



**MINUTES of the MEETING held on Monday, 12 January 2015 at 7.30pm
at St. Mary's Church, Woughton on the Green**

2015/01/001

Present: Cllrs. A. Humphries (Chair), R. Brown (Vice Chair), S. Bennett, M. Blomley, R. Grindley, R. Kenyon, P. McDonald, J. Howson, P. Nash + 22 members of the public.

Welcome and Apologies – There were no apologies as all councillors present.

Item 5d was brought forward for the benefit of the guest speaker –

5d - Woughton on the Green Conservation Area Proposal – Peter Howard, author of the Conservation Area Report published in November 2014, reminded those present that although only distributed to properties directly affected by the proposal copies were available upon request. Designated in 1978 the Conservation Area was open to legal challenge because none of the original documents and minutes supporting its creation had been found, and regular reviews had not taken place. Although the responsibility of Milton Keynes Council (MKC) Old Woughton Parish Council (OWPC) had supported and funded its re-confirmation and review to ensure its future. He had extended boundaries that had previously arbitrarily crossed back gardens and even back doors and proposed an extension northwards up Newport Road for this seemed to form part of the distinctive character of the area.

Questions – Why was the area not extended southwards on Newport Road? Because this did not connect in an obvious way to the character of the rest of the Green.

Turpyn Court is included – does this mean that the current dispute over appropriate signage will be frozen in time? Unfortunately yes: the ‘conservation’ is of the area as it is, so planning permission will have to be sought to change any aspect. Home-owners will have to abide by the rules of ‘listed buildings’ even when making minor changes such as windows, chimneys, garden walls and so on.

Would it not have been appropriate to include the Orchard south of the Green? No, the area is not of the same character and will be adequately protected [this forms a major part of one of the ‘Village Green’ bids].

Shouldn't the western side of the canal be included with its bridges? This ‘interaction site’ was considered but the risk is it will jeopardise the success of the application, as the process would become more complicated moving into a different parish area.

Why is there no public money available for such things? That is a question for the local authority [MKC].

Please can the wording to point 3.08 be adjusted? The point had already been noted and the matter was in hand.

Is it a conservation area or not? It is already a conservation area but it is not enforceable.

Thanks were expressed to the Parish council for pushing this matter forward – what is the next step? Cllr.

McDonald, the parish councillor coordinating the initiative, reported that some questionnaires were still outstanding and once collected and analysed papers would be lodged with MKC who had the powers to establish it in law – a report would be drawn up by them and the matter would eventually go to full Council.

Peter Howard was thanked for his presentation.

1. Public Open Forum

Maureen Thornton (WotGN) - Can we not comment on matters during the meeting as well as at the start? This could impossibly extend the meeting but any matters of concern should be made known to councillors and/or lodged with the clerk.

Phil Wareham (WotGN) – had circulated a paper about the need to preserve the no 18 bus in the face of budget cuts – could this please be an agenda item? It could feature as a future agenda item if considered sufficiently important and action was needed by the PC.



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Vanessa Gwyn (Woughton Park) – is there a map of the Parish area showing the varying speed restrictions? Within the grid square the speed is 30mph, no ‘map’ as such is known. The parish council could request enforcement but that would begin with a speed check to see if there was an issue. The current scheme in MK (Speed Indicator Displays or SID’s) is carried out by volunteers working with MK Council equipment and trained in its use. Community Speed Watch, where volunteers measured passing vehicle speeds, seems to be less available now than it used to be.

Peter Samuels (WotGN) – The Hotel was under new ownership – is the rumour about its expansion true? This is possible but the new owners have not made any representations to the parish council.

2. Procedural

- a. **Declarations of interest by councillors** – Cllr. McDonald item3e.
- b. **To agree the minutes** of the September meeting & review of actions not covered below – Approved. Proposer: Cllr. Kenyon, Seconder: Cllr. Brown. Passed. Unanimous. No items not covered below.

