



1st Draft

Minutes of the meeting of the PARISHES ASSEMBLY held on WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2007 at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices

Present:

Councillor Douglas McCall (Chair)	Milton Keynes Council
Councillor Brian Barton	Bradwell Parish Council
Councillor P. Warner	Bradwell Parish Council
Councillor Alex Kidd	Broughton & Milton Keynes Parish Council
Councillor Tom Fraser	Campbell Park Parish Council
Councillor David Pafford	Campbell Park Parish Council
Councillor David Evans	Calverton Parish Meeting
Councillor Philip Ayles	Castlethorpe Parish Council
Councillor Ken Baker	Central Milton Keynes Parish Council
Councillor Charles Allum	Great Linford Parish Council
Councillor David Stabler	Great Linford Parish Council
Councillor Victoria Walley	Loughton parish Council
Councillor Mandy Kingham	Moulsoe Parish Council
Councillor Nigel Richards	Moulsoe Parish Council
Councillor Roz Hatton	North Crawley Parish Council
Councillor Alan Francis	New Bradwell Parish Council
Councillor Derek Eastman	Newport Pagnell Parish Council
Councillor Margaret Adams	Hanslope Parish Council
Councillor D Livingstone	Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe Parish Council
Councillor Jean Nicholas	Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe Parish Council
Councillor D Ash-Kashani	Shenley Church End Parish Council
Councillor Chris Mottram	Shenley Church End Parish Council
Councillor Robin Garrett	Simpson Parish Council
Councillor Jane Street	Simpson Parish Council
Councillor Bill Watts	Stantonbury Parish Council
Councillor James Buxton	Stantonbury Parish Council
Councillor Adrian Dnes	Stony Stratford Town Council
Councillor Ernie Thomas	West Bletchley Council
Councillor G Long	Woughton Parish Council

Officers: C Godfrey (Community Liaison Manager), R Barnett (Community Liaison Officer) and D Bowyer (Business Support Assistant)

Also Present:

Councillor Isabella Fraser Safer Neighbourhoods Chair

C Montgomery (Milton Keynes Partnership)

1. **Apologies:** G Nicol, Clerk (Western Underwood Parish Council), Councillor J Jeffreys (Woburn Sands Town Council), Councillor J Geary (Hanslope Parish Council), Councillor P Cairns (Haversham parish Council), Councillor R Nix (Central Milton Keynes Parish Council), Councillor M Horton (Emberton Parish Council)

The Chair asked the Assembly to stand for 1 minutes silence in remembrance of Cllr Reg Griffiths who was a member of the Parishes Assembly and passed away recently.

2. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING**

The Assembly considered the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 March 2007.

Councillor Adams (Hanslope Parish Council) queried a point on page 4 of the minutes, item 'Future of the A5130.' Councillor Adams suggested that the V11 was possibly 2.2miles and not 2.2metres that were originally recorded. Other members of the Assembly suggested that it was possibly kilometres. Officers to find out the accurate measurement.

3. **MILTON KEYNES PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Committee received an oral update on an information leaflet that was distributed among the Assembly. C Montgomery explained some figures from last financial year.

Councillor Hopkins noted that the agenda reads 'Milton Keynes Council Partnership Committee' this is inaccurate and should read 'Milton Keynes Partnership Committee.'

The Assembly noted the following:

- That the housing completions from 06/07 are up by 300 units on the previous year
- The OU are leading the consortium on the University Centre, Milton Keynes
- That the investment underway to Stantonbury Park Leisure is improvements to the running track
- MKP are investing £3million over 3 years to fund 12 posts in MKC for growth. It was noted that the majority of these posts will be in Environment Transport and Planning.
- New residents will begin to move in to CBX3 from 1 July at a rate of around 30 households per month.

- The CHP plant will be providing gas and electricity ready for when the residents begin to move in July

Comments from Members of the Assembly included:

- Cllr Francis asked how many out of the completions are social rented housing? And if MKC's 25% social rented policy had been adopted by that time, would the figure be 25%?

(The Assembly was informed that 30% of the housing was affordable housing and 5% was social rented. And that if the 25% social rented policy had been adopted at the time then there would be 25%)

- Cllr Hopkins stated that there was a concern at Wavendon that the second phase of the A421 duelling is not due to start until 2012 and due to finish in 2014. Cllr Hopkins stated that the A421 is already gridlocked in busy periods and with the growth of the city only getting bigger it is due to become worse. Therefore motorists will seek other routes through the villages. Are there any suggestions as to what we can do to stop this?

(The Assembly was informed that the duelling of the A421 was to follow on from the completed works at junction 13 and that this decision was made by the Highways Agency.)

