

Hanslope Parish Council

Hanslope Pavilion

Castlethorpe Road, MK19 7LG

clerk@hanslopeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tel: 07383 091319



Hanslope Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting (Open Meeting)

Monday 11th April 2022: 8pm at
The Community Hall, Hanslope Recreation Ground

Present: M Palmer (Chair), E Price, S Proctor, R Simpkins, J Cass, J Gregory, A Andrew
C Wardle (MKC Ward Cllr)
G Merry (Clerk)

Meeting Notes:

1. Chairman's introduction

All councillors introduced themselves and the Chairman Cllr Palmer reported as follows:

Hanslope Parish Council Chairman's Report 21/22

The Council has tried its best over the past year to mitigate the disruption caused by the almost continuous work on the roads in the village, which have occurred largely because of the housing developments. Unfortunately, our influence with MKC Highways and the utility companies that have been involved is limited, although with the help of our Ward Councillors we have been able to have some impact, informing them of the problems the road works cause and persuading to reschedule some works.

Our influence with the broadband contractor Gigaclear, has however, been almost non-existent and as you have witnessed they have operated with a 'carte blanche' from the government and continue to cause major disruption.

Speeding traffic through the village continues to be a problem. Through the operation of the SIDS we can alert motorists if they are exceeding the limits and the information is monitored and passed onto the police, but we cannot take direct action. Hopefully in the future the new/refurbished speed humps and the school crossing when it is built, will help to reduce traffic speed in the village. In addition, we are in the process of getting MKC to erect 'white gates' at five entrances to the village, which will act as a more visible reminder/warning to traffic that they are entering a speed restricted area.

Over the past 18 months we have taken on more responsibility from MKC for the maintenance of verges/hedges and green areas in the village, as well as the regular work involving the recreation ground, the ponds and the allotments. Our role in this will continue to expand in the future as the landscape land on the new housing developments are handed over to us.

Undertaking this means that we have to maintain strict control over our budgets that are largely funded from the Parish Precept. Where possible today we work in conjunction with other parish councils, notably Castlethorpe, to put out such as joint tenders for contractors involved with this work.

As the cost of carrying out this work increases we are now having to introduce what we consider to be reasonable charges for the hire of parish facilities such as the sports pitches, Pavilion and the Community hall (ex scout/guide building), allotments, to take the pressure off the Precept. As a result we are pleased to report that through good

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management of our budgets (the administrative responsibility for which is undertaken by our Clerk – Gill Merry) we have managed, in this time of cost-of-living crisis, to reduce the Parish Precept for 2022/23 .

At the same time we have however, used both parish funds and those available from grants and the S106 funds from the housing developments in the parish, to both maintain and improve activities we support and also carry out a large range of projects for the benefit of the village.

These included:

The replacement of the existing all weather play area on the recreation ground with a larger Multi Use Games area, suitable of playing everything from five a side football to flat green bowls. This work has also included work to improve the drainage on one of the football pitches. The plan is to open the MUGA for public use in the late spring when the final construction work has been completed.

Improvements to the allotments, including new gates, a container for new communal equipment storage -trimmer, rotavator, mower, new car parking areas and a composting toilet.

Refurbishment of the previous scout/guide building to provide a Community Hall for the village (that allows for continuing use by the scouts and guides plus hiring for other users) and carrying out essential maintenance to the Pavilion and Changing rooms that included improved CCTV, important refurbishment of the drains that service the buildings on the recreation ground and the installation of a defibrillator.

Help to the Surgery to enable them to access S106 funds to re surface their car park and to plan for a major improvement to the Surgery to further improve the health services they provide to the village

Help to the Village Hall to secure S106 funds to build their new storage facility extension as well as continuing to provide them with an annual grant to help with the cost of running this important village facility.

Provision of additional facilities around the village including waste and dog waste bins and seating benches (including one located near the pond that celebrates the life of HRH the Prince Phillip and nearby the planting of roses).

Provision of funds to enable the refurbishment of the Parish Clock located on the church tower.

Grants to organisations providing village activities including the annual ‘Santa Run’ , portable floodlights for the Hornets, six organised Play sessions on the Rec for children in the summer, continuing improvements to the Christmas lights and organising a village litter pick.

Finally, on a lighter note the PC was surprised at the installation of a duck house on the village pond, which was erected without seeking permission by the ducks or their contractors. The PC considered issuing a notice about this but after consultation with the RSPB we were told we would be ‘quackers’ if we tried to enforce it.

