

# LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE LITTLE BRICKHILL ANNUAL PARISH / VILLAGE MEETING - HELD AT 7.30 PM ON THE 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN LITTLE BRICKHILL.

### Present:

Cllr G Bushell  
Cllr D Lewis  
Cllr T Wheaton  
Cllr M Goddard

### In attendance:

Alan Kemp (Parish Clerk)  
Cllr D Hopkins (Ward Councillor)  
Cllr V Hopkins (Ward Councillor)  
PCSO R L Dabnor (TVP)  
PCSO G Ellmer (TVP)  
Mrs D Bushell (Resident)  
Mr C Roberts (Resident)  
Mr D Packer (Resident)  
Mrs A Packer (Resident)  
Mr P Simpson (Resident)  
Mr D Walduck (Resident)  
Mrs P Walduck (Resident)

### 1. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr K Forster, Catherine Storey (TVP) & Ward Councillor A Jenkins.

### 2. Election of Chairman.

Cllr. Bushell was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

### 3. Election of Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Lewis was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

### 4. Confirmation of Responsible Finance Officer.

Cllr. M Goddard was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

### 5. To approve the minutes of the last meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

The minutes of the meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.

### 6. To discuss any urgent Parish Council Business.

Three cheques were authorised to the value of £536.39 and details will be recorded in the minutes of the next scheduled Parish Council meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

#### Four planning applications were reviewed as below:

- **17/00161/FUL - Re-development of land to the rear of a former petrol filling station, including the erection of 6 detached dwellings, access road, hardstanding, boundary treatments and soft landscaping (resubmission 16/00651/FUL) at Land to the rear of Little Brickhill Service Station, Watling Street, Little Brickhill.**  
*Following discussion the Clerk was asked to contact the planning officer to ensure that any major issues that have been raised by local residents are resolved before planning approval is given.*
- **17/00891/FUL - First floor side extension at 25 Wyness Avenue, Little Brickhill.**  
Following a review of this planning application it was felt that the proposal was out of context with neighbouring properties and that we should request that the MKC planning officer takes into consideration any issues that are raised by local residents into their decision making process.  
*Clerk was asked to write to MKC accordingly.*

- **17/00896/OUT - Erection of 1 x 2 Bedroom Bungalow at Panel Well, 4 Great Brickhill Lane.**  
Following a review of this planning application it was felt that we should request that the MKC planning officer takes into consideration any issues that are raised by local residents into the decision making process. Clerk was asked to write to MKC accordingly.
- **17/01157/TCA - Crown reduce by 50% 3 x Horse Chestnut trees (T5, T6 and T7) at 9 Brickhill Manor Court, Little Brickhill.** No objections were raised.

**The following correspondence was reviewed:**

- Email received 12/04/17 from **MKC** regarding **Milton Keynes Site Allocations Plan: Notification of Submission for Examination.** This was noted, no further action required.
- Email received 21/04/17 from **MKC** regarding **the replacement of Street Name Plates.** This was noted, no further action required.
- Email received 22/04/17 from **MKC** regarding changes to the **register of Electors.** Clerk to keep on file.
- Email received 22/04/17 from **MKC** regarding the **Parish Grant Programme for 2017/2018.** Clerk advised that the closing date for applications was the 23rd June 2017 and it was agreed to discuss this again at the next Parish Council meeting.
- Email received 24/04/17 from **Gigaclear** requesting to **discuss the benefits of Fibre optic broadband for the village.** This was noted, no further action required.
- Letter received 02/05/17 from **MKC** regarding **Proposed Amendments to the Scheme of Delegation & Constitution.** This was noted, no further action required.
- Email received 03/05/17 from **MKC** regarding the **MK Minerals Local Plan:** This was noted, no further action required.
- Email received from 08/05/17 **MKC** regarding an **East West Expressway – Presentation by Highways.** Clerk advised that this was taking place in the Civic Offices on Monday the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 and the Chairman asked him to email the details to him as soon as possible.

