

NORTH CRAWLEY PARISH COUNCIL



Acting Clerk: Mrs S M Bushnell, 3 Folly Lane, North Crawley, Newport Pagnell, MK16 9LN (01234 391501)

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 8 January 2018 at 7.30 pm

Present: Parish Councillors: J Small (in the Chair), L Maclennan, J Sandall and L Fryer
MK Ward Councillor K Mclean
Acting Clerk and RFO S M Bushnell
5 members of the public

01/01/2018 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr G Magee, MK Ward Cllr P Geary and MK Ward Cllr D Hosking. These apologies were accepted.

02/01/2018 **Declarations of Interests:** None

03/01/2018 **Approval of Minutes:**
The Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 7 November 2017 and 5 December 2017 were agreed and signed as true records of those meetings.

04/01/2018 **Matters Arising**
Minute 5/12/17 – Neighbourhood Plan: As there was a meeting of the Steering Group that evening, there would be no detailed report available. However, Cllr Sandall reported that a walk-around of the village had recently taken place with the Consultant and further information would be available at the next PC meeting.

05/01/2018 **SCAN Reporter:**
Cllr L Fryer agreed to do the report for this month.

06/01/2018 **Planning:**
17/01141/OUT 76 houses at Moat Farm site – It was reported that Mrs Reynolds Nunn (Clerk) had written to the Planning Inspectorate to express objections to this planning application prior to the deadline of 25 December. It was understood that other individual objections had also been sent.

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17/03055/FUL 47 High Street – It was confirmed that Mrs Reynolds Nunn (Clerk) had checked as to whether there was a mention of a change of use to business in this application and MKC had confirmed that there was not. This application had now been approved.

17/02780/FUL new dwelling adjacent to 4 Chicheley Road – It was confirmed that this application had been approved by MKC under delegated powers. It had therefore not been submitted to the Planning Committee for a decision. It was understood that some alterations to the plans, e.g. use of pebbledash and frosted windows at the side, had been suggested by the Planning Officer and that these had been implemented by the applicant and that the application had then been subsequently approved. Concern was expressed by Councillors and also by members of the public about this decision and the way in which it had been reached. Ward Cllr McLean commented that it appeared that the approval had followed planning procedures. Planning applications did not have to go to committee and could be approved by officers under delegated powers. The alterations that had been made to the application would have been improvements rather than a material change and the application would not therefore have needed to be re-submitted. Cllr McLean explained that planning applications could go to committee if a Parish Council requested it, if 5 or more residents from separate dwellings objected to an application or if it was requested by a Ward Councillor. The Parish Council had not requested that it went to Committee because it had not been aware that it was possible to do this. It was **AGREED** to invite a senior planning officer (Brett Leahy) to attend the next Parish Council meeting and to ask him to explain the rationale behind this decision and the procedure going forward. Ward Cllr McLean also suggested, as there were a number of new parish councillors, that a planning training session could be requested from the Planning Department. Councillors from neighbouring Parish Councils could also possibly be invited. Cllr McLennan agreed to take this forward.

07/01/2018 **Ward Councillor's Report:**

Refuse collection: Ward Cllr McLean commented on the poor performance from Serco refuse collection over the last few weeks and also over the Christmas period. Serco had changed their routes in an effort to be more efficient but unfortunately, this had caused serious problems, particularly in the rural areas. They had also evidently experienced problems with their vehicles. MKC would be having robust discussions with Serco about these problems. It was hoped that everything would be back to normal next week.

Budget Consultation: Comments could be made by individuals as well as by Councils. Details of how to make comments could be found on the MKC website.

Planning: Changes would be introduced over the next few months in the way planning applications were notified to parish councils and to individuals. Although the procedure was good in some areas, there were some examples of where procedures did not always meet the current edicts of the

Environment Agency. Changes were therefore to be made and further information would follow in due course.

Ring Croft Farm: Cllr Mclean had not heard anything about this matter for some time and wondered if the activity was still taking place on this site. It was confirmed that unfortunately the lights were still on, sometimes until 10pm, and it was understood that there were indoor courts and a gym on the site too. Cllr McLean confirmed that activity could continue until the deadline for the enforcement notice had passed. He suggested that the Parish Council could ask MKC for an update on this application.

08/01/2018 **Finance Matters:**

Receipts:

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|---------|---|
| H W Mason and Sons | £175.00 | Cheque | Interment fee – Frederick Savage |
| H W Mason and Sons | £200.00 | Cheque | Memorial fee – Patricia Joyce |
| H W Mason and Sons | £70.00 | Cheque | Additional inscription fee – Winifred Lee |
| Groundwork UK | £7,450.00 | DCREDIT | Neighbourhood Plan grant |

Payments:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|--------|--|
| Sage UK | £7.20 | DDEBIT | Payroll software – January 2018 |
| S M Bushnell | £290.74 | 101950 | Salary – October to December 2017 |
| P Reynolds Nunn | £628.04 | 101951 | Salary – October to December 2017 |
| HMRC | £351.00 | DDEBIT | PAYE related to above salaries |
| P Reynolds Nunn | £52.40 | 101952 | Telephone/Internet and travelling expenses |
| Anglian Water Business | £13.32 | DDEBIT | Churchyard water from 22.9.17 to 21.12.17 |
| SLCC Enterprises Ltd | £90.00 | 101854 | Regional Training Seminar – 31.1.18 |
| M E Chilton | £205.50 | 101953 | Bin emptying and bin bags – quarter to 31.12.17 |
| The North Crawley Estate | £98.00 | 101955 | Hire of Village Hall for meetings – April 2017 to March 2018 |

