

LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 08 April 2024 at 7.45pm in the Community Centre, Little Brickhill, Milton Keynes.

Present:

Cllr D Lewis – Chair
 Cllr K Morgan
 Cllr E Priestley
 Cllr L Walker
 A Kemp (Clerk)

In attendance:

C Till (Resident)
 D Priestley (Resident)
 D Williams (Resident)
 R Every (Resident)
 S Every (Resident)

<p>1. Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Cllr T Wheaton, Cllr T Bailey (Ward Councillor) & Cllr D Hopkins (Ward Councillor)</p>	
<p>2. Public Open Session:</p> <p>2.1 - A resident asked the Parish Council if it might be possible to contact MKCC about installing a barrier at the end of Woburn Road just past the entrances to the dwellings to stop people from parking in this dead-end road to conduct illegal activities and littering. <u>Clerk to contact MKCC on this issue.</u></p> <p>2.2 – Clerk advised that Ward Councillor, Tracey Bailey had notified him that a street light on Great Brckhill Lane was not working. <u>Clerk to check after the Parish Council meeting and updated our Ward Councillor accordingly.</u></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>3. Declaration of Interest:</p> <p>None.</p>	
<p>4. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting held on 4 March 2024: 3436</p> <p>Minutes signed and approved.</p>	
<p>5. Progress on matters from last Minutes: 3437</p> <p>5.1 - (item 7.2 of minutes 01/11/21) – Email received 01/11/2021 from MKCC regarding Tree funding and the Queens Platinum Jubilee. <u>It was decided not to accept receipt of these trees because of the cost of planting them and finding suitable sites for planting. The Clerk was tasked with contacting MKCC to obtain permission to offer these to another local Parish Council.</u></p> <p>Clerk has asked the nursery to deliver the trees to another Parish Council. <u>Item closed.</u></p> <p>5.2 - (item 2.3 of minutes 06/03/23) - Street Lighting – A resident asked if consideration could be given to installing some more street lighting on Watling Street near the George / Community Centre.</p> <p>Clerk confirmed that he met with a member of the street lighting team on the 21 September 2023 and received confirmation that they will conduct a review of the street lights in this area with a view to installing at least another one column. It is more likely because budget constraints to be completed early in the new budget year (2024/2025).</p> <p><u>Clerk has chased MKCC on this again on the 7 April 2024, waiting for a response.</u></p> <p>5.3 - (item 2.2 of minutes 26/06/23) - Old playground in Wyness Avenue. Work has been completed by MKCC except for work on the tree.</p> <p><u>Clerk has emailed MKCC on the 7 April 2024 to ask for a date when they will complete the work.</u></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

<p>5.4 - (item 2.4 of minutes 26/06/23) - Wyness Avenue and other Village issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearance near the disabled bay in Wyness Avenue. <p><u>Clerk has emailed MKCC again (07/04/24) requesting a date when this issue will be completed by MKCC (Landscaping Team)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between Greystones and The Court House on Watling Street in Little Brickhill, the brambles, overhanging ivy and general foliage is making it impossible to walk on the pavement. <u>Clerk reported this to MKCC under reference MKCC582860219.</u> <p><u>Update received from MKCC – 05/04/2024.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>We have given the owner of the Court House a notice under the Highway Act 1980 Section 154 requiring them to cut back the offending vegetation within 28 days.</u> • <u>Inspected on 4 April 2024 and gave an OHV notice to the owner personally.</u> 	Clerk
<p>5.5 - (item 8.4 of minutes 26/06/23) - Roundacre Field.</p> <p><u>Discuss at a future Parish Council meeting next actions now that our Lottery Grant application was unsuccessful.</u></p>	
<p>5.6 - (item 8.8 of minutes 26/06/23) – Pavement on Great Brickhill Lane from the flats to the entrance of Wyness Avenue requires a safety check / repair by MKCC. Clerk has reported this again to the MKCC Contact Centre on the 4 October 2023. Confirmation of receipt received 19/10/23 under reference No 5555688505.</p> <p><u>Clerk advised that he discussed this issue with MKCC Highways Team via an online meeting held on the 22 March 2024. MKCC confirmed that this damaged tarmac pavement currently does not meet the criteria yet for a repair and is inspected on a regular basis. I have asked for a record of the last inspection that MKCC have completed, and they have promised to email this in early April 2024.</u></p>	Clerk
<p>5.7 - (item 8.9 of minutes 26/06/23) – Play Equipment – Clerk to ask MKCC if they can clean all the play equipment on Watsons Field. <u>Clerk confirmed that the cost for MKCC to clean all the play equipment is £300 for two men at £75 per hour. Decision of this expenditure to be considered after all the tree work has been completed.</u></p> <p><u>See planning application reference 24/00505/TCA.</u></p>	
<p>5.8 - (item 2.2 of minutes 06/11/23) – Fly Tipping on Woburn Road – Residents reported that there is consistent fly tipping in this location and asked if MKCC could be approached to investigate if anything could be implemented to stop this occurring.</p> <p>Response received from MKCC on the 06 March 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have looked at this we cannot find any reports for this area at all. I was a little confused at first as there is a similar area which we refer to as Watling Street in Little Brickhill that I thought you were talking about where we have experienced some issues in the past. There has only been 1 report of fly tipping in this area over the past month. • We have checked and it is highway land, unfortunately there are no power sources at all for CCTV. The area is very secluded other than two large properties set back from the old road. • If you or anyone has any specific instances or pictures that can be shared that would be helpful. <p><u>See discussion in the Public Open Session under reference number 2.1.</u></p>	