The Chairman gave a brief summary of a recent meeting that he had with representatives from Clarke Telecom Limited regarding the possible installation of a new telecommunication mast in the local area.

## **7. To receive report from Thames Valley Police.**

PCSO Dabnor and PCSO Ellmer attended on behalf of Thames Valley Police and presented the crime figures for Little Brickhill covering the period from the 1st April 2016 to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017. There were 49 reported incidents connected with the Village with the details reported below.

- 6 - Car Crimes (5 thefts from vehicles all on the A5 and 1 for criminal damage to vehicle).
- 2 - Burglary (Dwelling).
- 1 - Burglary (Non Dwelling).
- 1 - Drug Offences.
- 35 – Biking (all at the Shell Garage)
- 4 – Theft other (2 were at the Shell Garage).

The Chairman placed on record grateful thanks on behalf of Little Brickhill Parish Council and Local Residents for the efforts of Thames Valley Police in connection with the recent traveller issues.

## **8. To receive the Chairman's Report.**

Cllr Bushell gave the following presentation.

It was noted that Jack Moseley had resigned as a Parish Councillor in December 2016 and it was placed on record grateful thanks for all his hard work serving the community.

Two new Parish Councillors Martin Goddard and Kevin Forster recently joined the Parish Council.

It has been a busy and eventful year in Little Brickhill.

We have seen the final development of the Old Green Man and the proposed plans for the development of the old Garage site and we are in discussions with the developers to ensure that any impact on neighbouring properties will be minimised. The development will involve the relocation of the telephone mast; of which we are still in discussion with the telecom companies.

We have had uninvited visitors at the South end of Watling Street and are seeking ways to ensure that no future visits will occur. We are in discussion with MK to determine the best way forward whether that be a lockable access or bollards or trees planted along the verge to preclude vehicle being parked.

The biggest challenge that we faced was the application for a major housing development on the fringe of our village on the flood plain known as Eaton Leas. In spite of a spirited action against the application, Milton Keynes allowed the development to proceed because they believed that they had not met their 5 year land supply commitment. Annoyingly, it transpired that if the application had come forward a few weeks later, it would have been refused. Local government at it's very worst!

We have had further challenges to our village bus service but once again, with the help of our ward councillors, common sense has prevailed and we have retained a service albeit not as frequent as we would like.

We have been advised by Milton Keynes Council that within two years they will withdraw the service of maintaining hedgerows, verges and grass cutting; we will have to provide the maintenance or pay MKC separately for the work. We will need to increase the precept over the next couple of years to provide the funding.

Villagers will have seen the work that Gigaclear has been doing in the village. We had reason to complain through Milton Keynes Council that the reinstatement work was significantly below par and I am pleased to confirm that Gigaclear work has been suspended until the poor workmanship has been repaired satisfactorily.

We have ongoing issues with dog fouling, speeding and home to school transport and they will doubtless continue to be on our agenda for the following year.

Finally grateful thanks were given to all serving Parish Councillors and the Clerk for all the work undertaken during the past year.

## **9. To receive report from Unitary Authority.**

Cllr Hopkins gave the following presentation.

The Danesborough and Walton Ward is quite possibly the fastest growing part of the fastest growing part of Britain! This presents challenges to your local representatives, as well as opportunities. Our personal case load is still dominated by social issues / challenges being faced by individual residents but the collective issues are dominated by concerns over planning, highways issues and, what I might describe as the traditional local concerns over pot holes, street lighting, bus timetabling and the like.

I am a Parish and Town Councillor as well as a ward member. I see things from all aspects and also appreciate just how challenging the future delivery of services will become as more and more of the reducing resources we have available are taken up by adult and children's social services leaving less for landscaping, highways maintenance and the like. That is one reason why collectively, as the Danesborough Forum, we shall be looking at how we might procure such services locally, by passing MK Council but ... this will possibly involve a gradual increase in local, parish based precepts. Walton CC has already started down this route in its desire to see service levels retained and the growing band of local volunteers, Parish Guardians and groups such as the Wavendon Volunteer Army are taking advantage of tariff / 106 monies to deliver or refresh parish based facilities. Taking advantage of the monies growth generates at a local level to enhance and priorities services that local people value.