3. Finance – a. Current position -

Main Current Account	61,816.60
Allotments Current Account	4,967.96
Business Reserve Account Rental deposits	2,256.15
Deposit Account	
	69,040.71

Spending and Budget –

<u>All figures exclusive of VAT</u>	<u>2014/2015</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL Y.T.D</u>	<u>Variance</u>
RECEIPTS - OPERATIONAL			
Precept	9,000.00	9,103.72	103.72
Interest		0.59	0.59
Total Receipts	9,000.00	9,104.31	104.31
PAYMENTS - OPERATIONAL			
Administration costs	690.00	1,386.10	(696.10)
Allotment expenses	5,625.00	6,017.35	(392.35)
Allotment rental	(4,495.00)	(4,496.69)	1.69
Audit Fees	400.00	200.00	200.00
Chair's Expenses	100.00		100.00
Community fund	400.00	543.08	(143.08)
Dog bin clearance	1,702.10	1,122.68	579.42
WCC refund		(383.44)	383.44
Grants			
Insurance	306.26	299.67	6.59
Staff Costs	3,000.00	2,654.56	345.44
S137 - community		213.28	(213.28)
Training - Clerk/Councillors	500.00	32.00	468.00
VAT refund		(2,069.32)	2,069.32
Sub-total (Operations)	8,228.36	5,519.27	2,709.09
PAYMENTS - CAPITAL PROJECTS			
Projects	6,600.00	3,611.00	2,989.00
Total Payments	14,828.36	9,130.27	5,698.09
Surplus	(5,828.36)	(25.96)	5,802.40



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b. To consider & approve the payments schedule –

Main Account

160	AH Contracts	174.30
161	Peter Howard Architect	2,195.00
162	Kate Davies (graphics)	550.00
163	J.Vischer	254.47
164	P McDonald (V Greens)	489.68
165	R Kenyon (containers)	352.82
166	MK City Cricket Club	200.00
167	AH Contracts	174.30
168	J.Vischer	319.49

Allotment Account

41	Patch Association Sub's	384.00
42	Anglian Water	381.40
43	R Kenyon	29.10

The above payments were approved.

c. To approve updated Budget figures for the following year 2015-2016 –

	<i>Maintenance Exp (2014/15)</i>	<i>Capital Exp (2014/15)</i>	<i>Precept/Income (2014/15)</i>
<i>Parish</i>	£8,381 (£8,810)	£1,450 (£8,203)	£9,104 (£9,104)
<i>Allotments</i>	£5,904 (£6,630)	£2,040 (£11,610)	£4,720 (£4,495)

Approved: Proposer: Cllr. Bennett, Seconder: Cllr. Blomley. Unanimous.

d. To formally approve the proposed precept of £9,104 approved at the last meeting (minutes item 3cii) following the consultation period.

Approved: Proposer: Cllr. Bennett, Seconder: Cllr. Blomley. Unanimous.

e. To consider changing banks from Nat West to Metro – Various problems had been experienced with Nat West over the last 12 months: the length of time taken to change signatories (4mths.); inconsistency in *id* checks at the desk when asking for print-outs; and similarly with online banking. As many of the paying-in transactions were for the allotments and the branch was in nearby Oakgrove, and on positive recommendations it was agreed to change banks to Metro. Proposer: Cllr. Kenyon, Seconder: Cllr. Brown; unanimous.

4. Allotments

a. Report - nothing to add since circulation.



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- b. **Response to residents' queries** from November Public Open Forum – The allegations of bullying were investigated by the Allotment Team councillors and the circumstances clarified. No further action is required; use of the shop was reserved for members of the Patch Association. These had been followed up in writing to the plot-holder.

