

NORTH CRAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 6 October 2020 at 7.30 pm

(Under the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020, this meeting was held using video conferencing)

Present:	Parish Councillors: Steve Garner (in the Chair), Sue Garner, D Harpur, M Hold, G Ridgeley and T Smith Clerk/RFO S M Bushnell Ward Councillor D Hosking	
01/10/2020	Apologies for Absence Ward Councillor P Geary and K McLean PCSO C1018 Arlene Ormston	
02/10/2020	Membership of Parish Council: The Clerk reported that the Casual Vacancy Notice had been posted in the notice board and on the website. Providing that an election was not called for by ten electors, the Parish Council would be able co-opt to fill the vacancy from 21 October.	
03/10/2020	Declarations of Interests: No declarations of interest were made.	
04/10/2020	Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 September 2020 were approved.	
05/10/2020	Items from members of the public: There were no members of the public present at the meeting.	
	Matters Arising from the minutes	
06/10/2020	Minute 08/09/2020 Bryans Crescent car park: The Clerk reported that she had recently met with a representative from MKC and some options for improving the area had been discussed. Detailed costings would be sent to the Council in due course so that the various options could be considered.	Clerk
07/10/2020	Minute 12/09/2020 : Gog Lane: Cllr Harpur reported that he had emailed Gary Dunn about this and copied in the ward councillors. There was nothing definitive to report at the moment but this was being monitored by Cllr Harpur who would report further in due course.	DH
08/10/2020	Minute 13/09/2020: Refuse bins by the MUGA: The Clerk reported that she had not been sent a bin emptying schedule because it was evidently not something that could be easily downloaded as a report. She had however received comprehensive information from MKC listing all the equipment in the playground, dates and results of inspections carried out, etc. which was very illuminating	

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13/10/2020	<p>Update from PCSO Arlene Ormston: Cllr Ridgeley reported that he had received statistics from Arlene for the period from 7.1.2020 to 5.10.2020 as follows:</p> <p><u>North Crawley</u> 4 x Road Traffic Incidents in January, March, June and July 2020 2 x criminal damage incidents in March and June 2020</p> <p><u>Little Crawley</u> None reported.</p> <p>It was agreed that this appeared to be a low incidence of crime over this period of time. However, the Chair mentioned that one of the external lights on the Institute had been stolen the previous day. This unfortunate incident had been reported to the Police.</p>	
14/10/2020	<p>Planning: There were no new planning applications to consider.</p>	
15/10/2020	<p>Neighbourhood Plan: The Chair reported that a Steering Group meeting had been held the previous week. Fifteen site assessments had been carried out and he thanked Cllr Harpur for the time he had given to this task along with other members of the Steering Group. A site assessment objective tool had been used for this and applied to each site. A consultant had also carried out independent assessments using the same tool. It would therefore be possible to see the relationship between the two assessments. Helen Beauchamp would be entering the results into a spreadsheet so that comparisons could be made. There was a question mark with some of the sites from a highways point of view. Options were therefore being suggested to Highways to see if these sites could become more viable as a result. Meetings would be held with landowners in November and a leaflet drop to residents was also being considered in addition to a note in Scan. Within the first three months of 2021, it was hoped to be able to consult residents on the sites that had made it through to the next stage and ways to make this a COVID-safe event were also being explored. Progress was therefore being made and it was hoped that a referendum would be held before the end of 2021.</p>	
16/10/2020	<p>Play Area: The Chair reported that he had attended meetings with the residents' group and also officers from MKC concerning possible improvements to the play area. The question of increasing safety measures whilst cricket was being played was still at the research stage and, now that the cricket season was over, was less urgently required. The residents' group was still at an early stage of</p>	