The past year has been dominated by planning issues and the challenges faced across the Borough by the NPPF rules over the 5 year land supply which only recently has crept up to a challengeable 5.03 years. Decisions that might once have gone against developers have been passed due to MK's inability to prove a robust, defensible supply. This trumped all other planning considerations (assuming the sustainability of a site could be shown). Across the ward, that meant that controversial applications were approved, along with many others in other parts of the Borough. The adoption of the Site Allocation Plan in September of this year and the continuation of the delivery of the 5 year supply will reduce the planning momentum ... at least for the time being.

On the other hand, the long awaited and generally welcomed, garage site development is coming close to being agreed and should add an attractive and inclusive addition to the housing stock at what is an important entry point into the village.

Other applications are pending, across the ward, and I know the Chairman is well aware (from his attendance at the Danesborough Forum meetings) of the challenges Wavendon and Woburn Sands face from a number of applications, two in particular for 200 + dwellings. All this on top of the so called SLA areas (much of which is still to see development start). Beyond MKC Boundaries applications are waiting in Aylesbury Vale and Central Bedfordshire for thousands of new homes, all of which would look to MK for its service provision.

The draft Plan:MK is currently out for consultation and a drop-in event was held in Bow Brickhill last week. I was disappointed and surprised to see land at (so called) Caldecott South was allocated at the last minute into the discussion document as an employment area thus not allowing us to 'negotiate' its inclusion in the way the land around the northern villages was offered. We had been led to assume, over many years, that the next area for employment growth is the so called Berkeley Strategic land north of the M1, around J14. Why this changed without any pre-draft consultation is beyond me!

The plan also proposes a welcome planning moratorium on development between Bow Brickhill, Woburn Sands and Wavendon until 2026 at the earliest and then up to 1000 dwellings in this area between 2026 and 2031.

I suspect that the single biggest issue over the next 24 months could be the Oxford – MK – Cambridge Expressway and any decisions on which route that highway might follow in or around MK. Highways England has announced that the route will not be disclosed until March 2019, after the £27M government awarded the project has been spent on the evaluation and associated costs of each option. It does have the potential, if designed sympathetically, to offer a potential series of by-pass options for the Danesborough villages, but would be a land hungry way of achieving that aim. We shall see.

I rely on Cllr Tim Wheaton to keep me up to speed (excuse the pun) regarding the Broadband delivery in the village although I am sensing some good news is starting to emerge in this regard ... the infamous mast should soon be a thing of the past although agreeing a suitable new site for the modern equivalent is proving challenging.

I think I have included a mention of East West Rail in every annual report since 1991. All I can add this year is that officially the start of the Bedford to Oxford service is still 2024. My sense is that the budget identified to deliver the scheme and the money available from government is somewhat at variance and hence the new delivery organisation formed to take the project forward will have to look to new funding sources (including planning gain monies) to take the project forward in its present form.

Chairman, every month I deliver a Unitary Councillors Report to the Parish Council and which I offer to the clerk to include on the Parish web site. I try to attend every PC meeting, although that could prove more challenging in the coming year. Apart from the issues mentioned above this monthly report deals with bus service issues – including the future of the 31, traveller visits and the issues that represents, Horse Chestnut Trees, road safety and highways maintenance issues, education issues and Borough Wide activities that have some form of impact upon Little Brickhill. That will continue through the coming year. We will keep you informed.

Coming up I can only predict more of the same and that we should expect the unexpected. Borough wide in 2017-18 I hope we shall see some very positive announcements over a Cranfield University branded University to be situated in CMK. We shall continue the MK50 birthday celebrations which will not only look back over the past 50 years, but forward to the next 50 and beyond.

