



## **Minutes of the Meeting of Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council held remotely on Monday 16 November 2020 at 7.30pm**

Location: held virtually by zoom technology.

**Parish Members present:** Councillors Todd (in the Chair) Altieri-Douglas, Bailey, Dyer, Feeney, Nayee, Nolan, Sargent.

**Staff :** Philip Compton (Parish Clerk)

**Members of the public present: 6**

Cllrs were reminded all the rules about code of conduct at meetings applied to virtual meetings, and that as had been requested in September the meetings would be recorded.

**FC110/20 Apologies:** Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Hoyle and Howe.

**FC111/20 Declarations of interest:** Cllr Nolan declared an interest under item FC114/20 in that she lived near to the proposed mast site.

**FC112/20 Public participation:** Members of the public were invited to speak on agenda items they considered pertinent to their particular interests.

One member of public wished to see pressure attributed to MKC to repair the lights on the footbridge over the tracks into Kirkham Court, and the Council agreed to put pressure on MKC.

The remainder of the members of public were present to comment on the Ashpole Furlong Play Area, and comments were made along the lines of:

- residents living in the eight houses along the Ashpole Furlong crescent adjacent to the play area had not been consulted
- residents felt they had been deliberately excluded from the discussion
- previous concerns alluded to provision for extra parking provision but did not appreciate the roads were narrow and there was no space for any extra parking
- concern was expressed as to the location of the horse and carriage, in that it was under 3m from the road, and therefore a risky area for children to play in
- queries were made as to whether appropriate risk assessments had been done
- concern was raised over the lack of due process in recent Parish Council meetings and in particular the lack of an audit trail in the grant application
- contact had been made with FCC, the grant providers, who had been informed of residents' concerns over false or misleading information contained within the grant application regarding community consultation
- residents wished to see evidence of community consultation, as mentioned in the grant application form, for example the flyers.

- the equipment was dispersed over a hill which would make watching over children difficult
- the new play area was not a refreshment or revamp for under 4s but an activity for older children and teenagers

**In response Cllr Nolan stated the following points:**

- the play park had been discussed at Parish Council meetings, which had been minuted and these were available on the Parish Council website
- the agendas were all pinned up on the Parish Council noticeboards around the Parish
- it had been mentioned on local radio in the Spring of 2019
- it had been broadcasted on social media, MK Kids and the Loughton facebook page
- more recently it had been broadcast on social media on Cllr Nolan's private facebook page and on the MK Labour Party website
- recently a social media petition had happened in order to reverse the Parish Council's decision in September and October not to go ahead with the play area.

**Members of the public were provided the opportunity to respond, and stated that:**

- social media as a media of communication for community consultation was inappropriate and not inclusive as not everybody uses social media
- the Chair was requested to explain assertions that community consultation in the grant application had happened, by way of personal door knocking and flyer deliver to the local residents who live in the area adjoining the park.

**The Chair responded as follows:**

- A consultation was carried out as to whether to apply for a grant from WREN for a refurbishment
- Copies of the plans prepared by MKC had been sent to all members of the Parish Council on two occasions and the Clerk. There had been no negative responses, and the only responses received were enthusiastic
- In addition the plans had been emailed to the equestrian centre and they had no objections
- The plans had been discussed at meetings of the Parish Council on a number of occasions and these had been minuted and the minutes displayed on notice boards
- The plans had been reported on social media and a consultation carried out with potential users on the MK Kids facebook group
- The Chair had been to the play park to communicate with park users and local residents.
- Overall there was broad agreement that the play area was at the end of its life and dilapidated and therefore an application for a grant was indicated.
- The Chair hoped that through constructive dialogue with the Strategic Landscape and Countryside Manager an arrangement could be made that would resolve concerns of local residents.

Four members of public left the meeting at this time (8:00pm).

**FC113/20 Thames Valley Police:** The crime statistics report from Thames Valley Police was noted.

**FC114/20 Planning and licensing applications:** Councillors considered the following planning applications

- a) Application no: 20/02754/CLUP Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness to remove the existing white timber framed windows and replace with white uPVC frames. At: 25 Pitcher Lane Loughton Milton Keynes MK5 8AU

**Action: After discussion it was resolved not to object and the Clerk would comment on the MKC portal accordingly.**

- b) Application no: 20/02707/FUL Proposal: Introduction of vent openings in gable elevation of building. Erection of external ventilation plant deck to gable elevation. Erection of sub-station to boundary to south east elevation at: Intertek House 12 Davy Avenue Knowlhill Milton Keynes MK5 8NL

**After discussion it was resolved not to object and the Clerk would comment on the MKC portal accordingly.**

- c) Romanellis Pizza, Rear of Roni's Car Wash, 159 Watling Street, Elfield Park, Milton Keynes, MK5 8AA, New Premises Licence

**Action: a vote was held, as to whether to object to the licensing application or not:**

**In favour of objecting: 1**

**Against: 5**

**Abstain: 2**

**It was resolved not to object and the Clerk would comment accordingly.**

**FC115/20 Planning Applications:** consideration of applications validated since the publication of the agenda would be made at the next Planning Committee meeting on 07 December 2020.

**FC116/20 Minutes:** minutes of the last meeting held on 19 October 2020 were approved as an accurate record of the proceedings of that meeting.

**FC117/20 Committee meetings:** to note meetings and resolutions of the Committees held since the last FC meeting in October. All draft minutes uploaded to the website (pp18-21).