<p>5.9 - (item 7.1 of minutes 06/11/23) - Letter received 16/10/23 from MKCC regarding Second Winter Plan (2023/2024) funding for Parishes. It was noted that the Parish Council have been awarded a grant of £500.</p> <p>As a condition of receiving the grant the Clerk will have to liaise with the Residents Association to provide an update on how the funding has been used. <u>No change.</u></p> <p>5.10 - Recycling Clothing Facility Bin in the Community Centre grounds – Now installed. <u>Item closed.</u></p> <p>5.11 – (item 18.3 of minutes 06/11/23) - Complaints Procedure – Cllr D Lewis asked if we should have a complaints procedure. Draft Complaints Procedure was issued to all Parish Councillors prior to this meeting by the Clerk. All present agreed for this procedure to be published and implemented from immediate effect.</p> <p>Clerk confirmed that he had published the Complaints Procedure on the Parish Council website. <u>Item closed.</u></p> <p>5.12 - (item 16.3 of minutes 06/11/23) – Cllr E Priestley stated that a School Sign had been damaged as you enter the Village from Great Brickhill Lane. <u>Clerk to report this to MKCC.</u></p> <p><u>Clerk has reported this to MKCC via email under reference number FS604652825.</u></p>	Clerk
<p>6. Correspondence: 3438</p> <p>6.1 - Letter received in March 2024 from the Police & Crime Commissioner regarding Working in Partnership to fight crime.</p> <p><u>This was noted, no further actions required.</u></p> <p>6.2 – Email received from Jackie Adams (daughter of Doreen Adcock) thanking the Parish Council and Cllr Emma Priestley for the installation of the memorial bench in Wyness Avenue.</p> <p><u>This was noted, no further actions required.</u></p> <p>6.3 – Email received 04/04/24 from MKCC advising of an MK Connect Rural Pilot commencing on the 8 April 2024 for 6 months.</p> <p><u>This was noted, no further actions required.</u></p>	
<p>7. Clerks Report / Local Issues: 3439</p> <p>7.1 - (item 12.8 of minutes 04/03/24) – New Dog Bin on Roundacre Field:</p> <p>Clerk advised that the new dog bin was installed in March 2024. <u>Item closed.</u></p>	
<p>8. Unitary Councillors' Report: 3440</p> <p>A copy of the Ward Councillor's reports to Little Brickhill Parish Council for April 2024 <u>are available to view on the Parish Council website and are appended to these minutes.</u></p>	
<p>9. Planning: 3441</p> <p>9.1 – 24/00203/TCA - The removal of 5x Silver Birch trees (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), 1x Leylandii (13) and 1x Weeping Willow tree (14) at 18 Great Brickhill Lane, Little Brickhill.</p> <p><u>No issues were raised.</u></p> <p>9.2 – 24/000264/FUL - Change of use from bed and breakfast (Class C1) to dwelling house (Class C3) with associated alterations. Removal of the external staircase at The White House, Watling Street, Little Brickhill.</p> <p><u>No issues were raised.</u></p>	