And finally this coming year will be my year as Mayor of Milton Keynes. I consider this to be great honour and something to which I will give 100%. Despite everything I have reported I believe that MK is a great place to live, to work and be to be educated. It offers great opportunities for our young people and has the potential to be one of the great cities not only in the UK but across Europe and beyond.

It is a privilege to represent Danesborough at MKC and one that I continue to enjoy and which I commit for as long as local people want me and I am able to deliver.... Within the constraints of ever changing government policies!!!

## **10. To receive the Parish Council's provisional accounts for the Financial Year 2016-17.**

Presented by Cllr D Lewis, [for details see appendix 1.](#)

## 11. To receive report from the Residents' Association.

Cllr D Lewis presented the following report on behalf of the Residents Association.

The following personnel changes have occurred within the organisation during the past year.

Firstly, with sadness but huge thanks for their contributions over many years, resignations:

- Tim Wheaton, our Chair of the last few years
- Julie Mayson
- Leslie Hoare
- Carole Moseley

New joiners:

- Howard Barclay
- Lucy Moore
- Joel Cockerill
- Brett Shannon

I (Dave Lewis) have taken on the roles as Chair as well as Treasurer, James Houghton our secretary and Cliff Roberts

So, a reminder...

There are two aspects to the Little Brickhill Residents Association that are its stated aims.

- To bring the village closer together.
- To campaign against or for issues that affects our community.

The LBRA wasn't actively involved in any community campaigns throughout 2016 but we hosted the usual array of events and activities which served focal points to bring the village together.

These events would not be possible without the huge amounts of assistance by members of the LBRA committee and we have a huge number of people to thank:

Special thanks to Roger Lennon for designing and organising printing for flyers, tickets, etc. for various events throughout the year

Thanks to David, Victoria and Alice for their ward grants for the Children's Christmas party and Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch

This year's Jenny Wheaton Children's' Christmas party was the most successful ever, with thanks to:

- Tim Wheaton and Lucy Lewis
- James Houghton and Howard Barclay for providing entertainment
- Santa

Senior Citizens Christmas lunch

- Huge thanks to Carol Nicholls, Carole Moseley, Julie Mayson, Tim Wheaton, Caroline Kirby, Sylvia Eames, Theresa Simpson,

April saw the latest Residents' Association event – The Summer of Love

- Superbly organised by James Houghton
- Extra special thanks to Julie Mayson, Leslie Hoare, Carole Moseley, Carol Nicholls, Sue Crayford-West, Paul Simpson, Lucy Lewis, Joel, Carol Nicholls, Graham Nicholls, Lucy Lewis,
- Cliff organised the music which was Dave Tee's disco at friend's rates
- Thanks to Michael Zeolla for the discounted fish & chips

Members of the Residents' Association and some residents were warmly welcomed to the Colle Sannita for their summer Festa in August 2016

#### Finances

- Paul Simpson has very kindly carried out an independent review of the accounts up to the end of 2016
- Opening 2015 balance: £2,328.26
- Current balance: £2,157.01
- Small profit expected from the Summer of Love dance, taking us back to similar balance to start of 2015

#### Upcoming events

- Village fun day: currently dated for 19th August (rebranding or additional branding for Village Show)
- Residents' Association has absorbed the remaining funds from the Gardeners' Club and will hopefully be continuing the 110 year tradition of putting on the annual Village Show
- Potential for one other village social later in the year
- Carol singing, children's event & senior citizens lunch

### **12. To receive report from the Community Centre Committee.**

The report was presented by Denise Bushell on behalf of the Community Centre Committee.

There has been an increase in the number of bookings for the venue following improvements to the website and Facebook. This has also generated more funds that are being reserved to cover any unexpected expenditure in the future.

Grateful thanks were given again to Paul and Teresa Simpson for all their hand work in promoting the Community Centre.

Also all members of the Community Centre Committee were thanked for all their support during the past year.

### **13. To receive report from the Brickhill Wanderers.**

Alison Packer gave the following brief presentation.

