



Attendees : Councillors Palmer, Nokes, Shires, Short, Pearce , Kitchingham ; Ward Councillor Mc Lean (Part-time)

Responsible Financial Officer; Interim Clerk, and 50 members of the public (MoP)

Before the meeting the Chair welcomed the large turnout of Members of the Public and reminded them that the

Council will conduct business following the Agenda – and the Public are ‘observers’

The Formal opportunity for Public Comment (and discussion) is the last item on the Agenda

- 1. 1.1 RECEIVE AND ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - PCSO Huckle, Ward Councillors Geary & Hosking
- 1.2 RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Cllr Shires (Pavilion)
- 1.3 APPROVE MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING - Approved and Signed off by the Chair
- 2. 2.1 CHAIRMANS REPORT –

The Chairman asked that the public be patient whilst the main business was covered and that there would be sufficient time for Public comment – which he asked should be focussed and moderated.

2.2 CLERKS REPORT Including ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Most of the Open actions will be discussed in the Agenda

We have had feedback from MK Planning team that they are now processing Planning Application in shorter timeframes
They have asked Parish Councils to feedback on Applications with Concerns
but have also asked for OK Applications to be flagged quickly **[Action: Cllr Pearce/ Clerk]**

One important item to note is that the Bank Mandate update will be processed on Friday 13th

– meaning we can pay the (late) November and December Invoices early w/c 16th Jan **[Action: RFO/Chair/Clerk]**

2.3 ASSET MANAGEMENT– Pavilion

The Chair explained that the review of Pavilion Management had slipped and a meeting with Pavilion team will be set asap

The direction is to improve the service offer and to attract more custom – and reinforce the support staff role

The Clerk explained that options for 2023 are being studied as part of the preparation of the 2023 Budget in coming week

The 3 Options are:- Loss Making (Subsidised) : Break Even (Self Funding) : Revenue Stream (for Village projects)

(a short term issue is to find a Contractor for the pitch grass cutting and lining) **[Action: Chair]**

2.4 CARETAKERS REPORT **[see report posted on the Parish Council Website]**

The Caretaker has just submitted a suggested list of items to be progressed – to be reviewed by the Council

The main item requiring approval this month is the Repositioning of the partition wall in the Pavilion

– to separate Football hire from the Kitchen & Corridor (a 2/3 day job – needs SPC approval) **[Action: SPC -> Caretaker]**

Work on Gun Lane drainage will be followed up – with the Village Volunteers and MKCC **[Action: Caretaker/Clerk]**

3. PROJECT GROUP UPDATES

.1 WARM SPACES Project – JAN/ FEB

Cllr Pearce outlined the plan for the coming months – which has been adapted based on the December activity outcome
Mixed Age groups (Elderly with Children) and during the school holiday period worked best – the 20th Dec in particular.

January - NO Activity Planned

February – 2 events in Half Term A Quiz (16th Feb) : Pancakes & Crafts (17th Feb)

Details will be advertised later. Volunteers please contact Holly Pearce or Jo Lusted **[Action: Cllr Pearce]**

April - If we have Budget remaining we will plan an event in the April Half Term

.2 HIGHWAYS – Community Speed watch set-up

Cllr Short explained that he has been in touch with other groups and Speed Watch is hard to set up in Villages

It needs a minimum of 3 volunteers in high-viz at each 'data capture' event – held at antisocial hours
That is why most of the other small villages have opted for the SIDS (flashing speed indicator w/data capture)
SPC Councillors will attend NE Ward Community Forum on 18th Jan. to share ideas from other parishes.
The direction will be to acquire a SIDS unit and deploy across the village in the coming weeks. **[Action: Cllr Short]**

.3 LANDSCAPING – Carters Close Green trees update

In November the Council agreed the removal of a number of trees [Removal @ Stage 1 = 4 oaks, @Stage 2 = 8+ others]
Following feedback from MoP, it was acknowledged further engagement with residents was required and SPC agreed to wait until a Tree report had been obtained from MKCC.

Carters residents mapped and measured the trees and residents 'opinions' gathered [2 removal , 5 trimmed]

MKCC have visited and a report is due with the detail spec recommended by MKCC *[Direction= No removal , 4 trimmed]*

MKCC advised that Tree Cutting with care during the nesting season is permitted – (this item could move to 2023 Budget)

The trimming identified by the MKCC report will be the responsibility of SPC (as part of Delegated Landscaping) & MKCC

When the Spec is finalised – quotes will be gathered

[Action: MKCC ->Clerk]

.4 DRAINAGE PROJECTS – Update [\[see report posted on the Parish Council Website\]](#)

In December there was a lot of rainfall - so the Drainage sub team shared a report of January drainage issues

There was some water on High Street which should have been taken off by drains and gullies that are covered/ blocked
And there is a blocked Culvert on High Street (opposite Gun Lane) that needs to be cleared

Gun Lane was flooded in part. The Caretaker and Clerk have walked the route to identify the source and the root causes