<p>9.3 – 24/00505/TCA - The crown lifting to approx. 2.7m (9ft) of Cherry trees (T1, T3, T4, T5, T6, T10, T20, T48, T52, T53, T54 & T55), White Beam trees (T2, T19, T35, T36 & T37), Ash trees (T7, T8, T11, T26, T28, T34, T41, T50, T58 & T59), Rowan trees (T9 & T61), Lime trees (T12, T17, T21 & T56), Silver Birch trees (T13, T15 & T16), Pine trees (T14, T18 & T60), Willow (T22), Oak trees (T23, T24, T25, T27), Field Maple trees (T29, T30, T43 & T44), Cedar (T31), Beech trees (T32, T33, T49 & T51), Norway Maple trees (T38, T39 & T40), Horse Chestnut (T42), Alder trees (T45 & T47), Sycamore (T46), and Crab Apple (T57) for safety reasons at Land at Watsons Field, Watling Street, Little Brickhill.</p> <p><i>No issues were raised as this application was submitted by the Parish Council.</i></p> <p>9.4 – 24/00589/HOU – The demolition of existing attached garage, erection of front veranda, part two storey side / rear extension with first floor glazed balustrade, and a single storey detached garage at 18 Great Brickhill Lane, Little Brickhill.</p> <p><i>No issues were raised.</i></p> <p>9.5 – 24/00677/CONINF – East West Rail - Consultation on draft Statement of Community Consultation (SoCC) under s.47(2) Planning Act 2008 at Land Between Bletchley and Woburn Sands associated with the Route Corridor of the East West Rail Project.</p> <p><i>No issues were raised.</i></p> <p>9.6 - 24/00053/TPO - The reduction in height from 25m tall to 22m tall and reshaping crown to good form (by up to 2m) of Horse chestnut (T1) protected by Milton Keynes Council Tree Preservation Order no PS/540/15/142 at The Clock House, Watling Street, Little Brickhill.</p> <p><i>Notification received from MKCC 03/04/2024 that tree preservation order consent had been approved.</i></p> <p>9.7 - 24/00214/TCA - The lateral reduction by up to 3m of two silver Maple trees (1 & 2), the reduction by 3m of limbs overhanging house of two Pine trees (3 & 4), and the height reduction by 10m to suitable lateral growth of three Pine trees (5, 6 and 7) at Chestnut Lodge, Woburn Road, Little Brickhill.</p> <p><i>Notification received from MKCC 20/03/2024 that tree preservation order consent had been approved.</i></p> <p>9.8 – 24/00085/ENF – The Laurels, Watling Street - Notification received from MKCC on the 12 March 2024 regarding a complaint alleging a breach of planning control at the above address.</p> <p>The alleged breach is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of alleged breach religious events being held at a residential property. <p>9.9 – 24/00086/ENF – The Laurels, Watling Street - Notification received from MKCC on the 12 March 2024 regarding a complaint alleging a breach of planning control at the above address.</p> <p>The alleged breach is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of alleged breach Installation of new windows and a patio. 	
<p>10. To discuss any Highway issues including introduction of (20 MPH Zones): 3442</p> <p>10.1 - Progress on introduction of 20 MPH Zones for Watling Street and Great Brickhill Lane:</p>	

