



Draft Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Parish Council
held on
Monday 3 August 2020

Present: Cllrs J Covington (Chair), M Covington, R Gilbert, B Stainton and the Clerk and Ward Councillor Geary

Also present: 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr J Reynolds (Vice Chair), Ward Cllrs Hosking and Mclean.

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

None received.

3. To Confirm the Minutes of the Previous Meetings.

The minutes of the Meetings of 9 March and 8 June 2020 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as correct records of the meetings.

4. Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk reported that:

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

Purchase Order for CIF 2020-2022 was submitted by 17 July 2020 in hard copy and by email. MKC Highways to consult with the Parish Council on the final details before works start.

2. Planning Application for change of use to Medieval Longbarrow at Wood Farm was withdrawn and will be re-submitted. The Applicant had requested Site Meeting, but this was considered by the Chair and Clerk as inappropriate due to Covid 19 restrictions and to ensure that Parish Councillors were not subject to predetermination.
3. Hedge Cutting and Weed Kill

DC Blunt were asked to carry out a weedkill.

MKC were asked to cut the hedge on the footpath near the boundary with Olney and this was completed satisfactorily.

5. To consider the Audit Report.

The Councillors considered that the Audit Report (Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20) was a true and correct record of the Finance and Council records for 2019-2020 and had been certified as a true and correct record by the Internal Auditor.

Resolved: That the Audit Report (Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20) was a true and correct record of the Finance and Council records for 2019-2020.

Proposed: Cllr R Gilbert. Seconded: Cllr M Covington, Agreed: All, **Action: Clerk**

5. To consider the Finance Report August 2020

1. Bank Statements at 30 June 2020

Community Current Account	£20644.79
Business Savings Account	£21461.60

2. Receipts:

Bank Interest	£5.76
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3. Payments to be agreed:

	£
(i) Clerk Salary & Expenses July 2020	404.73
(ii) HMRC August 2020	49.50
(iii) D C Blunt Landscaping Inv	516.00
(iv) J Covington reimbursement for Litter Picking Gloves	23.00

6. To confirm MKC Parish Forum Reps.

That Cllrs Mark Covington and Brian Station be confirmed as the Weston Underwood Parish Council reps to the MKC Parishes Forum 2020-21.

Proposed: Cllr R Gilbert. Seconded: Cllr J Covington, Agreed: All, **Action: Clerk**

7. Planning Applications

To report on any planning issues and applications relating to the Council:

- (a) Planning Application 20/01667/TCA - Notification to remove dead and/or diseased limbs and limbs overhanging adjacent building at Laundry Cottage Olney Road Weston Underwood Olney MK46 5JZ.
No comments received.

- (b) To note the following Planning Update from MKC:

New rules for planning applications

From September, new laws laid by Government will introduce a fast tracked approval process for permitted development (PD) to demolish and rebuild unused buildings as homes, allowing homeowners to add up to two additional storeys to create new homes or additional living space for children and elderly relatives. Neighbours will have an opportunity to comment on the proposals in relation

to impact and appearance of the development. The changes would not apply to dwellings in conservation areas

There are also changes that will allow greater flexibility for commercial and retail uses within town centres to change to alternative uses without the need to obtain planning permission, helping to revive and revitalise town centres. For commercial or mixed-use buildings of three or more storeys, these can be extended by a further two storeys, up to a height of 30 metres as permitted development.

The Government has also published their independently commissioned report on the quality standards of homes delivered through change of use PD which concluded that PD office to residential conversions seem to create worse quality residential environments than planning permission conversions. We are in the process of controlling these changes in the centre of MK, with the possibility of introducing an Article 4 Direction.

The Councillors noted that a large part of the Parish area was within a conservation area and would not be affected by this.

8. Parish and Ward Councillor Items

1. Alcove

- i. Cllr J Covington thanked residents Mr & Mrs Graves for clearing litter from Alcove area and indicated that he and Cllr M Covington had also been carrying out litterpicks weekly in that area and emptying the rubbish bins more often.
- ii. Cllr J Covington indicated that there had been an increase in drug activity at the Alcove and that the area was regularly patrolled by Thames Valley Police.
- iii. Cllr J Covington also indicated that Cllr Stainton was in the process of making a new sign for the Alcove.

iv. Openreach Broadband

Cllr Gilbert updated the Parish Council on the progress of the Broadband rollout and indicated that individual households had to order access to Broadband which resulted in different parts of the verges and road being dug up at different times to pull through the connections to individual dwellings such as outside Stoneways and the Cowpers Oak Pub in the High Street.

The Councillors noted that Openreach had cleared a blockage at Church Farm Barns by jetting out and that this had caused a lot of disruption and mess to vehicles.

Cllr M Covington indicated that after Openreach works, manhole covers were not properly replaced, and the engineers did not clean up adequately when they had finished. This was causing disruption to the village.

With regard to access to Broadband by residents not on the main High St Route, Cllr Gilbert indicated that he would discuss this with the affected residents separately.

Ward Cllr Geary indicated that such properties should be flagged up to MKC to be included on the next phase of the Broadband project.

The Parish Council also heard from one member of the public during the discussion who reiterated the comments made by councillors.

The Clerk was asked to report the issues to Martin Smyth at MKC as the Openreach Contract was with MKC. **Action: Clerk**

Ward Cllr Geary informed the Parish Council that:

- i. MKC had received agreement for £94m HIF Homes England funding from the Government for Milton Keynes East and was waiting for planning applications for 5000 houses expected in the Spring for that area.
- ii. Fly tipping was an issue in the rural areas which may be exacerbated by the appointment system in use at the MKC Refuse Depots. The Ward Cllrs were still waiting for access to the Refuse Depots to be improved.

6. Next Meeting

To be advised subject to receipt of Planning Applications.

The Chair thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

