



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Council**

held on

Monday 13 January 2020 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr J Covington (Chair), Cllrs J Reynolds (Vice Chair), M Covington, R Gilbert and the Clerk.

Also present: Mr C Akrill (of Town Planning Services), Ward Cllrs Hosking and 6 members of the public.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Ward Cllrs P Geary and Mclean.

### **2. Declarations of Interest Relating to Matters on the Agenda.**

None received.

### **3. To Confirm the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

The minutes of the Meeting of 11 November 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.

### **4. To Consider the Proposals Develop a Parish Neighbourhood Plan**

Cllr J Covington introduced Chris Akrill (CA) Town Planning Services who had been invited to present the pros and cons of proceeding with a Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

CA summarised that the process to draft a Community Document such as a Neighbourhood Plan included:

- A group or sub-committee of the Parish Council would need to be formed to survey residents and set out the steps of the Neighbourhood Plan process;
- The survey(s) to ascertain the future direction of the village and include detailed planning policies for the village setting out for example, where new development should be located;
- Feedback from the surveys(s) would then be assessed to indicate how the residents wanted to progress. As there would ultimately be a Parish Referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan, for the referendum to be successful, it

was important for the Neighbourhood Plan to deliver what residents wanted

- Regarding protection from speculative developments, a Neighbourhood Plan would provide 3 years protection but would be in place for 5 years and would be dependant on the Milton Keynes Housing Land Supply;
- The Neighbourhood Plan could include, for example sites for different types of development such as social housing, retail and office space and designated areas of community greenspace
- the conservation area status in the centre of Weston Underwood and that many buildings had listed building consent already protected most of the village from speculative development;
- Grant funding was available to cover the costs of proceeding with a Neighbourhood Plan;
- There were requirements for Neighbourhood Plan reviews to be undertaken; and
- It would ultimately form a part of the statutory development plan for Milton Keynes, should it be successfully adopted by Milton Keynes Council following the Parish Referendum.

Cllr M Covington indicated that the MKC Conservation Officer was currently carrying out a review of the Conservation Area and requested that progress of this be followed up by the Clerk.

**Action: The Clerk**

In response to questions from Parish Cllrs and residents, CA indicated that:

**Would the Neighbourhood Plan be required to be reviewed:** A review would need to be carried out every 3 years or so and could include further sites.

**What would be the effect on Weston Underwood of not having a Neighbourhood Plan in Place**

Milton Keynes had an expected growth target for the rural area on a windfall basis. Parish Councils with Neighbourhood Plans can control the direction of the windfall development.

Ward Cllr Hosking indicated that the Plan:MK review was being carried out by MKC now and may impact on this.

CA also indicated that neighbouring villages such as Sherington that had a Neighbourhood Plan in place had been able to fight off developments; however, it should be noted that Sherington was in different position to Weston Underwood due to its size and village amenities in place.

**How many houses could be included in a new development?**

Due to the size of Weston Underwood and the lack of amenities e.g. No school, local shop or medical centre, development would be limited to approx. 6 to 7 new houses. If there was a Neighbourhood Plan in place, this would shape the type and size of housing such affordable housing, or housing for vulnerable people.

## **How would the Oxford – Cambridge Corridor which includes a requirement for 1m new homes impact on future MK Developments?**

A resident who was also a planning professional indicated that the Oxford – Cambridge Corridor issue would need to be addressed in the Plan:MK Review currently being undertaken, however there were question marks over the progress of the Oxford – Cambridge Corridor. He added that small pockets of land in rural villages would probably not impact on 1m home requirement

## **Would the current Planning Application Appeal with reference to the MK Housing Land Supply affect areas without a Neighbourhood Plan?**

CA responded that the appeal decision was unexpected and could happen again although it was also dependent on the housing market; it was usually only a large developer, or those that pepper pot an area with planning applications, that would take on the Appeal process.

Following a discussion when a variety of views were put forward by residents, Parish and Ward Cllrs, including comments that there was not enough clear information available to provide a response if a survey was carried out, Cllr Reynolds indicated that a strategy to inform the village with all the facts, including a balanced view of the pros and cons to ensure that a meaningful survey could be carried out, was required to take the process forward.