<p><u>Update received from MKCC – We will be working on a design proposal for the scheme in the coming months and looking to consult on the scheme in Summer 2024. NO CHANGE.</u></p> <p>It was noted that Cllr K Morgan had raised some concerns on the effectiveness of these type of schemes and referenced a document prepared for Buckinghamshire County Council.</p> <p><u>Update - Clerk has contacted our former Parish Council again who has promised to obtain the speed data for review following the machines being serviced. No change.</u></p> <p>10.2 - Junction at Watling Street / Great Brickhill Lane – Cllr K Morgan asked if MKCC could be approached to ask for a safety review to be undertaken at the junction.</p> <p><u>Update received from MKCC – We will be working on a design proposal for the scheme in the coming months and looking to consult on the scheme in Summer 2024 including a review of this junction. No change.</u></p> <p>10.3 - Signs as you exit the village onto the A5 that indicate the national speed limit for the type of road and class of traffic applies could be moved as this may have an impact on slowing traffic down.</p> <p><u>This will be investigated in conjunction with item 10.1. No change.</u></p> <p>10.4 - Safety issue at exit from Eversden Close to Watling Street because the positioning of refuge point does not allow vehicles to turn left without damaging the grass verge. Update provided by MKCC at the meeting Cllr D Hopkins and the Clerk held with them on the 23 August 2023, that the installation of 'grasscrete' on the radius to be undertaken by the developer was still outstanding.</p> <p><u>Update provided by MKCC - The developer has been contacted again and that the bond for this site will not be released until the grasscrete has been installed. No change.</u></p> <p>10.5 - Damaged / Missing Road Sign as you exit the A5 to Woburn and Little Brickhill / Great Brickhill.</p> <p>MKCC are including this sign replacement with several other signs within the vicinity of this location and are waiting for budget approval from management to allow the go ahead and order. <u>No change.</u></p> <p><u>It was also noted that the barrier had been damaged again and that graffiti had been sprayed on the bridge and the temporary signs that Highways England installed after the incident in November 2023. Clerk to urgently report this to MKCC.</u></p> <p>10.6 - Greensand County Village Gateway Signs. Greensands Trust have confirmed that two signs will be allocated for Little Brickhill. Cost for the two signs are £240.00 + VAT. Clerk has placed an order for the two signs to be installed now that MKCC have signed the agreement form.</p> <p><u>Update – Waiting for a date when the signs will be installed.</u></p> <p>10.7 – (item 16.2 of minutes 06/03/23) - Great Brickhill Lane – Cllr M Goddard asked if the state of this road out of the village to Great Brickhill could be reported to Bucks CC for a review / actioning</p> <p><u>Clerk has tried to report this to Bucks CC, but it looks like the responsibility is split between at least two Councils. Clerk to seek advice from MKCC. Ongoing.</u></p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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10.8 - Little Brickhill are seeking a No Overnight lorry parking ban being placed Watling Street (the old A5) as the road leaves the village heading north towards the new A5 (bypass). Update provided by MKCC that the signs had now been installed. Following discussion, it was felt that just installing these signs will not solve this problem and it was decided to approach MKCC to reconsider their decision not to install no entry signs for lorries over 7.5 tonne as you enter the village from the island on Watling Street. Cllr D Hopkins agreed to contact MKCC again on this issue.

The following response has been received from MKCC (Murray Woodburn)

- Thank you for alerting us to this. Civil disobedience of this sort is a new development and may require us to escalate accordingly.
- Thank you, Keith, for retrieving the signs and dragging them to safety – and we'll make sure they are replaced shortly – but it is clear we may need to move towards a prohibition of some sort if this is the sort of behaviour we can expect. As has been stated, the situation will only deteriorate when other warehousing development opens, so it is important we get on top of this now.
- Let me discuss this with colleagues again to come up with some options. A weight limit except for access remains an option, but unfortunately enforcement would be difficult without the assistance of cameras – which we do not have DfT permission to use yet.

Update – No change but Clerk will chase MKCC for an update.

Clerk

11. To discuss Climate change issues / MKCC initiative: 3443

11.1 - Costs of producing a plan receiving from Jon Balaam (Greensands Trust) following the presentation at the PC meeting on the 5 February 2024.

It will be helpful for us to develop a "GI Plan-lite" methodology for use by smaller parish councils and those not doing a Neighbourhood Plan – especially those outside of Beds as the nature of mapping provided by the Local Environmental Record Centres differs across the county boundary.

I'd like to think we can come up with something that keeps it affordable for yourselves and other parishes in your position, but still creates a quality product which (most importantly) will be accepted by planners etc. I accept some of the development time we need to put into this will be relevant to a range of places, so will restrict any fees to yourselves to what is directly relevant. I would propose that the service we could provide includes:

- Provision of a draft methodology with instructions suitable for someone in your position (i.e. not a technical specialist, but not a stranger to the planning system) for producing a GI Plan.
- Guidance on mapping services/platforms you could utilise.
- Guidance on running community GI planning workshops and surveys (with option to bring us in to deliver).
- Proof reading/commenting on draft plans.

I would look to keep the cost below £1k (normally a GI Plan costs anything upwards of £4k these days) with additional costs being mapping and workshops. As a guide, the Bucks record centre charged us less than £100 for the Wing mapping work.

I will also look to discuss how any work done at a parish level in Bucks/MK can inform the Local Nature Recovery Strategy – we are looking at running an event for Greensand Country parishes on this in April. This would be something that benefits all parishes so not part of any chargeable service from us.