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	<p>formation as far as registering as a charity, opening a bank account and applying for grant funding was concerned. Several safety issues had been identified with the play area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revolving See-saw: MKC had agreed to remove this piece of equipment as it was considered to be unsafe and to level the ground, free of charge. • Springer Ducks (x 2): These were unsafe for younger children who did not have the core strength to prevent their faces being bumped on the equipment. MKC would replace these with refurbished, safer, sit-in ducks or cars at a cost of £300. • Metal multi-play: Although this met safety standards when it was installed, there were concerns that two of the sides at the top of the steps were open which could result in a serious fall. MKC could add panels to these two sides at a cost of £300. • Gate which opens into the field: This gate opened inwards and into the “fall area” of a springer duck. MKC could adapt this gate to opening outwards at a cost of £50. • Wooden fence posts (x 10): These were rotten and causing the fence to wobble. Cost to replace would be £275. <p>The total cost of this work would be £925 and it was agreed that it was essential that it was carried out. The Chair reported that he had been informed that playground equipment had been gifted to Parish Councils and that, in due course, they may have to pay to maintain them. Ward Cllr Hosking was surprised and concerned that MKC officers were proposing to charge for carrying out this work as he felt that the playground was a MKC responsibility. He was aware that some services, e.g. grass cutting, had been devolved to some parish and town councils with their agreement but was not aware that this was also being applied to play areas. He therefore suggested that the Chair should send him an email requesting clarification on services being devolved to parish councils in general and also specifically mentioning play areas and he would seek clarification on the matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooden multi-play: It was agreed that this needed some refurbishment, e.g. painting, and that a village working party would be set up by the residents’ group to undertake this work. 	<p>Chair</p> <p>Chair</p>
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	The Chair was meeting with the residents' group the next evening and would share the above information with them.	
17/10/2020	<p>Ward Councillor's report:</p> <p>Recycling Pilot – Ward Cllr Hosking referred to the item in Phonebox about this pilot which indicated that North Crawley was part of it. In fact it was just a few dwellings in Little Crawley that were included and so he apologised if this had caused any confusion. Cllr Sue Garner mentioned that recycling sacks for her cul-de-sac in Kilpin Green had not been collected until the following week despite following the usual channels to report this as a “missed collection” to MKC. Cllr Hosking agreed that it was frustrating when MKC procedures were followed to report problems which were not then acted upon.</p> <p>Street Lights – Cllr Hoskin explained that there was often a surge in reports being made of faulty street lights when the clocks went back as faults became more obvious. He said they should be reported to MKC following the usual procedure. The Clerk mentioned that she had received an email from a resident about two lights in Kilpin Green that had been reported during September but had not yet been repaired. It was agreed that the Clerk should report these again from the PC log in.</p>	Clerk
18/10/2020	<p>Parishes Forum – Cllr Sue Garner reported that she and the Clerk had attended an on-line meeting of this group recently. The process of devolving services to Parish Councils who would then be expected to precept to cover the cost had been mentioned. Cllr Hosking agreed to look into this and report back.</p>	
19/10/2020	<p>Finance Matters: The Receipts and Payments report for October 2020, having been previously circulated was approved along with the Finance Report for the period up to the end of 6 October 2020.</p>	
20/10/2020	<p>Asset Register: The Asset Register that had been previously circulated was received. The Clerk noted that there were several parcels of land which were registered at the Land Registry in approximately 2008 as belonging to the Parish Council but that they had not been entered into the Asset Register at that time. She confirmed that she would search for the documents in the archives in the Village Hall and then update and re-circulate the Asset Register at a later meeting.</p>	Clerk
21/10/2020	<p>Parish Council noticeboard (previous minute 09/03/2020 refers): The Clerk reported that a recent suggestion had been made to the Church DCC that the current worn out board in the churchyard was replaced with a new board</p>	

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	<p>which would be one third bigger. This slightly increased size would mean that the board could have a dual use by the Parish Council and the school. This suggestion had however been rejected by the DCC as the view of the church would be adversely affected. It was therefore decided, as it was important to support the school in its efforts to attract more pupils, that the £300 Ward Grant that had been received in March would be used to either refurbish the existing noticeboard or replace like-for-like. This noticeboard would then be donated to the school for its use. A further notice board would then be purchased to place on the reverse of the bus shelter to house the village map which was often viewed by walkers visiting the village.</p>	Clerk
22/10/2020	<p>Newport Pagnell Neighbourhood Plan: The link to this Plan had been circulated to all councillors. The Chair reported that he had looked at this Plan and had ascertained that it was not materially different from the original to which the Parish Council had raised no objections. It was therefore agreed that there were no objections to this updated Plan.</p>	
23/10/2020	<p>Parish Council website: The Accessibility Statement (previously circulated) was noted. This had been posted on the Parish Council website. The website had to comply with the Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations 2018 and it currently did not in some areas. There was a discussion in general about the website and of some improvements that could be made. It was agreed that it would be advisable to create a new website as soon as possible which was already compliant rather than adapt the current one. Some research had already been carried out by the Chair and the Clerk and it was agreed that this should continue and a detailed report made to a future meeting as to the options available. The Chair also reported that he and the Clerk were meeting informally with James Sandall the next day to discuss the website and also the use of Facebook for the Parish Council.</p>	
24/10/2020	<p>Churchyard matters: The late Gwendoline Goodman – Additional Inscription fee (£70) for Garden of Rest plot 2/21 had been received.</p>	
25/10/2020	<p>Councillors' Items: Highways: Cllr Harpur had identified that there were about 10 blocked drains in Folly Lane. He had mentioned this to someone from Ringway but had not formally reported it. He would monitor this situation. Planning: Cllr Harpur would report back on the Gog Lane and High Street matters in due course when he had more</p>	DH DH