*Dr Clephan Martin Palmer
Chair Hanslope Parish Council*

2. Presentation from local PCSO

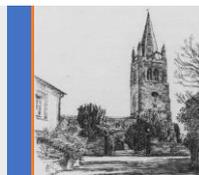
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The PCSO had sent apologies and the clerk read from his report:

Annual Crime Figures: -

01/04/21 to 10/04/22	Hanslope
Action Fraud	6
Public Order	8
ASB	5
Malicious Comms	2
Assault with Injury	11
Assault without Injury	8
Drink / Drug Drive	5
Burglary Business	2
Burglary Residential	2
Theft from Vehicle	16
Theft	3
Dangerous Driving	2
Criminal Damage	3
Missing Persons	3
Hare Coursing	1
Dangerous Dogs	0
Drugs	0

PCSO David Huckle had also advised that residents could contact him on:
david.huckle@thamesvalley.police.uk

3. Any other presentations@ No items
4. Open Forum for residents to ask questions and bring matters to the PC's attention: -

Q: How much money is there in S106 funding?

A: This is not known, as MKC have not published or conveyed the figures. Section 106 agreements are legal agreements between the developer and the district council and are in the public domain. Monies are paid directly to MKC without recourse to parish councils, other than where a PC may apply for funding for a specific project. Monies are not 'allocated' to parishes as such. Availability of funding is dependent on payment made by the developers which are dependent on trigger points e.g. house sales. GM and CW explained that MKC are implementing a new system which ultimately will be available online for the public to check on amounts. The clerk agreed to put the S106 agreements on the website. All present were encouraged to speak to the council if there were projects they wished to develop.

Q: What happens to the unused S106 money?

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A: This will revert back to MKC coffers if unused. The PC is currently supporting and pursuing various potential S106 projects, but the community needs to come to us. MP offered to find out who is responsible for ensuring money is spent.

Q: In June 2018, the PC agreed to undertake a tree survey and it was discovered approx. 100 trees the PC is responsible for. What has been the follow-up?

A: MP stated the work was not developed due to the amount of building in the village and other priorities associated with that. The member of the public requested the survey is followed-up.

Q: What can be done about the state of the pavements?

A: MP advised that pavements come under MKC Highways, and it is incumbent upon everyone to report via the MKC website, as often as possible, so that resources may be allocated to the village.

Q: Is there progress on the landscaping plan for the Bloor estate as the pond appears unsafe?

A: There is a landscaping plan, but the pond is essentially a balancing pond, and as such is not intended to ever be full enough to put people at risk. Balancing ponds are rarely fenced, other than a basic post & rail. MP advised that this area will not be transferred to the PC for another couple of years, at which point we may be able to increase safety. JC agreed the pond seemed unsafe and offered to revert to MKC's clerk of works, who had recently visited the site. MP pointed out the risk was the same as the village pond.

Q: A member of the public pointed out that the village signs, bins, bus shelters and mailboxes needed cleaning.

A: MP stated that the PC has recently engaged a new caretaker and much of this can be added to her job description.

Q: When is the sign opposite the Watts Arms going to be reinstated?

A: MP reported this is in hand and will be installed very soon.

Q: Traffic and speeding on Long Street is appalling and what is the latest with the new zebra crossing?

A: MP stated that the zebra crossing is significantly overdue and the Ward Councillor CW is also regularly on to Highways now about this. It has once again been delayed with the latest news being late June for installation.

Q: Will the chicane on Long Street be removed?

A: MP stated it is believed it will be removed, even though Highways have just repaired it.

Q: There has been no coordination with the constant road closures.

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A: MP stated the parish is council is only too aware but is not informed either. He urged all residents to write and complain to MKC, especially regarding the zebra crossing.

Q: What will happen with the new entrance to the school?

A: MP stated the current entrance will remain where it is but there will be an entrance at the bottom of the Bloor estate for bus drop offs.

Q: Is the top car park still going to be for the Dr's surgery

A: Yes plus anyone else who needs to park there.

Q: Re. the developments at M1 junction 15, what will be the effect on traffic through the village?

A: This is not known – no information.

Q: It was requested that an Open Meeting is held at a second point later in the year.

A: MP advised this was not statutory but would be considered. JC reminded all that they can always attend monthly meetings and apply to speak.

JC updated on the situation with the 'Globe' application which has gone to appeal and is still with the inspectorate.

The meeting closed at 20.51