

NORTH CRAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Institute

Present:	Parish Councillors: S Garner (in the Chair), J Armstrong, L Butterworth, N Kearney, D Harpur, T Smith and J Weatherley Clerk/RFO S M Bushnell Ward Councillor K McLean; PCSO Arlene Ormston	ACTION
	Note: The Annual Parish Meeting had been due to take place at 7 pm but no residents attended. Lisa Beckett - MKCC Head of Customer Data and Insight - had been invited to discuss MKCC communication issues and these discussions began at 7.10 pm with the regular PC meeting commencing at 7.40 pm	
	<p>Discussion with Lisa Beckett (MKCC)</p> <p>The Chair began by outlining some examples of delayed responses from MKCC when contacted by the Parish Council, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archery at East End - This issue had taken 34 months to reach an unsatisfactory conclusion and was on-going as far as the Parish Council was concerned; • School Crossing Warden – following the retirement of the Warden in March 2022, it had taken 23 months to confirm the funding for a replacement; • Steel piling barrier on North Crawley Road – the poor condition of this had been reported in April 2023 but it took 5 months for a negative response to be received; • Ousedale admissions - 5 months to reach a satisfactory conclusion on September 2023 admissions. The Chair acknowledged however that some of this delay may have been caused by the school; • High Street weight restriction of vehicles – 5 months to receive a negative response to this query; • MK East – MKCC had confirmed that the requested regular updates on MK East developments would be sent to all Olney Ward councils. This was 4 months ago and no updates had been received, despite reminders being sent; • Road safety – a meeting was held in January at school closing time to look at road safety. It took 2 months for a response to be received and this was to wait and see if any new roads were introduced because of the MK City Plan 2050 which might help the village. <p>The Chair explained that he was not expecting Lisa to resolve the above matters. The issue was the amount of time it took to</p>	

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	<p>receive responses to queries rather than the actual outcome of them. A prompt acknowledgment that the request had been received and an indication as to when it would be dealt with would be a starting point.</p> <p>Cllr Smith mentioned one department that was very responsive to queries and this was Rights of Way.</p> <p>Lisa commented that she heard and understood the frustration being experienced. She explained that the following methods of communication were the best to use rather than emailing individual officers: the Report It system; Shared inboxes; Kay Pettit (the Programme Manager – Parish and Town Councils); Ward Councillors.</p> <p>The Clerk and Cllr Harpur explained some problems experienced when using the Report It system (e.g. pinpointing locations on map, uploading photos) and Lisa confirmed she was aware of these and would continue to investigate them. The Clerk mentioned that it would be helpful for all Clerks to receive a list of the shared inboxes and the circumstances under which they should each be used. Lisa agreed to action this either via email or through the Councillors’ News bulletin.</p> <p>As far as the MK East updates were concerned, Ward Cllr McLean agreed to work with Lisa on resolving this.</p> <p>Lisa was thanked for her attendance at the meeting which was much appreciated.</p>	Lisa Beckett KMclean
05/2024/01	<p>Election of Chair for 2024/25</p> <p>Cllr Steve Garner was elected as Chair (proposed by Cllr Weatherley and seconded by Cllr Kearney). This was unanimously carried.</p>	
05/2024/02	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Ward Councillor P Geary</p>	
05/2024/03	<p>Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2 April 2024 were approved.</p>	
05/2024/04	<p>Items from members of the public: There were no members of the public present.</p>	
05/2024/05	<p>Update from the PCSO: Arlene Ormston reported that, for the period 2/4/2024 – 5/5/2024, there had been no recorded crime in North Crawley or Little Crawley. There had been some non-crime-related incidents including dangerous driving in Brook End and a collision in Folly Lane. She was pleased to note that more officers were joining the Newport Pagnell and rural team which would mean that there would be a greater presence in the area. The next meeting of the Rural Community Forum would take place on 16 July and she encouraged attendance. There would shortly be a week concentrating on reducing knife crime. Operation Drover would take place in July which involved local</p>	

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	people, e.g. farmers, actively looking for hare coursing and other crimes with direct access to the police without having to call 999.	
	Ward Councillors' Reports	
05/2024/06	Cllr McLean did not have much to report as, in an election year, purdah had meant that activities had been limited over the last few weeks. However, he was pleased to have been re-elected as Ward Councillor and he would now be part of a Labour run Council. He did not yet know on which committees, etc. he would serve but his interests lay in supporting the local communities. MKCC was currently undergoing public consultation on proposed new council wards and ward boundaries. The new structure would come into effect in 2026 when all ward councillors would be up for election.	
05/2024/07	Brook End Nurseries Site: The Chair had contacted Victoria Barrett in Planning Enforcement to try to ascertain the latest information on this following the adjournment of the Inquiry in March.	Chair
	Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes	
05/2024/08	Minute 04/2024/08 Play Areas: A response had now been received from Kompan with an offer "to address the safety surface issue, the contractor's quote comes to £2650. Additionally, for the necessary drainage works, the contractor has quoted £4380. We are committed to covering the entire cost of the surface repair, amounting to £2650. This ensures that the site will be restored to its initial condition, meeting the standards set by the independent safety inspector who originally approved the play area installation. Furthermore, as a gesture of goodwill, we are prepared to contribute an extra £865 towards the remaining balance for the drainage costs, reducing your contribution to £3515". Following discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Kompan explaining that a comparative quote for the drainage work was required and to request details of the specification for the work. It was also not clear whether the two Kompan quotes were linked or if they could be treated separately.	Clerk
05/2024/09	Minute 04/2024/09 Damaged footpath in Church Walk: This work had now been carried out.	
05/2024/10	Minute 04/2024/10 Wasteground sign: Planning approval had now been granted. The Clerk would circulate the text of the sign round to councillors for final approval before the order was placed.	Clerk
05/2024/11	Minute 04/2024/11 Road Safety: The Clerk understood that the school would be placing an advert for the school crossing attendant soon and had offered to help with making people aware of this. The Chair would include this in his monthly bulletin.	Chair

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05/2024/12	Minute 04/2024/12 Solor Panels for SIDS: The Clerk had ascertained that the price for upgrading the poles would be around £1,000 - £1,500. It had also been suggested by MKCC that funding for this could be obtained through the Community Infrastructure Fund. It was decided that this was worth pursuing as it would enable the PC to apply for the cost of the poles, 4 x solar panels and another SID with a 50% contribution. The funding would not however be available until April 2025. The Chair also reported that a resident had offered to make a donation to the PC for ANPR (Automated Number Plate Recognition) cameras. The Chair was investigating these cameras.	Clerk/Chair
05/2024/13	Minute 04/2024/13 Defibrillator: The Clerk reported that £150 had been received for the old defibrillator.	
05/2024/14	Minute 04/2024/23 Cemetery paths: Cllr Harpur had inspected the paths and suggested the work that needed to be carried out. The Clerk had obtained a quote from G Martin and Sons for £900 plus VAT and it was agreed that this should be accepted.	Clerk
05/2024/15	North Crawley Neighbourhood Plan: The application for the 18 dwellings on H3 had now been submitted and would be considered at the next meeting of the Implementation Group (IG). Councillors were asked to look at this application online and to let him have any comments which he would pass on to the IG. The Chair also mentioned the possibility of adding a footway across the Parish Council owned strip of land in Orchard Way from H4/5 to make a more direct route for residents. Apart from Cllr Harpur who was concerned that some residents might not want people walking in front of their houses to access the path, it was decided that this might be a good suggestion to make to the developers. The Chair would pass this on to the IG for consideration.	All Cllrs Chair
05/2024/16	Planning: The following applications had been received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24/00586/FUL - Erection of 18 No. dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and road infrastructure including creation of new vehicular access and footpath connection from Chicheley Road, Land North of 28 Chicheley Road, North Crawley – This application to be considered by the IG initially (see above) • 24/00772/TCA - The crown reduction from 5m tall x 6m wide to 3m x 4m of 1x Holly tree, from 6m tall x 4m wide to 4m x 3m of 1x Silver birch, and the overall reduction to approximately 2m tall x 2m wide of 2x Apple tree at 19 High Street, North Crawley – No objections 	
	Councillors' Reports:	
05/2024/17	Highways: Cllr Harpur reported that the serious pothole in the High Street had now been satisfactorily repaired.	

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05/2024/18	Footpaths: Cllr Smith reported that the stile behind the Horncastle Farm would be repaired within two weeks.																																																																																															
05/2024/19	Councillor Responsibilities: The Chair asked all councillors whether they were happy with their current responsibilities, and all indicated that they were. He had however asked Cllr Butterworth whether she would be interested in becoming the PC representative on the IMC and she had agreed to this. The Chair thanked her for volunteering and agreed to give her background information to help with the role. The Chair and Cllr Butterworth would attend the next IMC meeting on 20th May together.			Chair																																																																																												
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	* Payment includes VAT	
05/2024/21	Adventure Playground: The Clerk reported that, during an MKCC playground inspection, it had been noticed that the zip wire needed re-tensioning. The Clerk understood that the cost for Sovereign to do this would be £499. It was agreed that the Clerk would try to obtain a second quote.	Clerk
	Correspondence and Information Matters	
05/2024/22	The Chair reported that he had received the following communications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of a trip hazard on the recreation field. This had been rectified; • Bee Orchids – These rare flowers were coming into bud and a resident had asked whether they could be avoided during grass cutting. The Clerk had asked RTM to do this and sent a map of the location of the flowers on Orchard Way. 	
05/2024/23	Young Fun Draw: This took place and number 23 was the winner. The £30 prize would be delivered by the Clerk.	
05/2024/24	Date and time of next meeting: Monday 3 June 2024 at 7.30 pm in the Institute	

Signed: Chair Clerk Date