- a) Premises Committee 26 October 2020

Chair of the Premises Committee provided a summary, and Councillors noted the decisions taken with regard to a potential fence around the pirate park play area to prevent footballs entering, pavilion utilities work and banning bulk delivery and sale of compost at the allotments.

- b) Planning Committee Meeting 02 November 2020

Chair of the Planning Committee provided a summary of the actions taken during the meeting, including a summary of the Shenley Kebab objection letter, which would come up later on the agenda (item FC122/20).

**FC118/20 Payments:**

**Action: the payment schedule was approved and Councillors noted the current bank balance of £119k.**

**FC119/20 Update on Ashpole Furlong Play Area:**

Cllr Dyer asked three questions, which had been provided prior to the meeting, and Cllr Nolan responded by reading out and interpreting responses from the Strategic Landscape and Countryside Manager as follows:

1) With there being a possible delay with the delivery of the fence, will it be installed before the Play Area equipment is accessible to the children?

Answer: if there is a delay then temporary fencing will be erected around equipment.

2) Will there be the usual opening ceremony, in spite of the increasing cases of COVID-19? My concern is that by attracting a lot of children to the Play Area all at the same time, with the children's eagerness to try out the equipment, enforcing social distancing will not be possible.

Answer: there will be an opening ceremony on 5 December, but it will be a 'soft opening', whereby a few photographs will be taken and a ribbon will be cut.

3) Are all of the items of equipment shown on the original plan still going to be installed and in the positions shown?

Answer: In order for MKC to receive the grant the equipment will have to be installed, yes. Amendments to the plan in terms of location of equipment, and the building of a fence, have been as a result of liaising with local residents along the Ashpole Furlong crescent.

Cllr Nolan highlighted the expertise of MKC in managing over 400 parks across MK.

Councillors also asked:

Question: Will there be a litter bin?

Answer: There will be one, yes.

Question: Will there be seating provision?

Answer: The last seat was removed as it was not safe.

Four residents left the meeting at this point (at 9:15pm).

#### **FC120/20 extra dog bin outside Talbot Inn entrance to Millennium Meadow:**

**Discussion:** Councillors discussed whether to add an extra bin (to total 28 in the Parish), to help with health and hygiene matters in the area as recommended by the regulatory unit environmental officer, noting this was in response to a rat's nest in the area and continued vermin problem.

**Action:** It was noted Councillors supported this in principle but resolved to seek community consultation to the residents along the Bradwell Rd (between Paynes Drive and London Rd), and along London Rd (the first ten houses along from the Bradwell Rd junction). The Clerk would do this in hard copy, and feedback would be provided back to Councillors most likely by the January Full Council meeting.

**FC121/20 autumn landscape quotes for Loughton and Great Holm work:** Councillors considered the Serco quotes which had been provided prior to the meeting in the paperwork, pages 23-34.

**Action:** Councillors noted the proposed 'second cut' which would cost £3,600 + VAT for Great Holm and £4,500 + VAT for Loughton, and agreed the Clerk would acquire more information on this before voting on it, for example when the second cut would take place and which of the two annual cuts would be sponsored by the Parish Council.

**Action: the following items were approved for Great Holm and Loughton**

**GH: 3 (c), 4, 5, 6, 7, 11 and 12. (items 2 and 3 were ongoing grass cutting work which had previously already been approved).**

**Loughton: 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, and 20. In addition the replacement tree outside house no. 11 was approved providing the cost was no more than £150 + vat.**

Cllr Feeney left the meeting during this item, at 9:40pm

**FC122/20 Prohibition notice on Roebuck Way outside Madison:**

**Action:** Cllr Sargent, as Chair of the Planning Committee, provided a summary of the situation to date, and Councillors resolved to approve the Planning Committee's recommendation to request from MKC a prohibition on street trading along that part of Roebuck Way affected by Shenley Kebabs, if the application for street trading along the road remained active. Councillors noted there was a possibility the application may be withdrawn, in which case the application for the prohibition would not happen.

**FC123/20 Milton Keynes public consultation into Council Tax reduction:**

**Action: Councillors considered the scheme and resolved to support the proposal and the Clerk would respond to MKC accordingly.**

**FC124/20 Reports from members:**

- a) Cllr Nolan brought to the Council's attention the forthcoming consultation on traffic and parking safety measures outside both Loughton School and Loughton Manor School. Councillors were informed the Parish Council had been involved in this project for a while, over a year at least, but that Milton Keynes Council had recently intimated that if the funds could be delegated the project would need to happen in the current financial year. Parish Councillors noted this would mean an unbudgeted Parish Council contribution in the current financial year. Plans for the project would be circulated shortly and the Clerk would keep them updated over coming weeks.
- b) Cllr Sargent drew to the Council's attention the proposal by Highways at MKC to start statutory consultation next week (23 November 2020) on right turn bans for Ashpole Furlong and Knowl Gate onto the H6 Childs Way. The proposed right turn ban forms part of junction improvements at these locations following a number of collisions that have occurred over the past three years. Public notices will be placed on Knowl Gate and Ashpole Furlong advising the public of MKC's intention. Details of the consultation will also be available for comment on MKC's website.

**FC125/20 Items for the next agenda.** Councillors were reminded to contact the Clerk and follow the rules as set out in the Parish's Standing Orders for items to be requested on the agenda for the next meeting.

**Date and time of Next Meeting:** Monday 21 December 2020 at 7.30pm

The Meeting was declared closed at 10:30pm.