- A summary of the events held in 2016 was given.
- A full programme of events has been planned for 2017.
- There is a small charge but the intention is to breakeven.

### **14. To receive report from St. Mary Magdalene C of E Church / PCC.**

David Packer presented the report on behalf of the Church with brief details noted below:

- The estimated cost to run the Church per year is approximately £12k.
- Regular functions are held to generate income.
- For a small village around 30 people attend the services on a Sunday.
- Next challenge will be for volunteers to weed the church yard and this has been arranged on the 27/05/17.
- A tree survey of all the trees will be undertaken later this year
- Ways of improving access to the Church are being looked into and further details will be shared with the Parish Council in the coming months / year.

### **15. Any other business.**

It was still thought that the introduction of a welcome pack for any new people who move into the village, telling people what's going on, who to contact and when, with a brief history of the village would be beneficial.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

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Chairman for Little Brickhill Parish Council

**Little Brickhill Parish Council - Annual Accounts 2016/17****Receipts and payments for year ending 31st March 2017****UN-AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

| <u>Payments</u>   | 2015/16           | 2016/17           | <u>Receipts</u>                   | 2015/16           | 2016/17            |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
|   |                   |                   | Precept                           | £ 9,310.00        | £ 9,665.00         |
| Community Centre - Repairs                                  | £12,480.00        | £ -               | Community Centre                  | £ 5,160.00        | £ -                |
| Community Centre - Alarm Service                            | £ 83.23           | £ 83.23           | Dividends                         | £ 133.09          | £ -                |
|   |                   |                   | MKC - Council Tax Reduction       | £ 341.44          | £ 150.96           |
|   |                   |                   | MKC - Parish Partnership Grant    | £ 5,490.00        | £ 2,759.23         |
| Defibrillator Installation                                  | £ 1,267.60        | £ -               |                                   |                   |                    |
|   |                   |                   | W&WFC                             | £ 300.00          | £ 225.00           |
| Clerk Salary (Including TAX)                                | £ 2,124.00        | £ 2,220.00        | Leighton Colts FC                 | £ -               | £ -                |
| Administration  | £ 70.46           | £ 62.31           | Mr Payne (re 1 High View)         | £ 150.00          | £ 150.00           |
| Associations - BALC   | £ 49.76           | £ 53.55           | WREN (Play Equipment)             | £ 11,397.50       | £ -                |
| Grass Cutting   | £ 1,665.00        | £ 2,020.00        | Donation for use of Watsons Field | £ 40.00           | £ -                |
| Tree Maintenance / Playing Field                            | £ 180.00          | £ 215.00          |                                   |                   |                    |
| Donation to Great Brickhill Young Club                      | £ -               | £ -               |                                   |                   |                    |
| Insurance   | £ 1,282.69        | £ 1,314.32        |                                   |                   |                    |
| Playing Field - Pest Control                                | £ 240.00          | £ 240.00          |                                   |                   |                    |
| Gate Repair - Watsons Field                                 | £ 290.00          | £ -               |                                   |                   |                    |
| Website (Hosting Charges - 2yrs)                            | £ 164.99          | £ -               |                                   |                   |                    |
| New Play Equipment including 2 x New Benches + Installation | £ 12,997.50       | £ 1,233.00        |                                   |                   |                    |
| Internal Notice Board                                       | £ 60.00           | £ -               |                                   |                   |                    |
| Queens Birthday Medals                                      |                   | £ 77.20           |                                   |                   |                    |
| Bench Repair  | £ -               | £ -               |                                   |                   |                    |
| MKC - Dog Waste   | £ 406.53          | £ 410.60          |                                   |                   |                    |
| Audit Fees  | £ 220.00          | £ 220.00          |                                   |                   |                    |
| VAT   | £ 5,563.72        | £ 475.07          | VAT Refund                        | £ 5,370.90        | £ 2,964.22         |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>£39,145.48</b> | <b>£ 8,624.28</b> |                                   | <b>£37,692.93</b> | <b>£ 15,914.41</b> |