5. Environment

- a. **Environment log and consideration of actions** – see post-meeting revision – issue 14.
- b. **Planning comment**
- i. 14/01169/FUL, 13 Adams Court, Woughton On The Green, Construction of an ancillary granny annexe. (*Objected to*) *Still Pending*.
 - ii. 14/01860/FUL - 22 Verley Close Woughton On The Green, First floor side extension over existing garage and associated internal alterations. (*not objected to*) *Permitted*.
 - iii. 14/01847/TPO - Ye Olde Swan Newport Road Woughton On The Green, Tree preservation order consent to re-pollard to previous pollard points of x5 Crack Willow (Gp1) and prune back the overhanging growth to suitable growth points of Plum trees. (*not objected to*) *Consent given*.
 - iv. 14/02205/TPO - Land Off Lucas Place Woughton On The Green, Tree preservation order consent to fell to ground level and grind out stump of x 4 Field Maple trees (T3, T4, T5 and T6) and to fell and treat stump of x 1 Ash tree (T8) due to adjacent house suffering from subsidence. (*objected to*) The applicant has been advised that the trees can be removed without permission. *Application withdrawn*.
 - v. 14/02277/FUL - Siting of a temporary marquee for a period of three months at: Parkside House Hotel, Newport Road, Woughton On The Green. This has happened in previous years and noise had not been an issue. No objections. *Permitted*.
 - vi. 14/02723/TCA The Manor House The Green Woughton On The Green Notification of intention to fell 1 x Robinia tree. *No objections. Pending*. [The owner was present at the meeting and said she was saddened to have to remove the tree but its large overhanging branches were a danger and it had already been cut back. She would be replacing it with another.]
- c. **Village Green status** – The Sports Ground application had been objected to in a letter from Freeths on behalf of MK Council on the grounds that it 'is not a town or village green'. The application had not been heard by the Committee yet. Two more applications were in the preliminary stages – one for the east side of the canal in Woughton Park and one for the Orchard.
- d. **Woughton on the Green Conservation Area Proposal** – see opening item above.
- e. **Community Right to Bid** - Ye Olde Swan pub – the decision is being made tomorrow evening at Council Offices but the owners had responded favourably providing it was clear that the living quarters above the pub were not included.
- f. **Sports Field Right of Way** – pending Village Green status.



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6. Communications

- a. **Newsletter** – Cllr. Howson stated that handful of items was ready to constitute the next edition but more articles were needed. An article from the MK Dons was to be edited down but included. Allotment vacancies were still available – to be included. The Heritage Group should have something forthcoming. Next issue date February.
 - b. **Volunteer Driver Transport Scheme Pilot Proposal** – Richard Ward of 34 Passmore, had been invited to explain more about the scheme. He explained that he had a background in transport and this scheme was successfully running in several areas of the country. Milton Keynes Council was looking for stakeholders and partners to take part in the pilot scheme here. He was also working closely with neighbouring Ashland and Simpson councillor Sheila Thornton who supported the scheme. There was no cost to the parish council and there was no administrative role for it to play, other than assistance in promoting it. MK Community Action would be managing and operating the scheme and mileage for volunteer drivers would be refunded at the standard 45p per mile rate. Suitably modified car insurance would be necessary and volunteers would have to undergo clearance checks. Councillors raised questions – What effect might this have on bus service 18? What sort of demand is there? How is the scheme judged to be a success or even to be needed? Richard Ward offered to invite Ruth Stone the Director of MKCA to come and give a presentation that would answer these questions. *It was agreed to support, promote and be a part of the geographical area for the duration of the pilot scheme without prejudice to subsequent developments.* Proposer: Cllr. Howson, Seconder: Cllr. Nash; unanimous. Cllr. Bennett agreed to act as the contact councillor.
 - c. **Reports to note on any outside meetings attended by Councillors/Clerk** – Cllr. Grindley had attended a Planning Seminar held by MK Council, which largely comprised a peer review of MKC's Planning procedures by Peterborough County Council. The main concern was the delay in validation of applications but this had no direct bearing on the Parish council. The Chair and Cllr. Blomley had attended the Parishes Forum where the most useful part of the meeting was the ongoing MKC budget consultation.
 - d. **Correspondence** – In addition to that circulated by email: publicity materials for the new year had been received from the Parks Trust detailing forthcoming events along with a fold-out calendar.
7. **Date and Time of Next Meeting – 9 March 2015 at St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green at 7.30pm**
subsequently: 13 April Annual Parish Meeting; 11 May AGM; 13 July 2015

Meeting closed at 9.15pm