



Castlethorpe Parish Council

**DRAFT MINUTES OF A GENERAL MEETING OF
CASTLETHORPE PARISH COUNCIL
held on 6th November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs Ayles, Forgham, Hinds, Keane, Markham and Sweetland. Ward Cllr Andrew Geary joined the meeting (later). There were two members of the public present.

Questions were asked about the role of the parish council in planning approval, speeding on Bullington End Road and parking in South Street. Cllr Ayles said that he would speak to the police about speeding and to the individual concerned about parking. A resident stated that the police had been carrying out speed checks last weekend.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Stacey by reason of work. Accepted.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.**
 1. The Minutes of the Meeting of 4th September were approved unanimously. Proposed Cllr Keane, Seconded Cllr Forgham
 2. The Minutes of the Meeting of 2nd October were approved unanimously. Proposed Cllr Sweetland, Seconded Cllr Forgham
4. **TO RECEIVE REPORTS:** Due to Clerk's illness, there were no reports.
5. **TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**
 1. 17/02834/FUL. Concern was expressed about the materials proposed for this extension and the Planning Case Officer should be asked to review these with care to ensure they are suitable. Action: Clerk
 2. 17/02837/FUL. No objection.
 3. 17/02749/FUL. No objection.
 4. 17/02631/FUL. No objection.
6. **TO RECEIVE REPORT BACK ON PREVIOUS PLANNING APPLICATIONS.**
 1. 17/02512/FUL. Noted.
 2. 17/02333/FUL. Noted but see Agenda Item 7.2 below.
 3. 17/02105/OUT. Noted. Cllr Ayles said that he had been informed that MKC Highways had recommended refusal because of insufficient capacity on Little Linford Lane for further housing. This was the same objection as had been made by a number of neighbouring parish councils.
 4. 17/01937/OUTEIS. Noted. Cllr Ayles said that he understood that this was unlikely to be determined until the Secretary of State had ruled on the Wavendon test case.
 5. 17/01536/OUT. Noted. This was likely to be determined by the Case Officer under delegated authority as there had been no objections to it.
 6. 17/01486/FUL. Noted.
 7. 17/00624/OUT. Noted.
7. **TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS**
 1. 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 was proposed by Cllr Ayles, seconded by Cllr Keane and agreed unanimously..
 2. Planning application 17/02333 had been approved under delegated authority by the Case Officer despite objections from the parish council and from several neighbours. Cllr Keane said that the neighbouring property had skylights in the garage and was not at all comparable with the proposed two storey extension at No 23. Ward Cllr Geary said that once a Decision Notice had been made, it could not be revoked. However, the Case Officer had not acted in accordance with the newly agreed protocol and this had been pointed out to him by his manager noting that, if Case Officers do not follow the protocol, then parish councils will simply request DCP meetings which the purpose of the protocol was to avoid because of the additional expense.

3. It was agreed that the parish council will be represented by such councillors as are available when the date of the Public Enquiry is published.
4. A donation of £1250 has been received from the Open Gardens Committee. The parish council wished to record its thanks. It was unanimously resolved to approve expenditure of up to £1250 on new Christmas lights. Action Cllr Hinds.
5. Cllr Ayles presented a Briefing Note on the Sports Ground Lease and payments due to the Allotments Association. He said that the Clerk had obtained a copy of the lease from the Land Registry which specified the ground rent as being a peppercorn payable on demand. However, the Allotments Association had a right of approval of any buildings and, when the football pavilion was erected, it was agreed that an annual payment of £35 would be made. The parish council has no record of any agreement on variation of this rent. Cllr Ayles therefore recommended that the Allotment Association be asked if they have any record of agreement to vary the ground rent for the football pavilion. If not, then he recommended that the parish council should pay the rent of £35 (plus the peppercorn if demanded) for each of the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. Agreed unanimously.
6. It was proposed by Cllr Sweetland and unanimously agreed that a further bench by the North Street bus stop be purchased at a cost not to exceed £350 excluding VAT.
7. Cllr Sweetland presented a File Note on a meeting with the Recycling Centre and asked for the council's support in its initiative to reduce incorrect use of pink sacks. Agreed unanimously. It was suggested that a mail drop of any MKC literature could usefully be done with the next edition of Castlethorpe News on the first week-end in December.

Cllr Sweetland said that many residents were bemused by the function of the parish council. Cllr Ayles said he would try to write an article "What does the parish council do" for the next, or if not the following, edition of the News.

8. TO CONSIDER FINANCIAL MATTERS

1. The RFO payment schedule was approved unanimously. Proposed Cllr Ayles, seconded Cllr Forgham.
2. In the light of the Clerk's absence, the preparation of the draft budget was deferred to the December meeting. Clls Ayles and Sweetland said that it did not appear in the MKC draft budget that any more services would be reduced and taken over by the parish council. Ward Cllr Geary pointed out that the MKC budget is still at an early draft stage. Cllr Keane suggested that a capital item might be gravel or blocks in the overflow parking area at the sports ground. Action: Clerk

9. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should be asked to write on behalf of the parish council to thank Yvonne Hands, Graham Daniels and Lawrence Chapman for their services to the Youth Club over many years. Action: Clerk
2. The invitations to Plan:MK consultation were discussed. Ward Cllr Geary said that the plan was out for consultation prior to going to the Examiner. However, the urban extension and any other development threat to Castlethorpe was not in the Plan. At this stage, he recommended a supportive response. It was agreed to consider this at the next meeting. (Clerk to place on agenda)

11. NEXT MEETING: 7.30pm 4th December 2017 at the Village Hall

Part One of the Meeting was closed and members of the public left the room.

PART TWO

12. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None

13. TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS

1. It was agreed that an interview panel for a new village hall cleaner would consist of Cllrs Forgham and Ayles and a representative from Pre-School.
2. The revised quotation from MKC for the provision of heritage style streetlights was considered. This has increased by about £1100 due to cost increases for the lamp posts and because of an additional item for electrical safety checks which were accepted by the parish council. However, there was a new charge of 19% by MKC amounting to £2462. It was agreed that this was not acceptable. The Clerk has contacted an MKC approved contractor and Cllr Ayles will meet him on Wednesday to get an alternative quote. Ward Cllr Geary said that we should also write back to Highways refuting the 19% overhead. This gives the parish council two options for this work.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

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