

**LAVENDON PARISH COUNCIL**

 Clerk

The Pavilion

 63a High Street

 Lavendon

MK46 4HA

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Minutes of the Monthly meeting of **Lavendon Parish Council** held at The Pavilion on 17th April 2023

**Present**: -

* Steve Axtell (Chairman)
* Ann Kelcey (Cllr)
* Mike Rutherford (Cllr)
* Alex Mountcastle Cllr)
* Michelle Ramsden (Cllr)
* Arlene Ormston (PCSO)
* Keith McLean (Ward Councillor)
* Pam Ayres (Clerk)

**Apologies: -**

* Louise O’Boyle (Cllr)
* Martino Ginepro (Cllr)
* Peter Geary (Ward Councillor)
* David Hosking (Ward Councillor)

 Chairman, Steve Axtell confirmed to the meeting that the Clerk had received a resignation from Cllr O’Boyle, with immediate effect and that a Notice of Vacancy had been lodged with MKCC. Chairman, Steve Axtell further advised that in the event of the vacancy not being filled by election, the Parish Council would use its powers to appointment councillor by co-option.

Meeting commenced at 19:40

1. **Introductions & Welcome**

The Chair welcomed those present.

1. **Minutes of previous meeting** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th March 2023 were confirmed as correct.
2. **Declaration of Interest**

 No declarations of interest were received.

1. **Public Question Time**

There were two members of the public present.

The chairman, Steve Axtell welcomed Louise Mackenzie to the meeting, commenting that having expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor, Louise had been invited along to experience first-hand how meetings are run.

 The Chairman, Steve Axtell also welcomed Richard to the meeting. Richard’s question to the meeting was regarding the green area on the corner of the High Street and Harrold Road. He said it looked.

 neglected and in need of tidying up. Chairman, Steve Axtell, explained that a new contractor has recently taken over responsibility for the green areas around the village and going forward things should improve. The resident said that in the past, spring bedding plants and bulbs have been planted and asked if the Parish Council intended to do the same this this year. Chairman, Steve Axtell responding by saying the Parish Council will look into replanting.

 **AP1 Clerk** to check with CllrGinepro what the plan is for the area and what type of plants etc should be in there.

 **5. Ward Councillors Report**

 Ward Cllr McLean report included the following items: -

**5.1** Fly tipping is a big problem in the county at present.

**5.2** A new LPA Commander has been appointed and is due to start on 31St April.

**5.3** **Ousedale School**

 The situation is ongoing. The problem is not just confined to this year’s intake but for next year as well. There may be a possible solution, but this will not be known for a couple of weeks.

**5.4**  **Wheelie Bins**

 The post code checker is now available online. Other options are currently being considered for households that have issues. Shared bins are one possible solution. Cllr Kelcey asked if householders will be given a choice as to what bins they have. Ward Cllr McLean replied that householders will not be given a choice.

 **5.5** **Litter picking**

Ward Cllr McLean thanked Cllr Kelcey for her litter picking initiative which has now been rolled out in Olney and is proving successful.

1. **PCSO’s Report**

 The meeting considered and acknowledged the crime report presented to it by PCSO Ormston for the period 12/12/22 - 10/02/23.

***Crime Report Incidents from 10/03/2023 – 17/04/2023***

 *1 x theft of tack from stables March 2023*

 *1 x burglary residential –*

 *(Suspects arrested, investigation ongoing) April 2023*

 ***Other Incidents not crime related in Lavendon***

* *Road traffic collision – vehicle vs wall March 2023*
* *ASB in community of lads riding quad bikes / motorbikes*

*on bridleways and road March 2023*

 ***Other Incidents in surrounding villages***

* *Theft out of vehicles*
* *Fraud / scams going around*
* *Fly-tipping – ongoing everywhere*

There have been several reports recently of antisocial behaviour relating to quad bikes/ motorbikes in the local area, PCSO Ormston asked that anyone witnessing such behaviour, reports it to the Police.

PCSO Ormston reminded the meeting that the next North East Rural Community Forum meeting

is on 26th April. Cllr Mountcastle confirmed that she would be attending the meeting.

