



2014/01/001

MINUTES of the MEETING held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014

at St. Mary's Church, Woughton on the Green

**Present:** Cllrs, L. King (Chair), A. Humphries (Vice-Chair), S. Bennett, R. Brown, M. Blomley, J. Howson, R. Kenyon, P. McDonald + 7 members of the public.

**Public Open Forum** – Tim Mason had prepared a paper detailing how best to reduce the Parish Council's financial surplus through a gradual reduction over 5 years whilst still charging a very modest precept. Phil Wareham outlined a proposal to improve the No18 bus service having attended a positive MKC meeting, He would keep the Parish Council informed. Greg Wyler complained about the length of time taken to improve Old Newport Road in spite of it being agreed and scheduled. Rob Grindley asked if funds could be donated to local charities. The Chair explained that this was permitted but institutions had to apply for grants.

1. **Apologies** - None (All present)
2. **Declarations of Interest** – None
3. **Co-option** – Proposal 'To co-opt Mr Robert Grindley to a vacancy on the Parish Council'. Passed. Unanimous. Proposer L King Seconder S Bennett
4. **Approval of November Minutes** – Approved.  
**Matters Arising** – there is 1 tree's worth of funding leftover: Proposal 'To spend this on planting a tree elsewhere' Passed Unanimous. **Action All Suggestions by email**  
A Note of Thanks was offered to Phil Nash for organising the tree planting.
5. **Delegation to post notices** – Proposal 'To delegate to the Chair the authority to decide which notices are to be posted on the noticeboards (in accordance with the agreed policy)' Not Passed. For:0 Against:7 Abstentions:2  
Key to noticeboard to be given to new councillor **Action Chair**
6. **PO Box** – Proposal 'To consider the setting up of a PO Box to receive post for the parish council' Passed. Unanimous. **Action Chair**
7. **PART 2 meeting** - Proposal 'To hold a 'public excluded meeting' at the end of this evening's agenda to discuss allotment fencing quotes' Passed. Unanimous.
8. **Allotments, planting of shrubs** – Roy Kenyon reported that the Community Youth Service has planned 14 sessions, 2 have passed. Weeds etc cleared and 40 shrubs planted to date.
9. **Environment Log** –
  - a. Clerk and Chair had not yet met to discuss. Before next meeting **Action Clerk and Chair to confer.**
    - i. Old Newport Road re-surfacing needs speeding up.
    - ii. Ivy serious overgrowth and tree damage Newport Road and canal side. **Action Clerk to badger MKC to start works. Action S. Bennett Photos to be emailed**
    - iii. Dog-bin siting still not agreed **Action J Howson**
    - iv. Turpyn Court sign damaged but now replaced.
    - v. Potholes on the Green to be repaired in the next few weeks.

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10. **Newsletter** – Discussion ensued about relevant pieces to include – Mobile library; CAT programme; Village Green's; War memorial; Tree planting; Precept information. **Action Cllr J. Howson Deadline end of the month.**
11. **Parks Trust/Right of Way** – After much research and advice it was clear that the Parish Council would not be certain to win any action to curtail the alleged Right of Way. Therefore the solicitors had been authorised to advise the Parks Trust that the Council was ready to negotiate a new agreement. No reply had been received as yet.
12. **Village Green Status** – 'To propose that two councillors be given authority to act on the council's behalf to incur the costs of instructing a solicitor'. Passed. Unanimous. **Action Cllrs. Vice-Chair & P McDonald.**
13. **War memorial refurbishment** – the clerk had only found one stonemason willing to quote and this had not been received yet. Helpful suggestions were made. **Action clerk** to acquire more quotes.
14. **Reports from outside meetings** – The Vice-Chair reported on the Oakgrove Phase 3 Exhibition which in summary would probably be an asset to the area.  
Cllr Bennett reported back on the No.18 bus meeting with MK Budget Review Group and was optimistic of the outcome of the Cabinet meeting on 12 February and the full Council meeting on 19 February. A suggestion was made to send a representative to the quarterly Parish Forum meetings. **Action Clerk** to find out dates and times
15. **Planning – 13/02754/ADV Bloom Healthcare Sign, retrospective** – 'To object to retrospective permission on the grounds of visual intrusion, too large, too garish, easily seen from both the church and green' Passed Unanimous. **Action Cllr. R. Grindley**  
- 13/02440/TPO Woughton Park - felling of 15 Lombardy poplars. No objection
16. **Annual Parish Meeting** – 7 April 2014 subject to availability. **Action Chair** to book
17. **Finance** –
- Payment submissions to HMRC** – The clerk reported he had completed the long-outstanding submissions to HMRC after new security codes had been finally issued. Appeal against fines was the next task. **Action Clerk**
  - Woughton Community Council monies** – No further developments. Ongoing.
  - Payments schedule** – Noted; expenditure already approved.
  - Precept** – A change in the agenda was unanimously approved to finalise the budget figures. Budget - Discussion concerning the final budget figures followed and included some reservation about spending on allotments which had yet to be formally transferred from Woughton Community Council. Proposal 'To accept the final budget figures - £15,287' Passed. For 7, Against 1, Abstention 1
  - Precept** – After much discussion about the need to reduce surplus funds it was proposed: 'To levy a precept of £9,000, i.e. a budget shortfall of £6,287, with remaining funds to come from reserves'. Passed. For 8, Against 0, Abstention 1.
  - It was also proposed: 'To establish a long-term budget of 3 years'. Passed. For 8, Against 0, Abstention 1  
**Action Budget Committee: Cllrs Bennett, Brown and Humphries.**
13. **Correspondence** – This addition to the agenda was unanimously approved - to be kept as a permanent feature.
- Announcement** - The public memorial service for Peter Hall would be held on 30 June at 14.30.
  - A Woughton Park resident** had written in to complain about a neighbour whose garden and driveway were frequently filled with vehicles, and items for storage not commensurate with normal residential requirements. This had been going on for a long time and raised safety issues. It was a nuisance from noise from all the work as well as an eyesore. Proposal 'To write to MKC and complain'. Passed. For 7, Against 0, Abstention 2  
**Action Clerk**

*Dates of future Meetings – 17 March; AGM 19 May***The Meeting (PART 1) closed at 9.45pm**