Cllr Gilbert indicated that before the next meeting, the objectives and key issues for progressing with a Neighbourhood Plan be drafted for a survey at a future date.

Cllr M Covington proposed that in view of the Parish Council's limited resources, Town Planning Services Limited be asked to provide a costing to the Clerk to undertake drafting the objectives for the next meeting. **Action: The Clerk**

Seconded: Cllr Reynolds / Agreed All

### **Resolved:**

That Town Planning Services Limited be asked to provide a costing to the Clerk to undertake drafting the objectives for a survey at a future date, for the next meeting.

## **5. To consider the Clerk's Report**

1. Application for MKC new Community Infrastructure Funding to Reduce Speeding Issues in Weston Underwood:

The Parish Council noted that the Clerk had prepared the application for funding from MKC Community MKC Infrastructure (CIF) Fund 2020-2022 for the Speeding Measures Project to be submitted it before the deadline.

2. Revised MKC / MKALC Parishes Protocol - Revised draft version had been received.
3. Fly Tipped Cooker at Alcove reported to MKC and collected.
4. The Parish Council noted that Ward Councillors had invited applications to the Ward Councillor Budget for consideration. Applications could be from any organisation in the parish.

- Draft 2020-21 Parish Council Meeting Dates was circulated for the Parish Councillors to consider and advise any comments at the next meeting

## 6. To Consider the Financial Report

<b>1. Bank Statements at 31 December 2019</b>	
2. Community Current Account	£22,168.96
3. Business Savings Account	£21,448.32
<b>2. Payments:</b>	£
December 2019	
(i) P Covington (Xmas Tree) Paid December 2019	80.00
(ii) J Covington & Son (Xmas Tree Lighting) Paid December 2019	100.00
(iii) (ALCC) Paid December 2019	40.00
(iv) (SLCC) Paid December 2019	40.00
January 2020	
(i) S Muir Salary (Jan 2020)	303.04
(ii) HMRC Jan 2020	49.50
(iii) W Underwood Hall Hire	148.60
(iv) Marcus Young Landscapes Ltd (Dogbins)	524.16
(v) SLCC Balance	38.00

**Resolved:** That the report be noted, and the payments be approved. **Action: Clerk**  
Proposed: Cllr B Stainton Seconded: Cllr J Reynolds Agreed: All

## 7. To Report on any Planning issues and Applications relating to the Council

The Clerk reported the following planning applications to consider and planning items to note:

- Planning App. 19-02371 Ful Cowpers Oak Public House - change of use to B&B Accommodation. **Permitted by MKC**
- Copy of Briefing Note from MKC Development Control Committee 9 January 2020 re Hanslope Planning Appeals

## 9. To Report on any Correspondence Items received.

The Clerk reported the following items of correspondence

- MKC Draft Budget Consultation until 14 February 2020 [budget@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:budget@milton-keynes.gov.uk)
- Street Lighting update
- Parish Forum Agenda 16 January 2020
- Thank you from NYE Pagan Wedding
- List of revised MK Association of Local Councils representatives.

## 10. Report on the Alcove and Grounds Maintenance.

- The Clerk reported that that no bookings had been received
- Cllr M Covington advised it had been quiet and that there had been little rubbish collected.

## **11. Ward and Parish Cllr Items**

1. Cllr B Stainton indicated that the WI would be celebrating their centenary this year and the Weston Underwood WI requested permission to put on and maintain a floral display in the village trough that was owned by the Parish Council in May and June and to supply further planters.

The Parish Council agreed unanimously to the trough being planted but indicated that permission for extra planters at the village hall would have to be directed to the Village Hall Trustees.

2. The Parish Council noted Ward Cllr Hosking's views that with regard to a Parish Neighbourhood plan, it would ultimately be for the Parish Council to make a decision that included views from all residents before deciding on a way forward.

## **12. Open Forum**

No questions from residents were received

## **13. Next Meeting**

The Parish Council noted that the next meeting would be 10 February 2020 at 8pm.

The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 9.20 pm.