A detail report with photos will be prepared in the coming weeks and shared with MKCC Drainage team to get support

to define and implement short medium and longer term fixes – to keep water off the roadway. **[Action: Caretaker/Clerk]**

.5 SECTION 106 PROJECTS – Update

Ian Hindler (S106 Sub Committee member) explained the background to the available s106 monies

(s106 "Planning Gain" - contributions from Barwoods and Water Lane – defined at the time of Planning Approval

The funds must be drawn down by the Council and assigned to Projects validated by MKCC (and Ward Councillors)

The funds are available for a specific time after which unclaimed funds remain with the developer)

Inward Investment ~£8k Following the Dec meeting Ian claimed this based on the Investment at the New Shop

Voluntary Sector ~£7k The Council voted to cede a portion of this to MK Community Fund and to join in the

cross MK activity to support communities to identify how to allocate this fund in the Village **[Action: s106 Sub Co/Clerk]**

Public Art ~£40k The Council voted to approve drawdown of funds to progress the Art Project [5 for : 1 abstain]

Cllr Shires asked that the Art project be carefully managed to ensure best value for money

[\[Detail of the Project is on the Parish Council Website\]](#)

Community Facilities ~£4k & **Play Areas and Parks** ~£6k

Ian and the Council will start work developing ideas on use of these funds (e.g. the partition at the Pavilion)

If you have a project you would like to propose – please write to the PC at clerk@sherington-pc.gov.uk

4 FINANCE 4.1 Queens Jubilee Event Final Report – Income vs Expenditure

The RFO explained the current status of the check of Income vs Expenditure for the Jubilee Event

Expense (excl VAT*) £3968.00** [*VAT is in the process of being reclaimed]

Income (Lodged at Bank) £622.50** **Loss/Subsidy = £3345.50** (10% of Precept)**

Further detail check is ongoing and RFO will report a Final Status at next month meeting **[Action: RFO]

Additional Item :- **Coronation weekend of 6th / 7th May**

Having reviewed the Jubilee Event the Parish Council decided it **will not** organise an event to mark the Coronation.

The White Hart is holding it's annual Beer Festival the Bank Holiday weekend before.

If a Community event requires access to the Pavilion or Sports Field (and Barbecue). The SPC will support.

4.2 REVIEW MONTHLY BALANCES – reported to the SPC by the RFO

Current Account £17630 Savings Account £ 4304

Payment (over) Due (Nov) £2381

[Action: RFO]

4.3 APPROVE INVOICES FOR PAYMENT – Approved by the Chair

Payments Due (Dec) £2321

[Action: RFO]

5 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

NEW 14 Water Lane Ref. No: 22/03020/PRIOR | Validated: Tue 06 Dec 2022 | Status: Registered

[SPC = OK]

[Prior Approval of single storey rear extension, with eaves of 2.8 metres and maximum height of 3.9 metres, extending 1.8 metres from the existing rear wall and 5.6 metres from the original rear wall.](#)

NEW 1 High Street Ref. No: 22/03011/HOU | Validated: Mon 05 Dec 2022 | Status: Registered

[SPC = OK]

[Listed Building Consent for the conversion of existing outbuilding \(garage and stable\) to annexe linked to listed building by a modern extension and brick archway.](#)

NEW 1 High Street Ref. No: 22/03010/HOU | Validated: Mon 05 Dec 2022 | Status: Registered

[SPC = OK]

Conversion of existing outbuilding (garage and stable) to annexe linked to listed building by a modern extension and brick archway (revised proposal following the withdrawal of application ref. 22/02484/HOU)

Land To The West of 45 High Street Ref. No: 22/02369/FUL | Validated: Tue 27 Sep 2022 | Status: Registered

[SPC = Concern]

The erection of a 3-bedroom dwelling with detached plant room/workshop, a detached garage and associated landscaping (resubmission of 22/01906/FUL)

24 Gun Lane Ref. No: 22/02577/FUL | Validated: Thu 13 Oct 2022 | Status: Registered

[SPC = OK]

• CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE AND NEW CONSULTATIONS

Clerk stated that the FORMAL way to communicate with the Council is by email to the Clerk or through the Website page.

The FORMAL comms from the Council are by SPC Website; SPC Facebook; Noticeboards and email (Clerk & Pavilion)

PERMISSIVE RIGHTS - *This topic is on the Agenda following a number of messages via the website and Clerk email..*

The subject matter is Public Comments relating to the recent closure of a number of Permissive paths

As the Landowner is a Parish Councillor we asked him to make an explanation of the reason for the closure.

Cllr Shires explained that closure of permissive paths at short notice is a common practice.

The reason for the recent closure relates to a noted increase in footfall of non-residents, dogs off leads, dog fouling, litter, bikes and powered vehicles all of which are interfering with agricultural activity – affecting good husbandry.

There have also been a number of instances of criminal activity and damage to crops.

He apologised to those who have used the tracks respectfully over many decades

– and acknowledged the irony that the increasing population are mostly located on land sold by his family.

