

CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Parish Council General Meeting held Monday 2nd February 2015
at 7.30 p.m. in the Village Hall

PRESENT: Councillors Ayles, Keane, Markham, Presant-Collins, & Sweetland. The Clerk Mr S Bradbury, Ward Cllr Green and three members of the public were also in attendance.

The public session was opened at 7.30:

A further question was raised about speeding. Cllr Ayles reported that the Speed Indication Devices (SIDs) continue to monitor speeds coming into the village and have consistently recorded levels well below those at which the police would take action. Additionally rubber tubes that had been laid last year recorded very few instances of people exceeding the speed limits.

It would appear that problems are not being caused by excessive speed, but by people accelerating to get through the road narrows ahead of oncoming traffic. Cllr Green said that she had parked in her car and had observed this behaviour both at Station Road and Hanslope Road. She will report this behaviour to Sue Williams at MKC.

All SID checks had thus far been measuring speeds coming into the village. Cllr Ayles said that it would be worth seeing if the brackets could be turned round the other way so that speeds could be monitored along the roads within the built up area.

The MKC Road Safety Officer has been out to check the traffic calming measures in Station Road and has said that in his opinion there is no problem with visibility but that the signage may not be sufficient. He will make another visit to follow up.

There being no further business the meeting commenced at 7.42.

1		APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTION
	1.1	Cllr Hinds reason sickness, Cllr Stacey reason alternate commitment. Both accepted..	
2		DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST by Councillors in any agenda items below	
	2.1	Cllr Presant-Collins declared a pecuniary interest in 5.1.	
3		APPROVE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING	
	3.1	The minutes of the general meeting on the 5 th January 2015 were proposed by Cllr Sweetland, seconded Cllr Keane and agreed unanimously.	
4		TO RECEIVE REPORTS	
	4.1.	Clerks Report & Review of Actions. (see Appendix A1). Matters arising:	
	4.1.1.	Item 2 – It would appear that the only way to resolve the problem with the increase in business rates would be to have some body take over the running of the sports ground and thus be liable for the rates. Clerk & Cllr Stacey to arrange an informal meeting with sports teams to discuss. Cllr Markham asked for the meeting to be in the evening or at the weekend.	Clerk
	4.1.2.	Item 10: Cllr Keane asked whether any more SID training courses are being arranged. The Clerk did not know but suggested that Cllr Keane contact Adrian Carden at MKC.	
	4.1.3.	Item 1: Cllr Markham asked what was happening about the defective lamp posts at Fox Covert Lane. As detailed in Clerk's report (see appendix A1) it is unclear whether MKC have adopted the lamps. Cllr Sweetland to pursue with MKC	Cllr Sweetland
	4.1.4.	Item 19: The owner of Lodge Farm Business Park is looking to put solar panels on the roofs of buildings at the park and will consider including the Village Hall and sports pavilions within the scope of the exercise.	
	4.2.	Neighbourhood Plan report (see appendix A2).	
	4.2.1.	A 'visioning' meeting is to be held to take forward the results of the survey to the next stage. Community Impact Bucks had stressed that it was important that all key members of the Steering Group attend. This earliest opportunity where people's diaries are clear is at the start of March. Clerk to liaise and arrange a meeting at the earliest opportunity.	Clerk
	4.3.	FILE NOTE: MKC Flood Alleviation Scheme project report (see appendix A3)	

