebecca Geldert (RG)**

RG explained that the previous Chair Neil Sewell and Councillor AnnMarie Duggan had stepped down. The roles had been advertised and with all due advertising undertaken the two places could be co-opted. RG proposed and PS seconded that John Durden and Andrea Jones co-opted and that the necessary paperwork (Declaration of Acceptance of Office) be completed by both the co-opted. Paperwork completed.

**Item 4 PC/Jul/2020 Vote for role of Chair Parish Councillors** were asked if they wished to be Chair. Existing councillors confirmed they did not want to apply for position of Chair and John Durden volunteered to take the role.

**Item 5 PC/Jul/2020** **Thanks to outgoing clerk and current councillors and introduction of new clerk.**

New Clerk Tracey Young, would take on the position of Astwood and Hardmead Parish Clerk starting Friday 18th September

**Item 6 PC/Jul/2020 Village Children’s Competition – 3 entrants**

Village children’s competition, Will Evans-Parker, Aurelia Shedden and Anna Jones. WEP and AS were joint winners. **Councillors will** progress a quote to incorporate the three designs into a slow down sign for Astwood and Hardmead using plastic signage.

**Item 7 PC/Jul/2020 Neighborhood Plan (NHP) –**

**RG** has been working with the new adviser Emily who is now committing changes to the plan which will go back to Milton Keynes and then through environmental screening, with an end of November target. The team had been very diligent with questionnaires and traceability.

**Item 8 PC/Jul/2020 Planning for additional 5 houses in village**

The planning application had been submitted, pulled and re-submitted and this was the third round of submission. As a result, all letters originally submitted would need submitting again before the new deadline of 28th September.

**Item 9 PC/Jul/2020 Traffic calming – Solar Farm –**

The point was raised that at the Solar farm presentation the presentors had said they would record the meeting. They will be chased again. As there were three different councils the application would take sometime to progress. Prior to the meeting RG had submitted extensive questions to the applicants who responded in detail (published on the Astwood and Hardmead website) At the meeting concerns over the impact of traffic had been raised with the presentors suggesting that they would provide a sum of money towards a traffic calming scheme once it was costed. To confirm this would be per annum

**Item 10 PC/Jul/2020 Village Playground –** The playground company used was Komplan based in MK -MKC get a discount with Komplan so ordered direct through council. PC were unsure how much was left to spend. **Budget update at next meeting to confirm.** Outstanding items include a sign (approximately £200), a gate (approx. £300) as well as a bench. A discussion took place on whether a plastic bench (recycled) would be practical as it needed no other maintenance. Agreed that the first action was that **any VAT be ringfenced for the playground.**

**Item 11 PC/Jul/2020 Trees – Cranfield Rd –**

Willow tree hit by lightning had been looking unsafe as well as a number of other trees. A Parish Councillor proposed collating a list of trees that were overhanging/dangerous so that rather than piecemeal requests one list be submitted to see if resources are available to pay for they cutting back of dangerous trees. David Hoskings recommended Nick Ham regarding this. nicholas.hannon@milton-keynes.gov.uk

The village hall committee had brought up the issue of willows hitting telephone cables on the village green and had 3 quotes to cut back the willows. A villager raised the concern that pollarding would be detrimental to the willows or whether they would grow back. It was suggested that the village hall committee assess, ensure the telegraph poles were clear without butchering the willows. Action sits with the village hall committee to communicate back what is planned. JD to ensure village hall committee were briefed with a view to minimal work to protect the birds and other wildlife that benefitted from the willow.

**Item 12 PC/Jul/2020 AOB**

**12.1 Village Tidying**

It was noted that this Sunday was the village green tidying and clearing between 10.30-12.30. A member of the public noted that this was the season that hedgehogs needed protecting as mothers had their hoglets so care should be taken with strimming and removing groundcover.

* 1. **Defibrilator**

An email had been received suggesting a grant might be available for a defibrillator for Hardmead. It was queried where this could be put and suggested in a spot by The Close (postbox). A councillor to progress the possibility of a grant.

* 1. **Traffic calming coming into Hardmead**

It is only a matter of time before there is an accident as the tractors try to turn right and the possibility of traffic islands was raised. Mention was made that signs could help and PS noted that, at personal cost, he had put up signs to warn motorists but they were still speeding. Likewise, there were white lines in the middle of the road that were being ignored. PS had spoken to the Council who had refreshed/replaced signs that had been hit. DH suggested PS write to the ward councillors on their combined email olneyward@milton-keynes.co.uk as putting traffic islands in was more fundamental and would need surveys, a bigger spend and will take time. PS to progress with ward councillors.

AJ queried whether this email could be used in the future rather than sending three separate emails to advise councillors of meetings and DH confirmed it was the best contact for them.

* 1. **Comments from the public**

Every member of the public commented on the application for 5 houses in Astwood noting issues such as the dangerous access, issue of flooding as well as the pond, newly included in the latest submission, being part of the site that is open countryside. The public noted that the proposed entrance is at the most dangerous part of the village for potential road accidents. The ward officers had already called this to Committee and had asked officers to refer this submission to the committee if they are minded to accept the application. A member of the public noted that there were factual inaccuracies in the submission for example there is no mains gas in the village. A request was made that the Parish Councillors minute that they were opposed to the submission. RG noted that the PC must investigate what changes have been made first to ensure the original letter is not simply re-submitted with inaccuracies but reflects the actual changes in the most recent submission. DH noted that weight is given to the NHP depending how far along it is. The Housing Needs Survey is the most important section as it clarifies what the village needs. The 5 house submission does not form part of the NHP and it was noted that this could be noted as one of the objections. Milton Keynes Council look at three things in reviewing an application

* National Policy
* Local Policy (Plan MK)
* Neighbourhood plan, if available.

It was felt that, before the PC could make a decision they would need to look at the letter, identify any additional issues and recirculate to the PC. JD agreed that he and AJ would check the current application against the original letter, re-circulate to the PC with a response by Tuesday so that the letter could be reissued on the Wednesday enabling it to be in before the deadline of 28th September

Villagers felt that the village need to be told again that any complaint letters need to be resubmitted. There was discussion on how this be communicated using the village website. Discussion developed as to whether it was appropriate to use the village whatsapp group and it was advised the whatsapp group was not appropriate for Parish Council communications such as minutes. As an aside from the planning submission it was agreed that whatsapp would be used only to communicate minutes were available on the Astwood and Hardmead website rather than publishing them on whatsapp.

12.5 Village Hall – not re-opening until a decision is made at the next meeting in November. Because of Covid the village hall will remain closed.

12.6 The next Astwood and Parish Council Meeting will be on October 22nd at 8pm via zoom.

The meeting ended at 21.44pm

Total 4 pages

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Signature of The Chairperson

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Date