



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held on Monday 08 May 2017 at 19h30 at The Kingston Library
Milton Keynes

1.	<p>Apologies: Cllr's Vikas Chandra (VC), Taimyr Boungou-Pouaty (TBP) No Apologies: Cllr Chris Turner (CT) Present: Graham Clark (GC), Peter Laws (PL), Jaime Tamagnini-Barbosa (JTB), Jenni Ferrans (JF), Jane Harrington-Chair (JH), Russell Houchin (RH). In Attendance: Vicky Mote (Clerk) and one member of the public</p>
2.	<p>Public Open Session There was one member of the public in attendance.</p>
3.	<p>Chair's report 2016/17:</p> <p>Personnel Our previous Chair Colin Bowker resigned from the Parish Council after the Annual Parish Meeting on the 9th May 2016 and the council elected Jane Harrington as the new Chair. As is the case in most years for various reasons we have had some councillor resignations and we have also welcomed some new councillors, Russell Houchin, Vikas Chandra and Taimyr Boungou-Pouaty. I thank all the councillors both past and present for their enthusiasm and willingness to give their time to enable the Parish Council to run successfully. Without this dedication we would not be able to keep our parish the great place it is.</p> <p>The clerk of the council, Vicky Mote, plays a vital role in running the council efficiently and effectively. I would like to thank Vicky for the amazing job she has done, often in very challenging situations over the past year. Additionally, I thank her for her support for me in my new role as Chair.</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Newsletter - Towards the end of 2016 the parish council decided that we should outsource our newsletter. We undertook this process to reduce councillor time collating and producing the newsletter and to reduce costs by having one organisation, produce, print and deliver the newsletter thereby reducing costs. Previously printing and delivery involved two separate companies. The current provider of the newsletter was selected through a tender procedure.</p> <p>Meetings - Our regular monthly meetings held on the second Monday every month except in August continue to provide a forum for discussion about any matters affecting the community as well as the regular day to day running of the Parish Council. Over the last year all our monthly meetings have been held at Kingston Library eliminating any confusion about which venue the meeting will be held. This seems to have resulted in a small increase in attendance of residents wishing to bring matters affecting the community to the attention of the parish council. I hope this is something that will continue to increase.</p> <p>Finances</p> <p>Precept - As usual, planning of the new financial year's budget (2017/2018) took place in January. Having taken the decision to increase the precept last year, it was agreed that we should not raise the precept this year and to use our reserves to fund some larger projects in the current financial year. As the local council is continuing to implement cost cutting exercises, there is likely to be a need for Parish Councils to take on some of the work to keep our Parish a fantastic place to live and work in. We continually monitor and strive to keep our costs to the minimum whilst still delivering good value and always welcome any questions or suggestions from residents.</p> <p>Grants - Over the course of this year we have awarded a number of grants. Kents Hill School requested matched funding for £1380 for playground improvements. The Grand Union Vinyard Church was awarded £2500 for the 'Monkston Summer Event' with a proportion of profits (£1200) from this event coming back to the council. Smaller awards were made to MK food bank and the Festive Road Community Interest Company. Festive Road is an arts organisation which aims to bring communities to life by making 'art' relevant, participatory and accessible to everyone.</p> <p>Projects</p> <p>Allotments - Previously we implemented some measures at the Monkston Allotment site to alleviate flooding. We arranged the installation of 'balancing ponds' to capture and contain rain water, these have worked but there were still areas of the site that continue to be badly affected by standing water. To remedy this we installed a bund (an embankment) along the fence stretching from plots 8-12 (backs onto housing Lindisfarne Drive) and plot 7 (backs onto housing Balermينو Drive) to further contain any flood water that might overflow into that area.</p>

Addition works include the installation of two new water troughs at the Monkston site and installation of notice boards at Kents Hill. All three of our allotment sites are well used by the tenants and they continue to be a great asset to the Parish.

Provision of play sessions - Milton Keynes Play Association continues to run our holiday play sessions, which are well attended. The youth group is run by Woughton Community Council who has ensured the continued successful working of the group. The group remains a valuable venture for our area. Young people in the school years 6 to year 8 age range meet from 6:30pm until 8:00pm, and the school years 9 to year 11 age range meet directly afterwards, from 8:00pm until 9:30pm.

Environment

Waste - Litter and dog mess remain a priority issue for us. Along with working closely with Milton Keynes Council Environment Services, we always welcome any new ideas to tackle these problems. Over this year we have audited all our rubbish and dog waste bins and have replaced or repaired old or damaged bins.

Refurbishment - Benches on our open spaces have been refurbished where necessary. We have also made some improvements to play areas, Parkminster in particular, where we have installed a nest swing. We also arranged for play area surface cleaning at all eleven of our play areas.

Parking - Parking problems are a persistent challenge across all areas in the Parish. We constantly keep an eye on any problems and report any that we observe to Milton Keynes Council.

Services

Citizens Advice Outreach Service - For the past three years the Citizens Advice Outreach Service was jointly funded by Kents Hill & Monkston Parish Council and Broughton & Milton Keynes Parish Council. From our parish advice was provided to 48 Kents Hill, 57 Monkston and 19 Monkston Park residents. In terms of enquiries the top five were about benefits, followed by housing, debts, employment and relationships.

The CAB Outreach Service aimed to keep in touch with as many of their clients as possible, often long after support was finished to help determine how useful the advice had been in resolving their issues and whether they might require any further help. There is a continuing need for services that support local residents, many of whom are vulnerable, in tackling significant challenges around cost of living and managing household finances.

Following the end of the three year contract Kents Hill and Monkston Parish Council decided to fund the outreach service solely. I am delighted to say that after a short break the service restarted on 7.4.17 at the new location of Kingston Library.

Community

A local group the Grand Union Vineyard Church with experience of successfully running family fun days in conjunction with the parish council organised the 'Monkston Summer Party' on Saturday 27th August. There was a live band, 'The Undercoverz' who played many popular tunes as hotdogs and burgers were enjoyed. Other events included a cake competition, a licenced bar, performances from local artists, family friendly games, variety of stalls, activities for the children and Sky Sports 1 Footballer Freestyler showed off his amazing skills. The day was enjoyed by many residents despite the rather inclement weather. Plans to further support this event for the forthcoming year were agreed in December 2016.

And Finally

We continually strive to improve and enrich the Parish and deepen the sense of community. We continually face challenges and work hard to overcome them but it is important to recognise and celebrate our successes.

Our reliance on a variety of other organisations to help us achieve our goal of a safe and pleasant place to live and work, does, from time to time, result in a difference of priorities. This can be challenging at times but we can assure you that your Parish Council will keep on trying to do our very best for the people who live and work here.

We practice open, honest and non-political, non-religious working and always endeavour to encourage our residents to get involved, in whatever way is needed.

	<p>Finally, I wish to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has generously given their time, energy and expertise, to make this a great Parish.</p> <p>I commend this annual report to the Parish Council for their acceptance.</p> <p>Jane Harrington Chair – Kents Hill and Monkston Parish Council – 2016 / 2017</p>
1.	<p>Items for discussion at future Parish Council meetings</p> <p>1. Quarterly detailed budget review.</p>

Meeting finished at 19h45

SIGNED	
NAME:	
DATED:	

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