The signage (closure of permissive paths) and the locked gates will remain in place for the foreseeable future.

MK ELECTIONS 2023 The Clerk explained that there will be a Elections for Sherington Parish Council on **4th May 2023**

In 2019 we only had 6 candidates for the 7 posts so we had no election.

The last contested election of Parish Councillors was in 2015 [8 candidates – 7 seats filled]

If anyone would like to enter the 2023 election to become a Parish Councillor please

discuss with the Chair or the Clerk and we will get you some materials to support **[Action: - Villagers]**

Voter ID Checks MK Council are promoting awareness of the need to have correct ID when making a vote in person.

We will put an explanation on the Parish Council Facebook Page

[Action:- Clerk]

• EXTERNAL MEETINGS No report as no External Meetings were attended in December

• COUNCILLORS ITEMS - Wheelie Bins Public Information Meeting (Cllr Nokes)

Cllr Nokes confirmed the event will be on 8th Feb at the Pavilion 10:00 to 12:00

Leaflets will be posted on Noticeboards and on Facebook

Full Project Implementation will be September 2023. Pilots ongoing in Broughton and Astwood.

There is a list of houses where the 4 bin system will not be applied. *[we will put in on the Website]*

- RECEIVE WARD COUNCILLORS REPORT - Actions specific to Sherington

Ward Councillor McLean wished all present a Happy New Year – and noted the very large attendance – good to see.

MKCC Budget 2023 Currently working on the basis of a 4.99% increase in Council Tax (with 1% allocated to adult Social Care)
 Council Rent will Increase by 7%

Street Party road closure The process for applying for road closure for Coronation street parties will be light touch/ low cost

A509 repair The “big dipper” on the A509 between Chicheley and Alban Hill was repaired overnight on the 5th Jan
 However it appears to be subsiding again and a follow up repair may be required . **[WC -> MKCC]**

Ward Councillors Gift Each WC has £1000 to spend across the Ward on Community Projects – the £3000 has been pooled
 WC McLean is looking for suggestions how to spend some or all of this money in Sherington

Please contact your Ward Councillor directly (e.g.SPC request Grit Bins for Church Lane & Bakers View/High St)

- RECEIVE PCSO REPORT PCSO sent apologies – no report

- **RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT**

CARTERS CLOSE GREEN MoP asked about the land ownership of the Green and the responsibility for Maintenance

The Liquidators have advised that the land has returned to the Crown*. MKCC have devolved Landscaping to the Parish Council (and provides a Budget contribution). The maintenance responsibility is therefore with the Parish Council.

*[*some work need to be progressed with Land Registry and the Crown Solicitor]*

PERMISSIVE PATHS ISSUE

The level of commentary on Whats App and Facebook Groups was unexpected – a lot of the commentary is not well informed.

We live in a RURAL location where the principal activity is Agriculture and we need to live and work in Harmony – the Landowners and the Villagers. Both parties have responsibilities. [e.g. Riparian responsibilities with run-off water]

An MoP said that he understood the position of the Landowner and expressed concern if people were to treat th MoP’s garden with similar disrespect – dog poo , litter , vehicle movements

Dog Fouling and Littering is not only occurring in the fields – it is a problem in the Village that needs to be addressed.

The Parish Council should work with Residents to address both these issues within the Village as a priority.

There was a show of hands – “who knows The Countryside Code”- (~60% raised)

It was suggested that the Parish Council should work to raise awareness of The Countryside Code across the Village.

MoP asked for a copy of the Legal Advice the landowner has used– so the Village could assess if it should be challenged.

MoP asked that the attendees to Thank the Landowners for “the freedom the Villagers have enjoyed walking Permissive Paths with the Landowners agreement over many years”. This comment was well received.

MoP asked if a compromise could be reached whereby a small section of the track is reopened where it allows a circular route across the land along the track from Water Lane to connect with the Right of Way to Gun Lane.

At the close of the discussion the Chair asked “*can we assume that you will think about re-opening the path at some stage in the near future*”. The Landowner responded clearly “I can confirm that our family will discuss the future of this path and at some stage when we’re ready we might look at the possibility of re-opening it”.

Rights of Way – It was suggested that the Parish Council should remind people of the existing Rights of Way.

And that Village voluntary groups could support checking and reporting the condition of stiles, gates and signage – as has been done in North Crawley. **[This topic will be added to the Agenda for February]**

EAST OF MK Development MoP asked “how does this impact Sherington”

Please refer to the Parish Council Facebook Site – where there is a link to the Moulsoe PC pages covering the MK East Project The Moulsoe pages are an Excellent resource and a must read if you want to have background to the development history and the current stages of planning Evolution – The Maps are worth looking at in detail.

CORONATION EVENT MoP mentioned the first Post Covid Community Event , a bring your own BBQ held at the Pavilion where the cost incurred by the Parish Council was under £25 (2 bags ofcharcoal) and suggested a similar value for money event should be considered.

- DATE OF NEXT MEETING – **14th February 2023**