- At the last Assembly it was noted that MKP's internet site would be update, has this been done?

(The Assembly was informed that the website has been updated)

- It was stated that there is still work going on at the A5 Grafton Street and are there any lessons that can be learnt from the projects that are behind schedule?

(The Assembly was informed that there is a debrief going on in the office on the subject currently and that it is sometimes difficult when there are a number of infrastructure works going on at one time.

- Cllr Ash-Kashani stated that she recently went to a presentation and was dismayed at the choices that the public were being given. She believes that the public were only given superficial choices like what windows they would like.

(C Montgomery stated that she would have to take this up directly with Gallagher's.)

- It was asked whether it was possible to rethink the decision to abandon the grid road system in the Western Expansion Area.

(The Assembly was informed that MKC undertook a long 3 year consultation period before setting up the city street policy, and if it were to go back and be reconsidered then the development would be put back too far. Cllr McCall added that planning permission has been given and cannot be taken back once that has been done therefore it is in a stage where it would be too late to reconsider the proposals.

- It was stated that on the Eastern Expansion Area there are several different parts that are going to be developed by different owners. Who is going to bring forward a plan for these parts to be joined together?

(The Assembly was informed that the Development Control Team were working with the developers to knit together the edges and that Gallagher's would be putting in the main infrastructure.)

4. ITEMS RAISED BY PARISH COUNCILS

Planning issues at Parish/Town Council level – deferred until 13 September

New item approved by Chair – oral presentation by Vince Macaulay of MK Lions Basketball Club on Summer Play Sessions

The Assembly noted the following:

- That the plan was to involve the parish councils in basketball and to coordinate with them to keep the young people active.
- The programme has been running for 3 years now and has worked closely with 12 of the parish councils. Out of the 12 parish councils, 10 have already recommitted themselves this year with meetings with the other 2 parishes happening over the next few weeks.
- The idea is that the MK Lions run a 6 week programme throughout the summer finalising with a 'show' outside the Xscape building. The teams are made up of all age groups with a total of 172 young people taking part.
- Resulting from the 6 week summer programme the group has been approached by the parish councils to run a similar programme in the winter. Following the interest from the summer play sessions they have also built up 4 teams around the city that practice every week.

- The programme involves the young people during the summer at a time when they have little to occupy themselves with; it keeps them interested in something and off the streets.
- If you would like further information on the play sessions you can find contact details on the website at www.mklions.com

5. **COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP (HEALTHCHECK)**

The Assembly received an oral presentation from Richard Solly on the Community Safety Partnership Healthcheck

The Assembly noted the following:

- That Milton Keynes is in the bottom 44 councils in England for crime figures. This could be down to the fact that Thames Valley Police have changed the way in which they are recording crimes.
- Crime has now resumed a downward path and is down 10% on last year.
- The Home Office have completed a Healthcheck on Milton Keynes and have interviewed a large number of people.
- MKCSP is made up for 5 statutory bodies being Milton Keynes Council, Bucks Fire & Rescue, Milton Keynes Primary Care Trust, Thames valley Police and the Local Police Authority, they will be looking at a number of things including crime, the fear of crime, ASB and Environmental Quality
- Milton Keynes is the lead in the country on involvement on parish engagement and we would like to continue this.
- The fear of crime is reducing more and more and is one point that has never risen.
- The recommendation that there would be a large Stakeholder group that meets twice a year instead on the current 6.
- The recommendation that there is a Parish Council Community Safety Partnership group set up and this would feed local issues into the Community Safety partnership. Cllr I Fraser added that the group would mirror JATAC so that members could also bring issues and feed them into JATAC. Cllr I Fraser and Richard Solly will be looking at ways that this can be done in the next few weeks.

- That the Partnership are looking to increase their data capacity and now have the resources to employ a full time Data Analysis Officer who will also work with the parish councils and produce a monthly report.
- Cllr I Fraser took the opportunity to thank Richard Solly and Caroline Godfrey for helping to fight for the parish councils to be represented in the Community Safety Partnership. And that she would be happy to go out and talk to the parish councils if they wanted her to.

Members of the Assembly made comments on the following:

- Cllr Eastman stated that what we need the most is a form of Police Force Group where we go out on the streets and tackle problems face on. From his experience the majority of ASB complaints that are reported the police force fail to turn up to. Some parishes are disadvantaged because they are told that they do not have as big a problem as other areas so they do not have the resource to deal with it all. He also added that he would like to see the police on the streets because that is the only thing that stops the behaviour.
- Some members of the Assembly were concerned that the Stakeholder group meeting twice a year would not be enough and that ward members should also be involved in the group as their role would be equally as important as the parish councils.
- Cllr Stabler stated that he welcomed the inclusion of parishes into the group but was concerned that no one had mentioned the Neighbourhood Action Groups. The NAG's currently deal with the police regarding issues and crime and if the new Stakeholder group came about then there would be too many groups dealing with the same thing and the same issues. Therefore if the group were to come about then there should be representatives from the NAG's on the group. Cllr Stabler was also concerned about the design of the new developments, there appears to be nothing for the young people to do, there are no 'kick about' areas and the car parking areas will no doubt lead to problems. Community Safety should be dealing with these issues and the fact there is nothing for the young people to do.