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- 4.3.1. Cllr Ayles reported that the first bund at the Dips had now been constructed. The second should be completed by March following the taking out of a statutory entry order. Discussions were still taking place as to where the third should be located. The project manager has expressed great confidence that all work will be completed before next winter
- 4.4. **FILE NOTE - Budget Proposal - Reduction of Bus Subsidies – question raised by Cllr Ayles. (See Appendix A4)**
- 4.4.1. The 33 bus service has now been saved from any cuts. Cllr Ayles said that bus subsidies are a matter of need for rural communities. The 33 service is the highest used of the MKC subsidised bus routes and is part funded by Northamptonshire. All thanked Cllr Ayles for his efforts in having the full service retained.
- 4.5. **FILE NOTE – Village walkabout with MKC Landscaping contractors (See Appendix A5)**
- 4.5.1. Cllr Sweetland & Cllr Ayles had attended a meeting with MKALC at which she had spoken to John Price about the hedge at Thrupp Close. Guinness Housing Association had insisted that the hedge did not belong to them and MKC had said likewise. Cllr Sweetland had asked for an encroachment order to be put on the hedge as it is overgrowing the footpath. The placing of such an order would determine the ownership. Cllr Sweetland to review progress.
Cllr Sweetland will also contact MKC about the hedge between 11 North Street and the sports ground for which MKC have claimed responsibility but have yet to cut.
- 4.6. **FILE NOTE: Newport Pagnell North and Hanslope Area Forum 22nd January 2015 (See Appendix A6)**
- 4.6.1. No matters arising.
- 4.7. **FILE NOTE – BROADBAND UPDATE (See Appendix A7)**
No matters arising
- 5 **TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS (previously viewed on line by Cllrs)**
Cllr Present-Collins withdrew from the meeting
- 5.1. **15/00108/FUL** Ground mounted solar park with a rated output of approx. 750KW Land Adj To Lodge Farm House Wolverton Road Castlethorpe – The Cllrs had previously visited the site and there were no changes from that time. The panels cannot be seen from the road or village and there is no disruption to public footpaths. It was therefore agreed unanimously that the Clerk write to MKC saying the the parish council has no objections to the application.
Cllr Present-Collins returned to the meeting
- 6 **TO RECEIVE REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS PLANNING APPLICATIONS**
- 6.1. **14/01341/FUL** First floor rear extension and change of use of agricultural land to garden land (part retrospective) 20 Lodge Farm Court Castlethorpe – still pending consideration. No further comments
- 6.2. **14/02390/FUL** - Single storey side and rear extension 3 Bullington End Road – application permitted. No further comments.
- 6.3. **14/01928/FUL** - Conversion of a 4 bed bungalow into 2x 2 bed bungalows, including 2x single storey front extensions 19 South Street – pending consideration - CPC comments from last meeting had been logged against application. Cllr Ayles asked that should this matter go to a Development Control meeting then someone speak to represent the previously expressed views of the council, should he be absent. Clerk to arrange should this be the case.
- 6.4. **14/02449/CLUP** - Certificate of lawfulness for proposed single storey rear extension 21 Lodge Farm Court Castlethorpe. Certificate given. No further comments.
- 6.5. **14/02760/FUL** - Application for a further 15 x static holiday caravans to remain on site throughout the year (associated application)

Cllr Sweetland

Cllr Sweetland

Clerk

Clerk

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14/01775/FUL) Cosgrove Lodge Park – pending decision. No further comments.

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TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS

- 7.1. Cllr Ayles proposed a public excluded part 2 of the meeting to discuss matters in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as defined in paragraphs 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act. Agreed unanimously.
- 7.2. Cllr Ayles proposed that the Clerk in agreement with Cllr Stacey be delegated a sum of up to £500 to provide additional equipment for the new groundsman. Agreed unanimously.
- 7.3. Cllr Presant-Collins distributed pictures of wooden fencing that he proposed be installed at each of the village entrances. This is similar to what is in place at Deanshanger. He said that the cost of installing the fencing at all entrances would amount to no more than £1,000 (fitted). Cllr Ayles said that the results from the SID speed monitoring did not imply a need for further slowing at the entrances and that the choice of fencing can be made on purely aesthetic grounds. All agreed that it would at least have no negative effect and may further slow vehicles. Cllr Sweetland said that the Open Gardens Committee had expressed willingness to donate up to £1500 to spend on village entry improvements. It was unanimously agreed to authorise the amount of up to £1,000 to install the fencing at the four entrances subject to:
Cllr Presant-Collins to gain approval from MKC
Cllr Sweetland to get agreement from Open Gardens Committee
Village road signs to be considered separately
- 7.4. The Clerk had not had time to prepare a specification for quotes for the health & Safety improvements at the Village Hall (and sports pavilions). Clerk to attempt to do so by next meeting.
- 7.5. It was agreed that the matter of landscaping maintenance within the village had already been fully discussed.
- 7.6. It was agreed that the matter of traffic calming measures on Station Road had already been fully discussed.
- 7.7. All agreed that the Carrington Arms is an eyesore and is shown up even worse following the improvements to the village centre. There was also a lot of concern about the risk of falling masonry possibly injuring someone. Cllr Keane had talked to an MKC conservation officer who had advised that it is best to have a discussion with the building's owner as a first step. If this comes to nothing and the building is a danger to the public then they could issue and enforce a repair order. It was agreed that Cllr Presant-Collins and the Clerk agree and circulate a letter to the building's owner requesting a reply within 28 days about what steps he will take to make the building safe.

Cllr Presant-Collins
Cllr Sweetland

Clerk

Cllr Presant-Collins/Clerk

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FINANCIAL MATTERS

- 8.1 The RFO Payments Schedule was proposed by Cllr Ayles, seconded by Cllr Keane and agreed unanimously.

Payee	Description	Invoice	Amount
S Bradbury	Salary July 2014	per pay slip	£522.08
S Bradbury	Replacement toner for clerk's office + envelopes	per attached receipt	£32.00
S Bradbury	Re-claim purchase of VH boiler drip tray	per att. Receipt	£75.00
F.Price	Jan 2015 invoice cleaning	per attached invoice 027	£160.00
F.Price	Jan 2015 invoice SID	per attached invoice 027	£68.00
AH Contracts	Dog bins Jan 2015	per attached invoice 7785	£35.00

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MK Bus Users Group	Associate Membership Subscription	per attached invoice AMS01/165	£25.00
Grand Total			£917.08

Direct Debits

E.ON	gas VH - Jan DD	89208742670	£112.00
E.ON	elec VH - Jan DD	415172577000	£64.93

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CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- 9.1. An email had been received from MK Citizens Advice Bureau (MKCAB) pointing out that If Milton Keynes Council's draft budget proposals go ahead, in October 2015, MK CAB will be forced to close its current operation, to the detriment of the social fabric of the whole area. They asked the parish council to write to MKC opposing cuts to the funding of MKCAB. They also requested that precept be raised by £1 per property per year with this additional money being donated to the Bureau. It was agreed that whilst it fully appreciated the good job that is done by MK CAB that the parish council should not make specific objections to MKC. Additionally it was agreed that the request to increase precept had come far too late, the precept having been agreed and approved before receipt of the email. Clerk to respond accordingly.

Clerk

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for noting, or for inclusion on a future agenda)

- 10.1. Cllr Presant-Collins said that there is a bit of land near the railway foot bridge that needs to be restored following its use for parking heavy equipment during the village centre work. Also the wooden posts that stopped people parking on the green verge need to be replaced. He will contact MKC.
- 10.2. Cllr Green had raised the matter of MKC's use of web tool SurveyMonkey to issue questionnaires to parish councils. Rob Ward has agreed to provide paper copies so that the parish councils can consider away from a personal computer.

Cllr Presant-Collins

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TO AGREE DATE AND ATTENDANCE FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- 11.1 Next General Parish Council meeting 2nd March 2015 at 7.30 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss part 1 of the meeting closed at 9.15

PART 2

12

TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST by Councillors in any of the agenda items below

- 12.1. None

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TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS

- 13.1 Four quotes for restoration of the Village Hall bell tower had been communicated to the Cllrs prior to the meeting. It was agreed that none of the quotes covered replacement of any damaged stone, nor should consideration be given at this time to any restoration work on the bell itself. Not all of the quotes received made reference to the amount of public liability insurance that was in place. Following a discussion it was agreed by a majority of three to two that the quote from MAE Ltd be accepted, that being the least expensive., on the proviso that:

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- Public liability insurance be in place to the amount of £5 million
- A reference can be obtained from someone who has had similar restorative work done by the tradesman

Should either of these provisos not be met then the supplier that had submitted the next lowest quote should be awarded the contract.

Clerk to progress accordingly

Clerk

There being no further business part 2 of the meeting closed at 9.30

Appendix A – Schedule of Reports & File Notes

APPENDIX A1 – CLERK'S REPORT 2/2/2015

1. Lamp posts at Paddock Close: the heritage style lamps do not seem that resilient to high winds as the lamp encasements have previously become dislodged from the lamp posts and it has happened again. Cllr Sweetland has determined that the lamps on both Fox Covert Lane have been allocated reference numbers by MKC and those in Paddock Close have the reference numbers plus MKC plates instructing people how to report faults. It needs to be clarified as to whether the lamps have been adopted by MKC, but there is an immediate Health & Safety problem that needs to be addressed either by MKC or by the land owners.
2. Rates: Rateable value of sports ground has now increased from £1175 to £2750 which will mean an additional cost of c. £800. Additionally small business rate relief will be lost on the Village Hall meaning an overall increase of c. £2400 p.a. Clerk has contacted Graham Heilbuth at Lambert Smith Hampton who has advised that it is probably not worth challenging the actual valuation but suggests that the best way forward is to form some kind of organisation to run the sports ground and refer the rates collection department to that organisation. The Clerk has contacted Newport Pagnell who have leased their sports facilities to a leisure management company who now run them (**email response copied to Cllrs**). He has also asked Hanslope who have yet to answer.
3. Paddock Close: The Clerk has written to Carington Estates about maintaining the two plots at the entrance and about the drainage
4. Highways Projects: Still awaiting to hear outcome of the five applications made for the Highways Capital projects in their 2015/16 programme.
5. Extra parking spaces – village centre: Rhoderick Aitken at MKC had written to the Station Yard developer about the agreement to use public land at the back of the village green for parking spaces. He had received no reply to date. Cllr Presant-Collins was to talk to the developer
6. VH bell tower: Quotes to be considered at tonight's meeting
7. Tennis court lights: only one quote received for the tennis court lighting
8. Football Pavillion: No further progress on covering the football pavilion floor. Clerk has asked tradesman to replace the padding around an air vent that had been 'eaten away'. Sports Ground Committee still to consider the possibility that water may be getting in by blowing through the a gap in the badly fitting front door
9. Drains at Bullington End Road: Cllr Markham was to meet with Ward Cllr Green to assess latest position
10. Speed Indication Devices (SID's): John Foakes and Fred Price have now attended health & safety training course so 4 people are now qualified.
11. Village Hall 'kissing gate': Clerk has forwarded details of the MKC contact to order the gate to Cllr Stacey and he will now make the contact and get the gate fitted – Carried forward

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12. Additional Notice Boards: Clerk has received the notice board and has it in his garage
 13. Sports Ground Committee Meeting needed urgently.
 14. Clerk has arranged to meet with electrical contractor to get a quote for lights at the sports ground – hopefully 6th January
 15. Cllr Sweetland to liaise with Village Hall Committee re contacting users groups about proposed erection of curtains in the Village Hall – awaiting confirmation about the degree of fireproofing (9to what standard) from the VH Committee
 16. Clerk has advised archaeological Society that they will need to contact English Heritage for permission to investigate Castle Field
 17. Clerk has sent Precept return to MKC requesting 3% rise as agreed at last meeting
 18. Improved marketing of the sports ground: the Clerk & Cllr Sweetland met with the consultant provided by Community Impact Bucks who has now responded (**email response copied to Cllrs**). Cllr Sweetland and Clerk plus anyone else that is interested to meet to consider the response before a further meeting is held.
 19. Cllr Ayles has been in touch with the Lodge Farm business park owner about looking into including panels on the public buildings as part of the project he is undertaking to erect a solar panel farm.
- No progress on outstanding actions:
- o No progress on creating a new account for MKC fault logging
 - o Village walkabout to be written up and rationalised against previous fault list.
 - o Cllr Stacey to erect the basketball backboards & hoops (frames need to be re-rendered).
 - o Purchase of Sage accounting software awaiting clerk to establish a ‘clean point’ with finances
 - o Review MKC fault list inc. state of Sustrans cycle track
 - o Elicit quotes for additional safety equipment required at village hall and sports pavilions
 - o Still to appeal against the MKC reply to the objections raised by the parish council to planning application 14/01199 for change of use of land at 21 Lodge Farm Court that were not been taken forward.
 - o Still no progress on getting further quotes to re-route the Village Hall side drainpipe.
 - o Clerk still to give Cllr Sweetland details to open two further Lloyds bank accounts to have the s.106 Planning Gain transferred into

Steve Bradbury
2/2/15

APPENDIX A2 – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REPORT 2/2/2015

- Community Impact Bucks have suggested that a ‘visioning meeting’ is held as the next step in the process and have suggested a date of 17th February.

Steve Bradbury
2/2/15

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APPENDIX A3 - FILE NOTE - MKC Flood Alleviation Project Report item 4.4)



MILTON KEYNES
COUNCIL

Project Highlight Report

Project Name & Code	Milton Keynes Flood Alleviation Project
Project Sponsor	Andy Dickinson (Milton Keynes Council)
Project Manager	Kate Davidson (Milton Keynes Council)
Project objective in a sentence	To reduce the risk of flooding in the rural areas of Milton Keynes and the consequential damage to homes, by installing flood attenuation systems that work in conjunction with the existing drainage network to appropriately distribute excess rain water.
Reporting Period	January 2015
<u>Overall RAG Rating and supporting statement</u>	
Overall Current RAG rating	Amber / Red
Previous RAG rating	Amber / Red

RAG Definition

Green	All key criteria (Time, Cost, Scope and Benefits) will be achieved. Risks are being managed
Amber / Green	One of the key criteria cannot be delivered within tolerance; project risks are being managed
Amber / Red	Two or Three of the key criteria cannot be delivered within tolerance. Risks need to be escalated
Red	All four key criteria cannot be delivered without further significant intervention (Consider whether the project should continue). Risks need to be escalated.

RAG Supporting Statement:

Final preparations are underway for the installation of Tathall End Flood Alleviation Scheme 2 (Littlewood Farm). Supplies have been ordered (clay and headwalls) and a contract has been issued (by Highways contractor Ringway) for construction to start on 2 March 2015.

Access to Littlewood Farm is currently being discussed with the landowner. The Council has taken legal action to ensure entry before or on 2 March 2015. Construction will take two to three weeks once entry is obtained. A pre-start badger survey and a bird nesting survey will be carried out prior to construction in accordance with the planning conditions.

The Council is now working with a contractor called WSP to re-model the proposals for Tathall End Scheme 3. Topographical surveys of the watercourse will be conducted in early spring 2015 prior to additional 2D hydraulic modelling that will inform the third and final scheme for the area. It is forecast that a planning application for Scheme 3 will be submitted to the Planning Authority in the summer of 2015, in advance of an autumn 2015 construction.

Ringway has placed an order for a replacement footbridge for Tathall End, to go over the watercourse between Pilgrims Cottage and the Old Greyhound Cottage. The project team is currently in discussions with the footbridge supplier regarding the specification of the bridge. New foundations have been marked out and will be situated outside of the watercourse itself to ensure that they have no impact on water flow.

At the request of local representatives, the project team is also in discussions with Rights of Way Officers regarding the proposed extinguishment of the impacted section of Right of Way in Tathall End.

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Improvements to the drainage system at the Devils Dip junction are currently being evaluated by the Council and Ringway. Proposals to alleviate the frequent flooding issue in the area are currently being developed and will be shared with community representatives, along with a provisional schedule for the works, as soon as possible.

Milestones & Schedule:

Key Milestones	Baseline	Forecast	Actual
Construction of flood attenuation bund at Ram Alley, Stoke Goldington	Sep 14	Sep 14	Sep 14
Construction of a flood alleviation bund at Yew Tree Farm, Tathall End (scheme 1)	Sep 14	Oct 14	Nov 14
Construction of a flood alleviation bund at Littlewood Farm, Tathall End (scheme 2)	Sep 14	Apr 15	
Construction of flood alleviation measure in the vicinity of the bridleway (scheme 3)	Sep 14	Oct 15	
Replacement of the Right of Way footbridge over the watercourse near The Greyhound, Tathall End	Dec 14	Dec 14	Feb 15
Improvements to the drainage at Devils Dip	Sep 15	Sep 15	

Activities achieved during last period

- The Council has taken legal proceedings to ensure access to Littlewood Farm in order to construct the second flood alleviation bund before April 2015.
- Planning conditions for the construction of Littlewood Farm bund have been discharged.
- A consent form has been submitted to the Internal Drainage Board in relation to the construction of the bund on Littlewood Farm.
- The Council has been working alongside WSP to develop a detailed model for the third flood alleviation scheme for Tathall End.
- An order was placed for the replacement footbridge that will go over the watercourse between Pilgrims Cottage and the Old Greyhound Cottage.
- The drains at the M1 underpass that runs over the bridleway have been thoroughly cleaned out and new barrier fencing has been installed.
- A presentation on flood alleviation was made at the Hanslope and Newport Pagnell North Area Forum.

