

# Astwood & Hardmead Parish Council

## Meeting Minutes

21<sup>st</sup> August, 2025

### Present:

Derek Phillips (Chair), Teresa Giddings, Paul Das, Christine Phillips (Stand-in Clerk), Peter Geary, & two members of the public

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1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Apologies</b> Cllr Piers Sheden, PCSO Arlene Ormston, Ward Councillor Keith McLean & Clerk Pauline Mitchelmore	
2.	<b>Election &amp; Acceptance of Chair &amp; Vice Chair Positions</b> Sophie Robertson was co-opted onto the council as a new councillor and has accepted the position. Declaration of acceptance signed.	
3.	<b>To approve the minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025</b> Approved, signed, and passed to stand-in clerk.	
4.	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> No declarations from the public.	
5.	<b>Public Question Time</b> No questions raised from public during this meeting.	
6.	<b>Ward Councillors Report</b> Peter Geary advised from June Report of plans for a new town (location to be confirmed), which will include a further 10,000 new properties in addition to numbers already allocated under the MK:50 Plan. Currently awaiting map of location which is due in Autumn. This means the target of 50,000 new properties between 2023 – 2050 will be set. By October Peter will know the location of where the new town is to be developed, and whether this will affect rural areas. Consultation period must be completed by end of October and plans must be submitted by March 2026.  It was also noted that due to Universal Studios being located in Bedford there are plans for another 5,000 new properties in Bedfordshire (located around M1 J13).  Sherington tipping & waste issue. Commercial waste is being burnt and buried on site recently purchased, which is illegal. Police and Environment Agency have been involved, and an arrest has been made. Peter also confirmed the closure of the recycling centre in Newport Pagnell closing in 6-9 months' time.  Peter also requested that now Autumn is approaching, and the nights are drawing in, for residents to report any streetlights not working, to MK Council, to include the street light number.  Advised that A509 re-opening end of August. At the point of writing these minutes, A509 is now open.	

	Work on the Willen roundabout will also be completed by end of September.	

7.	<b>Police Report</b>  Criminal damage in Astwood – the same car keyed four times.  AO is offering a SCAM talk to all parishes, highlighting what's current and how to be aware of potential scam operators. Continuing to work with PCSO regarding dates.	
8.	<b>Special Interest Groups (SIG)</b>  <b>Road Safety:</b> DP advised he is stepping down as the Administrator for Speedwatch. The Admin duties have now been re-assigned to several members of the group. Gill Watkins will be producing the Speedwatch report for future meetings and will present information at next Parish Council Meeting. Community Speedwatch August Report information sent as a separate attachment to the Parish Council Clerk, for filing purposes.  DP shared he is pressing both the council and the police for assistance in speed management in the village. Murray is an advocate of MK Partnering with an external company regarding the implementation of two mobile speed cameras. Astwood would be the initial test village. The speeding statistics from the camera will be sent directly to Thames Valley Police. The cameras will be run for as long as we need them, but there needs to be signage "Speed Monitoring is Active" present whilst the cameras are in operation.  <b>Play Areas:</b> TG New tree watering bags have been purchased, to replace those which had been removed or perished.  TG Has received a quote for replacement of post and rail fencing around the play area, quote figures - £4,950 which includes materials and labour. (ideally all fencing needs replacing. Will be reaching out for further quotes to include replacement and repair. Awaiting quotes.  TG Advised she would also see if there were any grants available to assist with costs.  TG reported acts of vandalism in the play area which included tampering of play equipment and memorial plaque which has been attached to the picnic table. The Parish Council is working with the PCSO to identify approaches to address this issue.  Slabs will be placed under the bench to make it sit more securely. Currently remains outstanding.  <b>Planning Matters:</b> 1 Main Road – Approved with condition that changes must be kept in line with the Neighbourhood plan. 6 Turvey Road – Property to be demolished and replaced – no issues/objections raised  <b>Financial Report:</b> Provided by the Chair, the Parish Council currently has a reasonably healthy bank account.  JB Made a request for additional monies to assist with costs of external decorating of the Village Hall. Parish Council, has transferred £500 to support the Village Hall Team with this work.	
9.	<b>Village Hall &amp; Green Report</b>	

	No report provided.	
10.	<b>Management of Hedgerow and Culvert in Astwood</b>	
	Peter Geary provided update in Murray Woodburn's absence and confirm that Murray has escalated the issue and confirmed that the hedgerow and overgrown culvert is to be cut back. Murray is currently waiting for a schedule/dates from MKC foliage team.	
11.	<b>Update of Adopted Pathway (Highways Agency Land)</b>	
	The property adjacent to the Main & Cranfield Road junction had responded to the Parish Council's request to cut the hedgerow back to the boundary of the adopted Highways Agency land with an agreement to trim the hedge, but refusal to cut it back to the point of the property's boundary. MKCC have been made aware, and are currently investigating what options are available to make the corner safe (for pedestrians and road users) whilst minimising impact to the hedge or the property. The Chair will maintain contact with MKCC to understand further actions.	
12.	<b>EV Chargers</b>	
	Awaiting next round of funding from MKC.	
13.	<b>Grant Applications</b>	
	None raised for this meeting.	
14.	<b>Household Support Fund</b>	
	Last year, £500 donated to charity as no applications received. Non received this year.	
15.	<b>Sponsorship of Christmas Carol Event</b>	
	Parish Council are prepared to help with this event and provide Mulled Wine/Mince Pies etc, in conjunction with the Old Swan. Pauline Mitchelmore has contacted the Olney Brass for availability. DP to discuss what Christmas plans are in place at the Old Swan (if any) before scheduling/organising a Christmas Carol event in the village. Once event date and format agreed, DP will contact the band to book. PD requested that the Astwood Christmas Carol event would not clash with the Hardmead event PD or PS to advise of their date.	PS/PD
16.	<b>Other Items - Update</b>	
	DP Suggested scheduling community events such as litter picking etc to try to engage with the community. Astwood village one weekend, followed by Hardmead the following weekend. Suggestions for other community events welcomed.	
	Member of public has raised an issue on the Permissive path behind no 17 Cranfield Road. Around 20-30 dog poos had been thrown onto the permissive path land.	
17.	<b>Chairman's Report</b>	
	DP will produce a parish bulletin of the meeting to update and inform residents of the vital work that is carried out on their behalf. An opportunity to engage and hopefully encourage willing volunteers.	DP
	The Chair also committed to sharing the NALC guidance regarding moving websites and Councillor / Clerk email addresses to .Gov.Uk domains, for consideration & response.	
18.	<b>Meeting Dates for 2025 – 13<sup>th</sup> Nov</b>	

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Approved: ..... Date: .....