(The Assembly were informed by Cllr I Fraser that we have 380 uniformed police officers in Milton Keynes with approximately 1/3 of them working at any one time. This is no lower than other areas of Thames Valley based on population. We are not going to get more police officers so Community Safety Partnership needs to work smarter. We have PCSO's and they are very good on the ground level working in the

parishes. Although we have the NAG's there are currently only 10 areas that with them so we need another group as it will be some time before all the NAG's are up and running.

R Solly added that the vision is to develop core centres where we will be able to report crime locally.)

- Cllr Hopkins noted that the USA have a single number (311) where they can report all non-emergency incidents and that the Home Office are building up a similar scheme. But tax payers will need to be prepared for taxes to increase. If we in Milton Keynes could volunteer to trial it here then that could help us.
- Cllr Adams stated that PCSO's would be very valuable in rural areas. The police force are trained to deal with major incidents and in places like Hanslope they just need a presence about the streets therefore the number of police officers that we have in MK would be adequate if there were more PCSO's.
- Cllr T Fraser added that the Home Office are giving us targets to meet but no resources to go with it. We need to be prepared to say that we do not want to go ahead until we have the resources to help us.

(The Assembly was informed that R Solly agreed that it would be good if MK could volunteer to be a pilot for the 101 non-emergency number trial. He agreed that we are always urged towards more and more targets but it would be difficult to say that we do not want to do it unless we receive the resources.)

- Cllr Ash-Kashani agreed that the PCSO's are very good. Their PCSO has a good presence amongst the community and make people feel safer and they already wonder what they would do without him!
- Cllr Dnes questioned why the police cannot have a tracker like other companies to find out your location instead of going through a number of questions when you dial 999.

(The Assembly was asked by Cllr I Fraser whether they would like Assistant Chief Constable Nick Gargon to attend the next Parishes Assembly to put their points to him. The Assembly agreed that they would. The Assembly were asked to have a show of hands and vote on a few recommendations)

- Cllr Thomas requested that they take the recommendations back to their parishes and discuss the topics there first.

(The Assembly was informed by Cllr McCall that with a showing of hands they would not be committing themselves to anything it was just for R Solly to get a feel as to if the recommendations would get support.)

VOTE – would you be in favour of the parish councils having a leading role in the Stakeholder Forum? **The Assembly voted in favour of the proposal**

VOTE – would you support the parish councils having a seat on the management group? **The Assembly voted in favour of the proposal**

VOTE – would you be in favour of a ‘doing group’ to raise parish councils concerns? **The Assembly voted in favour of this proposal**

VOTE – would you be in favour of information on crime and disorder in your parish and to receive training on this **The Assembly voted in favour of this proposal**

VOTE – would you support a future ‘thinking group’? **The Assembly voted in favour of this proposal**

6. SAFE AT HOME INITIATIVE

The Assembly received a brief explanation of the Safe at Home Initiative from R Solly.

The Assembly noted the following:

- The idea of the Safe at Home Initiative is a simple one. It is to identify vulnerable adults and help them in the home. The idea is that a Social worker goes into a house and identifies needs for crime or fire prevention etc then they flag up the need for these things with the relevant authority. In the same way if for example the police authority were out at a home and they saw a need for some help by a Social Worker then they would then flag that up with them.
- The training that is being offered will extend to parishes.
- The funding has come from Stakeholders such as Bucks Fire and Rescue and Thames Valley Police. There is enough money at this stage to keep the pilot going until the end of the year.
- Please see the leaflet that was distributed during the Assembly for any contact details.

7. LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

The Assembly received an update on the delivery of the Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The Assembly noted the following:

- The LAA was signed off in April 2007. Although by October we expect new criteria will be coming in.
- Can you think of anything else that could feed into the targets? If so please let us know
- You can view the full document on our website

8.0 DATE / VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

To note the dates for future meetings:

- (a) Thursday 13 September 2007
- (b) Thursday 13 December 2007
- (c) Wednesday 26 March 2008

All meetings will commence at 7.00 pm and will be held in the Council Chamber of the Civic Offices.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.07 PM