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	information. He had been informed that the Enforcement Officers had not been able to attend site due to COVID-19 restrictions.	
26/10/2020	Streetscape: There were two seats which were not on the Asset Register – one on either side of the war memorial. The Clerk reported that one of them was maintained by the Hatton family and the other had been provided by North Crawley United Charities and she was seeking confirmation from the secretary as to whether or not the charity was maintaining it. Cllr Sue Garner reported that the bench in Nixeys Walk had recently been successfully refurbished by Andy Gresty and that the Chair had visited him personally to pass on the thanks of the Parish Council. Mr Gresty had also indicated he would be prepared to refurbish the other 20 seats and benches that were on the Asset Register over a period of the next year or so. He would be willing to do this on a voluntary basis with materials supplied by the Parish Council. It was agreed to accept this offer with thanks and to also pay him an honorarium which he would pass on to the charity of his choice – UK Diabetes. It was also noted that the three seats in “Codgers’ Corner” were maintained by the Cricket Club. The Chair suggested that a policy was written for the guidance of anyone who wished to provide a seat but, following discussion, it was decided that this was not necessary as people should be able to provide their own choice of seat and in a colour that fitted in with the conservation area.	
27/10/2020	Bus Shelter and Book Swap: It had been noticed that several boxes of books were being stored in the bus shelter for the purposes of a Book Swap. Although it was felt that the principle of a Book Swap system was good and should be supported, the current arrangements could not continue for the following reasons: Untidiness; making seats in the bus shelter unusable; hygienic reasons due to COVID-19; books will become damp in winter weather. It was therefore agreed that the Chair would endeavour to find out the resident who had initiated this with a view to removing the books but also, importantly, to find a better solution towards having a properly managed Book Swap system in the village.	Chair
28/10/2020	Recreation and Community Development: The Chair reported that the Parish Survey had been published on Facebook and that hard copies were also available in the shop. He asked councillors to publicise it as much as possible.	

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	He had also recently attended an IMC meeting and reported that the AGM would be held on 30 November in accordance with COVID restrictions.	
29/10/2020	Trees: Cllr Ridgely confirmed that he would investigate the trees that the Chair had recently mentioned might need attention .	
30/10/2020	Community Safety: Cllr Ridgely reported that he had been in touch with Arlene and would pass on her reports on those occasions when she was unable to attend parish council meetings.	
31/10/2020	Rural Paths: Cllr Smith confirmed that he was continuing to walk the paths and noting any problems. The first 3-mile circular walk had been uploaded to the website.	
32/10/2020	Cemetery: Cllr Hold felt that it would be useful to know what residents felt about the cemetery – would they like to see it more or less formal from a landscape point of view. She agreed to write something for Scan to ask for people’s thoughts on this matter. At a recent site meeting in the Cemetery, it was noticed that some of the monuments were looking unsafe. The Clerk agreed to contact HW Mason about carrying out an inspection.	MH Clerk
33/10/2020	Meetings with other bodies: Cllr Sue Garner reported that she and the Clerk had attended the Parishes Forum on line meeting recently. However, she had not found it to be relevant to small parish councils as discussion was dominated by the larger councils within Milton Keynes.	
34/10/2020	Correspondence and information matters: COVID Champion: The Chair referred to this scheme which called on people throughout Milton Keynes to help MKC to reach their friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and thousands of other local people, with trusted information and advice related to COVID-19. He encouraged parish councillors to register for it.	
35/10/2020	Date of next meeting: All councillors agreed to hold the next meeting in the Institute as it could be COVID secure in that building. The Clerk reported that, due to another booking in the Institute on the first Tuesday in November, that the date of the next meeting would be Tuesday 10 November 2020 (to be confirmed).	

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