Activities planned for next period

- Strimming of the proposed flood bund area on Littlewood Farm will be carried out in order to reduce the risk of new habitats/species forming in the vegetation, once access is permitted by the Landowner.
- WSP will complete a topographical survey of Tathall End watercourse, and progress flood modelling activities.
- A replacement footbridge for Tathall End will be installed between Pilgrims Cottage and the Old Greyhound Cottage (this is subject to a final decision once extinguishment of the Right of Way has been reviewed, as suggested to the Council).

Risks and Issues

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Description of risk & consequence	Action required
High rainfall within the Borough of Milton Keynes could result in flooding that causes damage to homes and impacts farming.	Flood attenuation measures to be installed in high risk areas.
Construction of flood alleviation schemes could be delayed by ecological issues such as presence of Great Crested Newts.	Ecological surveys carried out as and when necessary. English Nature Licence to be applied for if necessary.
Construction of flood alleviation schemes could be delayed by access issues.	Council to liaise with landowners and take legal action if required.
Construction of flood alleviation schemes could be delayed by archaeological issues .	The Council has appointed an Archaeologist to provide a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) and watching brief during construction of the bund at Littlewood Farm.
Flood alleviation schemes implemented by the Council could prove ineffective at preventing flooding.	Reports received from flood consultants WSP to be signed off by Council Drainage Officers and Head of Highways.
Description of Issue & impact	Action required
Footbridge condition determined by engineer as poor.	Footbridge to be replaced January/February 2015.
The third flood alleviation scheme for Tathall End is to be re-modelled by flood consultant WSP. After more detailed surveying it was determined that a bund on the bridleway may not be effective at holding water off the main road.	WSP require more time to carry out a detailed baseline assessment, procure topographical survey information, analyse the existing hydraulic restrictions and profile flows through Tathall End and downstream.
Access to Tathall End flood alleviation construction sites not yet agreed by all landowners.	Council to pursue access via land agents and if necessary take legal action.
Planning permission for Littlewood Farm ends on 18 April 2015.	The Council must ensure that the works are programmed to start before this date.

Are Changes or Decisions required?

None at present

Benefits

Target Benefit	Current Status
To reduce the risk of flooding and the consequential damage to the homes of citizens of the Borough of Milton Keynes.	Achievable
To reduce the risk of flooding to the highways within the Borough of Milton Keynes that provides access for the emergency services.	Achievable

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APPENDIX A4 - FILE NOTE - MK Budget Review - Bus Subsidies (item 4.4)

I became aware in early December, as a member of the new MKC Cabinet Parishes' Advisory Group, that the MKC draft budget for 2015/16 included a substantial reduction in the bus subsidy which is used to provide a bus service where a commercial service is not viable. In fact, the reduction is huge from £1,443k in 2014/15 to just £536k proposed.

MKC had asked the MK Bus User Group (MKBUG) to advise on the service reduction and Cllr Geraldine Sweetland attempted to contact MKBUG though it wasn't until early January she succeeded because MKBUG had lost its email facility. MKBUG had a meeting with MKC though only on 14th January and MKBUG declined to propose any preference for routes to be terminated.

After some discussion with Ward Cllrs Jeanette Green and Andrew Geary, I spoke at the full Council meeting on the evening of 14th January expressing concern at the cuts and the impact it would have on our residents if the No 33 service was reduced or terminated. Several Ward Cllrs approached me after Council and asked me to attend the Environment and Transport Select Committee meeting on 19th January to which the MKC Budget Review Group had referred the issue of bus subsidies.

Immediately prior to the Select Committee, papers were published on CMIS [<http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/miltonkeynes/Calendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/4943/Committee/953/Default.aspx>] showing proposed service reductions.