**7. Finance Report**

**7.1 Receipts & Payments**

The Parish Council received the schedule of receipts and payments for March 2023. Cllr Mountcastle queried the cost of the recent repair to one of the pillars at the War Memorial stating that it seemed rather expensive. The Clerk explained that to make the pillar more secure and to prevent it from being knocked over in the future, it had been fixed with stainless pins which had pushed the repair cost up.

**Resolved:** That the schedule of receipts and payments made during March 2023 as circulated, be approved.

**7.2** **Scrutinising volunteer**

Cllr Rutherford.

**7.3** **Purchases for approval**

 None

**8. Clerk’s Report**

**8.1 Building a driveway on grass verge and pathway outside property.**

 The Clerk advised that she had received an enquiry regarding building a driveway over land (Grass verge) owned by the Council and whether this would be permissible. CllrRutherford advisedthat permission would need to be sought from MKCC for a dropped kerb.

 **AP2.** Clerk to advise the enquirer to contact MKCC and make an application for a dropped kerb.

**8.2** **Precept 2023-24**

The total precept for the new financial year (2023-2024) is £40,697 which is to be paid in 2 instalments. The first instalment of £20,348.50 was received from MKCC on 12th April.

**8.3 Blocked drains – Update**

 The Clerk reported the blocked drains to MKCC. The initial response received was “This particular problem does not yet require an immediate emergency repair, but we'll keep monitoring it in case this changes”. The clerk wrote back to MKCC urging them to reconsider their decision and arrange for the drains to be cleared without further delay. Ward Cllr McLean also wrote to MKCC advising that the response given was unacceptable and requested that the LLFA team investigate the issue. The Clerk has since been advised that the LLFA are looking into this in significant detail.

**8.4 Replacement Basket Swing – Update**

MKCC have been contacted regarding possible S106 funding. A reply is expected shortly.

**8.5** **Community Payback Program** **- Update**

A team from the Community Payback program has been working in the village over the last few weeks. Work undertaken has included: -

* Help with planting trees
* Tidying around the back of the Pavilion & around the Car Park
* Tidying up the walkway between the field and Castle Road
* Clearance of greenery around Church wall.
* Clearing the Copse
* Soames Green - General tidy up

 Cllr Kelcey reported that the team had done a wonderful job of tidying around the Church wall. Chairman, Steve Axtell suggested that perhaps on a return visit, the team could paint the railings around the children’s play area in the park. Chairman, Steve Axtell asked that if others had any suggestions for jobs that they forward them to the Clerk.

**8.6 Dog fouling (Land behind the Horseshoe PH) - Update**

 The Brewery has been contacted and has agreed to deal with the issue.

**8.7 Dogs behaving badly - Update**

 PSCO Ormston advised that unfortunately there is not a lot that can be done unless a dog is dangerous then it needs to be called in on the 101 number.

**8.8 Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

 A request has been received from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission for the installation of

 a sign at the Cemetery to let the public know there are 3 war graves situated there. If agreed, the

 sign would be installed and maintained on a permanent basis free of charge. The aim of the initiative is to increase awareness of war graves in the UK. Following a brief discussion, it was unanimously agreed to have a sign erected.

 **AP3**. Clerk to liaise with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission regarding signage.

**8.9 Coronation Event**

 The Parish Council has been awarded £200in funding from MKCCC to support the event which is being held on Monday 8th May to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

**8.10 The UK government’s new Emergency Alerts system is now live.**
 [**On Sunday 23 April 2023 at 3pm, there will be a national test of the Emergency Alerts service.**](https://s-url.co/rYEEAA) It will be used to warn people in the event of emergencies, such as severe flooding.

**8.11 Clerks Forum -Update**

 **Ward Boundary Review**

* After local elections work will start on a boundary review, which will be led by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE)
* Boundaries and wards may change as a consequence.

 **First stage (June 2023 – January 2024)**

* MKCC to decide on how many Councillors, election cycle and prepare electorate forecasts.
* Change from elections by thirds requires 2/3 of MKCC Councillors to support.

 **Second stage (January 2024 – April 2024)**

* Briefing for Parishes in February 2024
* LGBCE to invite submissions on warding pattens and develop proposals.

