



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 26 May 2021 at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, 87 Kensington Drive, Great Holm MK8 9AY

Councillors Present: Councillors Nayee (Chair), Nolan (Vice Chair), Altieri-Douglas and Hoyle

Staff present: Philip Compton (Parish Clerk)

Members of the Public: 0

APM01/21 Welcome: The Annual Community Meeting was opened by Cllr Akash Nayee, Chair of the Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council, and all present were welcomed and thanked for their attendance. It was noted meetings in person had only recently been re-initiated on account of the anti-covid transmission restrictions being lifted on 07 May 2021, but that the Parish Council had functioned effectively throughout the past year holding virtual meetings.

APM/02/21 Great Holm Community Centre: The Chair provided a summary of use of the premises over the past year, which included; The Community Centre was closed from the end of March 2020 for ad-hoc hall hirers and the GHPS (Great Holm Pre-School). The GHPS went back to school in September and there had been three outbreaks of covid in the GHPS over the year. The premises was deep-cleaned (fogged) every time afterwards with resumption of use ten days after. The Community Centre was gradually re-opening to hall-hirers. The laws permitting group hall hirings indoors for groups only took effect on 17 May, and those present noted the popularity amongst residents of the Community Centre.

The Clerk summarised the hall hirers:

- Mondays, for Parish Council meetings which now must be face-to-face and not virtual,
- Tuesdays a local Yoga group practice in the evenings,
- Wednesdays free,
- Thursdays a neighbouring Parish Council was hiring the Community Centre to hold Parish meetings,
- Fridays a local karate group,
- Saturday evenings a local Sri Lankan dance group
- Sundays there were currently two interested parties, both local, but neither had confirmed yet.

APM03/21 Sports Pavilion in Loughton: The Chair summarised activity at the Pavilion over the past year; The Grumpy Cook café had been closed off and on throughout 2020, and had formally re-opened last on 17 May 2021. In terms of premises management, the drains were

blocked in the car park over the summer of 2020 and Dynorod had come and cleared them. The Parish Council's part of the building (that excluded from the tenancy of the Grumpy Cook café), had had comprehensive electrical work done, to bring the building in line with regulations. The water tanks in the loft had been cleaned in the Spring of 2021 and tests taken to make sure the water was of good quality. The changing rooms had been re-painted by the Caretaker.

APM04/21 Loughton Pitches: The Chair summarised; The pitches were used intensively last summer, 2020, on account of people emerging from lockdown and wishing to get fresh air and utilize open spaces. This created an extra litter problem, and increased dog litter. The Parish Council was currently looking into hiring a waste removal officer to combat the increase in litter. A dog litter warden was hired on a pilot scheme for March 2021. A fixed-penalty was issued to a perpetrator and the pilot scheme was deemed successful. Over 40 posts and rails had been repaired on the ascot railing around the sports pitches.

APM05/21 Allotments: The Chair summarised; Allotment use had been consistent over the pandemic and the past year, with plots being kept in good quality by long-standing tenants. Incoming tenants however had not proven as reliable and one or two of them had swiftly given up their plots. There were 3 tenancies given up over past year, but the waiting list numbered still over 30. In the summer of 2020 the Parish Council had been looking for alternative space for new allotments, had identified a field and achieved an agreement in principle to use the field as allotments but the cost of conversion to an allotment was high, of building a car park and taking the process through planning. The finance committee considered the cost prohibitive. The Council applied for section 106 money to help shoulder the cost of converting the field to an allotment site (pay for planning and car-parking cost), and the Parish Council was still waiting to hear back from Planning at MKC. The Clerk was optimistic an offer of some funding would be forthcoming, at which point Full Council would have to decide on approval of the remaining cost. On the existing site, there had been break-ins through the fence, and an arson attack on one plotholder's shed. Security measures were being considered, palisade fencing however was deemed too expensive a solution and cctv was being investigated.

APM06/21 Parish Council Plan: This was agreed whilst setting the budget in December 2020. The projects for the year were noted, which included trying to make provision for the demand for allotments by converting a field currently held under long lease by The Parks Trust, replacing the stolen interpretation board on The Green in Loughton, seeing through completion of the Trim Trail, which the Parish Council had contributed towards, and trying to resolve as best as possible the parking problems around Loughton primary schools. Providing a dog-exercise space was also discussed.

APM07/21 Parish Finances. The Chair summarised; The 2019-2020 year ended with a carry forward of £58k. The 2020-2021 year ended with carry forward of £72k, so there was an in-year surplus of £14k, largely on account of prudent financial management and a £10k grant from the government as distributed through MKC for small businesses (this offset loss of income from the community centre, on account of covid restrictions and not being able to hire it out through the late Spring/early summer of 2020).

APM08/21 Update on Past Year on the Parish Council: The Chair summarised; These had largely been considered as above. From the business plan, it was noted the Ashpole Furlong Play Area had been successfully installed. One bench had been replaced since the renovations had happened and it was noted there would be quotes in the 2021/22 landscape review to install another bench. Eighteen MKPA (Milton Keynes Play Association) sessions had been sponsored by the Parish Council and successfully run through the summer of 2020, and despite covid-related restrictions, those present the Parish Council considered virtual meetings had run effectively and the Council continued to provide a high-quality service to residents at extremely low cost. Almost all landscaping works as commissioned to Serco in the autumn of 2019 had been completed through 2020, despite the covid-related national slowdown. The dog litter bins had been emptied regularly and with increased frequency through the year, and the sports pitches had been used by residents and passers-by, albeit with less regularity by the footballing groups, on account of restrictions placed in the winter of 2020 and spring of 2021.

The Meeting recorded it's thanks to the last Chair of the Parish Council, Peter Todd, who had completed ten consecutive years in the role and who had contributed effectively to improve and expand the role of the Parish Council.

APM09/21 Minutes of the previous meeting: Minutes of the Parish Meeting held on 08 April 2019 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.