<p>I hope that all makes sense – I am also at a very similar stage with Great Brickhill (not met with them yet), and while they are obviously under a different local planning authority there might be things that could be done jointly – is there any track record of this?</p> <p>Another thing that would be useful is to know what your local drivers are? I can see that being on the edge of MK there are the development drivers, including things like EW Rail, but if there is anything else, please do let us know.</p> <p><u>It was agreed to discuss this in more detail at a future Parish Council meeting.</u></p> <p>11.2 – Biodiversity Policy – Every Council has been requested to produce a policy – see example of one from Wavendon Parish Council from Cllr D Hopkins.</p> <p><u>Clerk was tasked with drafting a policy for Little Brickhill Parish Council. Ongoing</u></p>	Clerk															
<p>12. Financial: 3444</p> <p>12.1 - Cheques presented for payment:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>S/O</td> <td>£184.80</td> <td>Alan Kemp – Salary April 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100997</td> <td>£24.20</td> <td>Alan Kemp – 1st & 2nd Class Stamps + Salary Arrears</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100998</td> <td>£131.20</td> <td>HMRC – Tax for Clerk – April 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100999</td> <td>£300.00</td> <td>Marcus Young Environmental Services – New dog bin</td> </tr> <tr> <td>101000</td> <td>£74.76</td> <td>BALC – Membership Fees.</td> </tr> </table> <p>This expenditure was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously.</p> <p>12.2 – Payments received: None</p> <p>12.3 - It was noted that the Bank Balance following the payments made tonight and cheques not cashed was <u>£24,491.26.</u></p> <p>12.4 - Bank Mandate: Clerk advised that a current signatory would have to contact Barclays Bank to arrange for a new mandate to be generated to add other signatories. <u>Ongoing.</u></p> <p>12.5 – Budget 2024/2025: Clerk has updated the budget to reflect the precept increase and year end balances and was emailed to all Parish Councillors on the 7 April 2024.</p> <p>12.6 – Year end tasks: Clerk will arrange for the internal audit to be completed by Auditing Solutions Limited, complete PAYE reports and re-claim VAT in the month of April 2024 for 2023/2024.</p>	S/O	£184.80	Alan Kemp – Salary April 2024	100997	£24.20	Alan Kemp – 1 st & 2 nd Class Stamps + Salary Arrears	100998	£131.20	HMRC – Tax for Clerk – April 2024	100999	£300.00	Marcus Young Environmental Services – New dog bin	101000	£74.76	BALC – Membership Fees.	
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<p>13. To receive reports on the Community Centre: 3445</p> <p>13.1 - Electrical Work – Clerk advised that we are still waiting for a date from Western Power when they will be completing work to change the source of electricity from overhead cables underground. <u>There are some outside wiring problems that they were going to complete at the same time.</u></p> <p><u>Clerk has contacted National Grid have again (01/03/24) and has been promised a response later this month. No change.</u></p> <p>13.2 - Damaged Shed – The Parish Council was asked if the shed at the Community Centre could be replaced. Community Centre committee have no objections but suggested that it might be better to purchase a plastic version. The current shed is 8 x 12 foot. <u>Quotations being sought by the Clerk for agreement to proceed at the May 2024 Parish Council meeting.</u></p> <p><u>Cllr K Morgan asked if we could investigate if the existing shed can be repaired. Clerk was also asked to investigate if there are any match funding opportunities available.</u></p>	Clerk Clerk															

<p>14. Councillors Report: 3446</p> <p>14.1 – Dog Fouling - Cllr K Morgan raised an issue with Dog Fouling in the Village and asked for consideration to purchase some posters from the Keep Britain Tidy Organisation.</p> <p>Clerk advised that he had contacted MKCC for advice on this issue and that if we can identify the affected areas in the village the MKCC Enforcement Officers will investigate. <u>They indicated that they have had some success in other parts of Milton Keynes.</u></p> <p>14.2 – Wyness Avenue – Cllr E Priestley advised that there is still some evidence that some people are parking their vehicles on grass verges etc in this road. It was noted that the situation would be monitored and if this continues the Clerk will be asked to contact MKCC on this issue.</p>	
<p>16. Items for the next / future agendas.</p> <p>Normal agenda items.</p>	
<p>18. Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Future dates are noted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 9 May 2024 – Annual General Meeting / Annual Village Meeting. • Monday 3 June 2024 – Clerk is unable to attend this meeting? • Monday 1 July 2024 <p><u>There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.32 pm.</u></p> <p>.....</p> <p>Chair for Little Brickhill Parish Council</p>	