Note: Payments include VAT where appropriate

Budget 2018/19:

It was reported that the draft budget for 2018/19 had been discussed in detail at a budget meeting held on 2 January 2018 attended by Cllr J Small, Cllr L Fryer and the RFO. Each budget heading was discussed and decisions made as to the amount required next year. The following was noted:

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All expenditure budget headings to remain the same apart from the following:

- General open space maintenance –reduced from £1,000 to £500
- Maintenance of trees –increased from £1,000 to £1,500 in light of possible expected expenditure next year
- Emptying litter and dog bins – increased the amount paid from £850 to £870. There had been no increase paid to the person who does this work for two years so the amount would be increased by 2% which was the expected cost of living increase for local government employees
- Street furniture – decreased from £1,000 to £500
- Hanging baskets – budget of £100 removed. Although the hanging baskets look good along the High Street, they do require a volunteer to water them regularly. No baskets had been purchased for a couple of years due to this and so it was agreed that the budget should be removed
- War memorial maintenance – A budget of £500 added to enable some work to be carried out to the memorial
- Salaries – These amounts were increased by 2% in line with the expected national cost of living increase for local government employees

No change was made to the income budget headings.

After taking into account the above amendments, the bank balances, committed expenditure for the rest of this year, etc. the estimated cash balance to carry forward to 2018/19 was estimated to be £5,066. After adding the net expenditure for 2018/19, the precept requirement was calculated to be £14,963. This was £1,777 more than the previous year.

The draft budget for 2018/19 was approved. Proposed by Cllr Small and seconded by Cllr Fryer.

Precept 2018/19:

The amount of precept to be levied from Milton Keynes Council was agreed at £14,963. Proposed by Cllr Small and seconded by Cllr Fryer.

09/01/2018 **Churchyard matters:**

The late Frederick Walter Joseph Savage – Interment fee received for Grave Plot 1-186.

10/01/2018 **Residential Safety:**

Security:

Cllr Small had received an email from Arlene Ormston, the PCSO, emphasising that burglaries in the area were still on the increase. Following an incident involving an elderly lady the previous week, she stressed that people must not answer their door bells if they do not know who is there. She said that there is a doorbell on the market costing around £159 which takes a photo of

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who is at the door even if they do not ring the doorbell. It was agreed that this would be a good idea to promote and Cllr Sandall agreed to look further into this.

Highways:

The following matters had been reported by Mrs Reynolds Nunn to MKC but now needed to be chased:

Truvella strips in Folly Lane to monitor traffic

Gog Lane – the possibility of banning HGV's

Brook End footpath – Restoration of this path and extension over the grass verge on the High Street

Landscape:

Nixies Walk Trees – The Conservation Officer needed to come out to look at these trees

Nixies Walk – To check with Mrs Reynolds Nunn as to whether she had obtained a quote for a new light

11/01/2018 **Consultation with other bodies**
Nothing to report

12/01/2018 **Position of Clerk to the Council**
It was reported that Mrs Reynolds Nunn had decided to retire and that she had left the post of Clerk on 31 December 2017. Two applications had been received for the post but these had not been suitable. Mrs Bushnell, the RFO, had indicated that she would be willing to take on this role from August 2018 as she was planning to retire from full time work. It was decided that Mrs Bushnell would be the Acting Clerk with immediate effect but that she would be supported by a temporary employee who would take the minutes of the meetings, etc. until August 2017. The situation would then be reviewed and a permanent Clerk to the Council appointed.

13/01/2018 **Councillors' Items**

Lorries through village – It was reported that there appeared to be an increase in the number of lorries going through the village – 10 per hour had been noticed today. Some of them seemed to be carrying spoil due to gravel extraction and others were probably connected with the developments at Cranfield. Cllr Fryer agreed to gather more information so that the developer could be contacted about this. It was also agreed that the Parish Council at Cranfield should be contacted for further information, including whether there was a Traffic Management Plan for the development.

Cllr Fryer reported that she had recently seen some people hare coursing. It was thought that the culprits had been found and arrested.

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Cllr Sandall reported that there was a fallen tree at the top of Folly Lane on the right hand side. It was noted that it would be the owner of the land who would be responsible for removing this.

14/01/2018 **Questions/Comments from Residents**

Cranfield Air Park planning application: no further information had been received on this. There was no evidence that a planning application had been submitted.

North Crawley WI: Mrs Leach reported that the WI had been disbanded. The reasons for this were that there were no members who were willing or able to take on the onerous tasks of being President, Secretary or Treasurer. It was agreed that this was a very regrettable situation. At the time of closure, the WI had 22 members. The WI could be reinstated again within two years and would be able to have their funds returned if there were members who were prepared to run it. Members and others in the village were currently investigating different type of groups which might help to fill this void.

15/01/2018 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 6 February 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall

Signed: Chair Clerk Date