The good news is that the No 33 service subsidy is proposed to continue. The reason for this is (a) that 149,000 passenger journeys are made annually on this service which is the highest used subsidised service (b) the cost per passenger is low at £1.09 which represents good value for money and (c) the service is part funded by Northants who intend to continue. There may be some changes to the timetable but these are as part of the annual review by the bus operating company and are not due to the unchanged subsidy. This is all subject to the Budget being agreed.

The bad news is that some 400,000 passenger journeys are proposed to be lost in other parts of MK, both rural and urban, but this is not a matter specifically for Castlethorpe Parish Council but one which I will pursue through my Chairmanship of the MK Association of Local Councils.

Philip Ayles

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Appendix A5 – File Note 19th January 2015 Village walkabout with MKC Landscaping contractors (item 4.5)

Landscaping

During the autumn the new contractors Scerco took over responsibility for all landscaping in MK. They have subcontracted our area to Frosts.

Frosts commenced work in Castlethorpe on Monday 5th January. On Tuesday 13th Councillors Ayles, Keane and Sweetland met with Fred Perry Frosts Group Operations Manager and Andy Dewberry supervisor for rural villages. Euan Darling MK Landscaping Officer was unable to join us due to sickness.

We walked round the village particularly identify tree and shrubs which were show on the landscaping map given to Frosts by MK. The Map can be viewed on the MY Milton Keynes web site.

The following anomalies were noted.

Thrupp Close: Hedge at the entrance and shrubs around the electricity substation.

Action: request encroachment orders from MK.

North Street: Tree identified on grass by the bus stop on North Street, at the rear of Chestnuts does not exist. Strip of land at the rear of 21 North St is owned by the residents of 21. Part of the garden at the rear of the Village Hall. Is tended by the Pre School **Action:** ask Mk to remove all three from their map.

Tree on the green opposite the school needs attention. **Action:** Speak to MK

Station Road : Grassed area with shrubs outside 11 Mill View is owed by the residents. **Action:** ask MK to remove from map.

Fred Perry suggested that we should contact Euan Darling from MK to arrange a similar meeting.

Immediate action should be to contact MK regarding the hedge in Thrupp Close and the electricity sub station. Ask for encroachment orders.

Geraldine Sweetland

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**Appendix A6 – FILE NOTE: Newport Pagnell North and Hanslope Area Forum
22nd January 2015 (item 4.6)**

Present: Cllrs Ayles and Keane

- Mike Hainge gave an introduction on his Service Area with particular emphasis on the new app being developed to ensure better reporting of faults.
- Kate Davidson gave a Flood Alleviation report (see separate Note)
- Cllr Phil Winsor gave a presentation on the Newport Pagnell Neighbourhood Plan. They have decided to approve around 1400 new homes being Tickford Fields (two combined sites) of 1200 homes, North Crawley Industrial Estate (81 homes), Police Station site (15 homes including sheltered housing), Mustard Factory site (4 homes) and the Tesco site (~120 homes).

The Town Council invites comments though the response at the meeting was to welcome the development of a local centre.

- Next Meeting 14th May at Stoke Goldington.

Philip Ayles

APPENDIX A7 - BROADBAND UPDATE (item 4.7)

Based on a number of email exchanges with Martyn Smith, MKC Project Manager for the rural Broadband Programme.

There are three existing cabinets to be upgraded that run from the Hanslope Exchange. The Castlethorpe and Longstreet surveys have been completed but Martyn doesn't have any confirmation of when the new cabinets will actually be installed and available. There are also a number of new cabinets that need to be built close to the Hanslope Exchange to provide superfast broadband to more areas. He doesn't yet have details for when they will be built or exactly where they will be situated. The exchange itself will be upgraded at the same time. BT Openreach have confirmed that they will be aiming to implement the various new broadband cabinets and cabinet upgrades around Hanslope and also upgrade the exchange itself during summer 2015 unless, of course, they come across some delay when actually building cabinets or with cable ducting etc. which could potentially delay things. If that was to happen, Martyn would let us know. Martyn will attend the Newport Pagnell North and Hanslope Local Area Forum on 14th May to give an update.

Philip Ayles
26th January 2015