 **Third Stage (July – October 2024)**

* Consultation on proposed warding patterns
* Includes consequential recommendations for Parishes.

 **Preparation and implementation**

 Final recommendations published January 2025

* Review polling districts and places
* Republish registers.

**8.12. New Environmental Services Contract to Suez**.

 It’s all systems go on this now.  There will be 140 new vehicles to replace the whole fleet including 2 fully electric bin lorries. The new contract will commence on 4 September 2023.

**8.13 Traffic Lights**

The traffic lights outside the school are out of action and have been reported. Cllr Mountcastle commented that this seems to be an ongoing issue. They were out of action at the beginning of half term and within 2 days of being fixed, they were out of action again and haven’t worked since. Cllr Mountcastle asked Ward Cllr McLean if anything could be done to prevent this from continuing to happen. Ward Cllr stated that he would follow this up with MKCC.

**8.14 Local Elections to take place on 4th May 2023**

 People have until midnight tonight to register to vote. The Village Hall will be used as a polling station and will be open from 7am and close at 10pm Voter ID will be required in order to vote.

**9. Specific Agenda Items**

**9.1 Centrica – Gas works Northampton Road**

Cllr Rutherford commented that this issue has been going on for a number of years and rather than keep repairing the leaks, the pipe needs replacing. The Clerk stated that she had been in contact with Cadent and had been advised that they are unable to confirm when the mains will be replaced but have said that it has been raised as an issue and will be looked at where it will be given a risk score and then prioritised on the score given.  The work will then be planned accordingly. The Clerk has asked that this been given high priority and be kept informed of progress and time scales.

**9.2** **Erection of a Log Cabin**

Chairman, Steve Astell referred Cllrs to the document setting out those proposed plan for the erection of a 2-bedroom log cabin which had circulated ahead of the meeting. The resident concerned, who was unable to be present at the meeting, wanted to make the Council aware and get a view in principle. The resident is proposing to erect the log cabin in his back garden for a family member to live in. Chairman, Steve Axtell commented that the initial concern was whether it would breach the neighbourhood plan but having checked, it would seem acceptable. It would however require planning permission. A discussion took place, and it was agreed that there was no objection in principle, but a formal decision would only be made on the submission of a planning application.

**9.3** **Lavendon Flood Alleviation Scheme**

 The Clerk informed that meeting that she’d received notification from Ben Everitt that the Government has announced the Lavendon Flood Alleviation Scheme has been allocated £150,000 from the Frequently Flooded Allowance for 2023/24. Further details regarding the plans for a flood alleviation scheme will be issued in due course.

**9.4** **Land off Harrold Road, Lavendon**

 The Clerk informed the meeting that a planning application for 8 houses on land off Harrold Road is currently being considered by MKCC in accordance with the Neighborhood Plan. Negotiations between MKCC have been ongoing for several months and they are now in the process of entering into a legal S106 agreement to transfer the land to the Parish Council. This will require a multi-party agreement between the applicant Purple Patch Ltd, the landowners, Milton Keynes Council and the Parish Council to enable the transfer of the land. The land is to be transferred for a minimal sum of £1 but it will not be accompanied by any other additional S106 monies. The Clerk asked Cllrs how they would like to proceed and whether they were content to enter into an S106 agreement. A discussion took place, and it was agreed that in order to make an informed decision further information was needed.

 **AP4**. Clerk to seek further information on the particulars of the proposed agreement.

**10. Planning Applications - Updates**

**10.1** **23/00367/HOU0** - **5 Joiners Way**

 The erection of a part single storey, part two storey rear extension with roof lights, loft conversion with side dormers with roof lights and single storeyside extension and overcladding to existing garage – **Full planning permission granted.**

**10.2 23/00418/HOU - 7 Harrold Road**

The erection of a proposed single storey front/side extension - **Full planning permission granted.**

**11. Parish related matters**

**11.1** Cllr Kelcey informed the meeting that MKCC have agreed to provide five littler picks.

The next Meeting is to be held on **Monday 15th May 2023**

Chairman, Steve Axtell closed the meeting at 21:10

Signed: ………………………………………………………… Chairman

Dated: ……………………………………………………………