

ABBAY HILL PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

held at The Church of the Holy Cross
on Thursday 20 October 2024 at 7.30pm

Present – Councillors Blyth (Chair), Ryan (Vice Chair), Evans and Parish Clerk

Apologies – Councillor Pant

Item		Action
143/24	Apologies Apologies were received from Cllr Pant and accepted.	
144/24	Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were raised.	
	Public Forum There were no members of the public present.	
145/24	Approve the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2024 The minutes were resolved to be approved.	
146/24	Discuss matters arising not already on the Agenda 130/24 – it was agreed residents bordering the allotments would be written a letter to request the pruning of a large tree on their land.	Clerk
Co-option of Councillor		
147/24	Report on applications received from eligible candidate(s) The Clerk reported that one application for the role of Councillor had been received and the candidate met all the eligibility requirements.	
148/24	Vote on co-option of eligible candidate(s) for appointment to Parish Councillor The Parish Council voted to agree the co-option of Anne Vine and she was welcomed as a member of the Parish Council.	
Community Projects		
149/24	Update on Coffee Mornings for noting and approval of expenditure of up to £500 on Coffee Morning Christmas celebration Cllr Vine noted there were some electrical issues in the building and sockets had not been fixed properly.	



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	By a majority it was resolved to agree a budget of £500 for a Coffee Morning Christmas celebration. Cllr Vine would hire a caterer to prepare a buffet.	
150/24	<p>Update on MKPA sessions for noting including approval of resident survey</p> <p>It was reported that the artwork for the 30 October play session was expected in the coming week and would be advertised in due course.</p> <p>It was noted there had been a low number of responses received from the play sessions survey shared on social media, although the responses themselves were very positive. It was agreed paper copies of the survey would be available at the 30 October play session to gather more views.</p> <p>It was agreed that dates would be explored for both Christmas and February half-term sessions budget permitting.</p>	Clerk
Finance		
151/24	<p>Consider reports on the financial position for the month ending 30 September 2024, and retrospectively approve payments made in September and October so far and approve upcoming payments in October</p> <p>The Parish Council noted the financial position for the month ending 30 September 2024 and resolved to approve the upcoming payments as follows (not including salary and salary-related payments): Coffee Morning Expenses to Anne Vine of £26.50; Coffee Morning Resources to Anne Vine of £105.89; Milton Keynes Play Association of £440.00; AAES of £3,997 + VAT.</p> <p>Further, the Parish Council retrospectively resolved to approve the following payments: Zurich of £648.46 and Clerk Expenses of £153.23.</p> <p>The Parish Council noted the transfers during September between current and savings account and the creation of a new Charity Bank savings accounts into which £5,000 was transferred during the month of September.</p> <p>It was resolved to agree Cllr Vine to be added to the Unity Trust and Redwood banking platforms to provide sufficient coverage in the event of absence.</p>	Clerk



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	The Parish Council considered some as yet unspent budgets this year. The Clerk noted that Cllr training would be held before the end of the financial year. It was agreed that there was no need for additional dog bins in the Parish. In terms of the Community Garden, Ray Christoe would be asked if he would attend the next meeting of the Parish Council to discuss future plans.	Clerk
152/24	Discuss projects to include in the Budget for 2025/6 The Parish Council agreed several items for consideration as part of the budget-setting process.	
Policies		
153/24	Determine advertising of Grant Making Policy The Parish Council resolved to agree that the Policy would be added as a News Item on the website.	Clerk
154/24	Adopt Social Media Policy The Parish Council resolved to adopt the Social Media Policy.	
Planning		
155/24	Note status of previous Planning Applications considered by the Parish Council: The Parish Council noted the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24/01803/FUL 101 Downland, Two Mile Ash – division of property into two dwellings, single storey rear extension and fenestration changes – under consideration - 24/01375/HOU 44 Denmead, Two Mile Ash –single storey side and rear extensions – under consideration - 24/01711/HOU 26 Fairways, Two Mile Ash –single storey front & side extensions – under consideration 	
156/24	Consider Planning Applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24/01527/PRIOR Proposal: Prior approval for the installation of solar panels at Volkswagen Group, Garamonde Drive, Wymbush – no comments. 	
Communications		
157/24	Update on a Hiring Agreement with Watling Valley Partnership The Clerk reported that a meeting was being set up with Watling Valley Partnership on the subject of the Hiring Agreement as drafted by the Parish Council. It was noted that hiring invoices had not been received at all this financial year.	



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158/24	<p>Update on Allotments Association</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the Allotments Association were strengthening their links with local schools and pre-schools to involve them in the allotments and become an enriching facility in the community.</p> <p>In terms of maintenance of the allotments, the two outstanding items related to the gates which required replacement and the paved path which it was thought could be laid to grass rather than re-paved. The Parish Council discussed a maintenance amount to the Allotments Association as part of the drafting of the Agreement between the two parties and the budget-setting process.</p> <p>MKCC had visited the Allotments site and confirmed that the two trees with a TPO at the end of the entrance, raised as an issue by residents, did not require any work at this time.</p>	
159/24	<p>Update on Website and Social Media</p> <p>Cllr Ryan reported that this was business as usual.</p>	
Environment		
160/24	<p>Discussion regarding landscaping matters</p> <p>The Parish Council discussed the current landscaping issues in Two Mile Ash. Large sections of shrubbery had still not been pruned and MKCC's contractors did not stay long enough to complete the work. Weeds had been trimmed at the same level as the shrubbery so the weeds would soon outgrow the shrub level again, looking unkempt.</p> <p>It was reported that the shrub border outside of Ashbrook School had been identified as a test regeneration area previously and MKCC had again been asked for quotations for transforming to a grassed bed or replacement shrub bed to inform the Parish Council's planning and budgeting. The Clerk and Cllr Blyth expressed frustration that there was a real lack of feedback from MKCC and this would prompt the Clerk to speak with Kay Pettit at MKCC.</p>	
161/24	<p>Update on Bulb Planting Project</p> <p>The Clerk reported MKCC had refused permission for the Parish Council to plant bulbs and this was being followed up with Kay Pettit and others at MKCC. Given that the order for the bulbs needed to be submitted imminently, if a resolution could not be reached within the next week then the project would be deferred until 2025.</p>	

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162/24	Update on Christmas light installation plans The Clerk reported the lights were due for installation in the coming weeks when ground conditions were more favourable. It was agreed that the light switch-on would take place on Monday 2 December.	
163/24	Discussion regarding drainage in main park Poor drainage in the main park in Two Mile Ash was noted as an ongoing issue and the Clerk had been chasing the relevant parties at MKCC for an update on expected actions.	
164/24	Consider Fault Log Update The Parish Council reviewed the updates to the Fault Log.	
Meetings		
165/24	Clerk and Councillors Reports on meetings attended None reported.	
166/24	Receive and consider items for the next agenda - Budget 2025/6	
167/24	Date of next meeting Thursday 14 November 2024 at 7.30pm – subsequently changed to Wednesday 20 November at 7.30pm due to by-election.	
168/24	Confidential discussion, if required No confidential items were required to be discussed.	
Meeting ended at 21.37 P.M.		

Signed: _____

Chair

Date: _____

Chairs Initials: