



## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**held at the Haversham Social and Community Centre**

**on Wednesday 7 May at 7.30pm**

### **Present:**

**Parish Council:** Richard Pryor (Chair), Barry Clift, Carol Langham, Jessica Cunniffe, Rick Whyte and Clerk

**Thames Valley Police:** PCSO Duncan Peerless and PCSO Gurpreet Nijjar

**Church:** Rev. Adrian Low (Area Dean)

**Neighbourhood Watch:** Nick King (Chair MKNHWA)

**Haversham Social & Community Centre Charity:** Fiona Viney (HSCC Trustee)

**Parish Residents:** 8, in addition to representative from various organisations above

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed all present and provided an overview of the purpose of the Annual Parish Meeting.

### **2. Minutes**

The Minutes of the last meeting on 18 April 2024 were approved.

### **3. TVP Update**

Representatives from TVP, deputising for PCSO Tilly Skippen, reported on the crime statistics for the last year.

Questions were asked by residents for more details on residential burglaries, for instance, time of day. PCSO Tilly Skippen would need to be contacted for this information as she knew the area best. Social media indicated much of the instances of theft or attempted theft in the year related to items left in vans like tools or equipment.

It was recommended residents sign up for TVP Alerts and if they wanted to compare crime statistics between areas police.uk was the best port of call for the information.

#### **4. Neighbourhood Watch**

Neighbourhood Watch was being given a new lease of life in the Parish with four schemes in place and a Local Coordinator for each. Local Coordinators had a direct link to the Police. Neighbourhood Watch stickers and signs acted as a deterrent but there were also monetary incentives for having schemes in place, such as lower insurance premiums. Ultimately it gives confidence to the community.

The Parish Council had purchased a batch of new signs which would replace the existing worn signage to demonstrate the schemes in place were active alongside stickers for households.

A couple of areas in the Parish did not have a scheme in place – Wolverton Road north of Brookfield Road; the old village and Little Linford. Volunteers for Local Coordinators were urged to come forward.

Again, residents were advised to sign up for TVP Alerts as it was intelligence gathering as well as a communications tool.

#### **5. Church update**

Rev. Low provided an update on the work of the four Churches which were under his current purview, although this would be subject to change pending an ongoing re-organisation of the Deanery. St Mary's was having some refurbishment including roof work and Little Linford was currently closed as it was undergoing more extensive renovation work.

The high cost of electric heating in the Church was noted as being an issue - £80 a time to turn the heating on.

The congregation met for worship at 11 am on a Sunday and with breakfast organised prior at 10.30am. A youth club for 10 to 15 year olds is held in the Social Centre on Thursday evenings 6.30 – 8.00pm. There was also a monthly lunch held at Julia and Ian Cheetham's house next to the Pub.

Rev. Low updated that he planned to retire in January 2026.

#### **6. Haversham Social and Community Centre**

Fiona updated on the work of the HSCC in the last year; governance of the charity was being improved with an increased focus on the core objective of the Charity to maintain the Social Centre. A new Constitution was now ready to submit to the Charity Commission and financial management of the Charity had been overhauled.

There was a need for maintenance jobs, such as painting, and volunteer help would be welcomed. Ideally, the Charity would like the Social Centre to have a caretaker on a part-time basis. Grants were currently being reviewed for the purposes of acoustic baffling, Wi-Fi and AV equipment.

Hiring rates had been brought in line with similar venues and there were simplified booking options with hourly booking slots. Bookings had already increased on last year and eventually it would be possible to book online.

This year would be the 26<sup>th</sup> Village Show and Bingo and car boot sale events were in the pipeline, however more ideas were welcomed. Residents asked about the previously held Village Fete; while it was too late for this year it was something to bring back for the future, but it would require volunteer help.

Fiona, on behalf of the Charity, and residents, said thank you to Jackie Brown who had either been the Chair or on the Committee for many years. The Charity now had four Trustees in place and would like to see additional Trustees come on board. Meetings took place every other month.

#### **7. Branch Out MK**

Apologies were given by Branch Out.

#### **8. Playground Project**

The Clerk and Jess Cunniffe updated on the project to upgrade the playground. Although the project included the removal of four items of equipment, residents had seen from the recent exhibition and magazine articles that the new equipment added many new features to the playground and was not a case of simply replacing like for like. The design planned would cater for a wider range of ages, improve accessibility and include more swings and sensory items.

A residents noted that the benches as displayed in the design were rather concentrated in one area and it would be better to spread them out throughout. This feedback would be incorporated in the final placement of the benches.

#### **9. Parish Magazine**

While a permanent Editor was sought for the Parish Magazine, in the interim Carol Langham had volunteered to produce the magazine. The changes Carol had introduced had been well received by residents.

The print version had been upgraded and there was a flip-book version online too. New Charity and Children's sections had been introduced and contributions from both were actively sought.

Ultimately it was a magazine for residents and contributions were readily welcomed relating to local interests.

Thanks were given to Lesley and Harvey Gilbert for their work on editing the magazine and advertising management over the course of many years.

## **10. Parish Council Progress and Achievements in 2024/5**

The Chair, on behalf of the Parish Council, wished to say thank you to former Cllr Philip Turnbull who had been part of the Parish Council for many years. Cllrs Whyte and Cunniffe had joined within the past year and were a welcome addition, however, the Parish Council was still short of two Cllrs and there was no representative from the old Village.

The Chair provided updates on the various areas of work which had been covered in detail within the Chair's Report for 2024/5. This included: Playground Rejuvenation as covered above, Parish Magazine, Neighbourhood Plan Allocated Site, MK City Plan 2050, Planning Applications, Highways and Road Safety, Allotments, Community Speedwatch, Community Litter Pick, Public Rights of Way and increased levels engagement with MKCC.

A resident asked where the dog bin was likely to be located on the new footpath off Brookfield Road. Although the exact location was yet to be identified, it would be as far away from houses as possible.

## **11. Parish Council Financial Summary for 2024/5 and Budget for 2025/6**

The Clerk summarised the financial information as set out in the Chair's Report for 2024/5.

## **12. Parish Council Plans and Challenges for 2025/6**

The Chair gave a summary of the plans and challenges which lay ahead for the Parish Council as set out in the Chair's Report for 2024/5. This included: the MK City Plan 2050, Neighbourhood Allocated Site Plan, Household Waste Recovery Centre, completion of the Playground Rejuvenation Project, building of new path into the Recreation Ground and repair of Skate Ramp, ongoing Highway matters, flooding, Community Book Exchange, Parish Vision and Neighbourhood Watch.

It was noted that MKCC proposed to change the process for executive call-in by Parish Councils and residents and it would be posted on Facebook. Residents were urged to reach out to the Ward Cllrs on the matter too.

Residents were reminded that Parish Council meetings were held on the third Monday evening of every month at 7.30pm and they were very welcome to attend. There was an opportunity to speak in the Public Forum at the start of the meeting.

## **13. Q&A**

Matters were raised in relation to:

- Concerns about the High Street and lack of continuous footpath and speeds of 30mph for a narrow/dangerous street with corners. The Chair confirmed

that MKCC were looking at ways of increasing safety including the possibility of white picket gates. TVP would also be asked to analyse SIDS data.

- Lack of streetlights near the pub. Highways are aware extra lights were required as the route to the Church was very dark however if lights were in existence but simply not working then this needed to be reported to MKCC.

#### **14. Summing Up**

The Chair thanked attendees for coming, as well as the Clerk and all current and previous Councillors for their hard work through the year.

Meeting ended at 21.24.