



SIMPSON AND ASHLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting

Meeting date:	1st November 2021 at 8pm
Venue:	Simpson Village Hall (socially distanced)
Councillors present:	Cllr Pye – Chair (DP) Cllr Barnes – Vice Chair (PB) Cllr Eatwell (RE) Cllr Ezeh (CE)
Also present:	K Harmsworth, Parish Clerk (KH)
Apologies:	Cllr Thornton (ST)
Members of public:	17 Members of the Public (MOP)

Ref.	Agenda item and Minutes	Action
211101	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence	
	Apologies were received from Cllr Thornton.	Noted
211102	Declarations of Interest	
	None received.	Noted
211103	Minutes of Last Meeting	
	The minutes of the meeting on 2 nd August 2021 were agreed and signed by the Chair as a true and correct record.	Approved
211104	Public Forum	
	Issues discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOP asked about the possibility of a memorial bench for Dorrie Goss who died in April 2020 after living her whole life in Simpson. PB stated that the PC does not provide memorial benches, however the idea of a plaque under a new tree in the village might be considered. • MOP asked if the Simpson Garden Group would be allowed to replace the herbaceous border that they maintain with grass, hedging and trees. They were advised that MKC own this land and they would need their permission and that the issue could be discussed on 9.11.21 when the relevant open space officer from Milton Keynes Council (MKC) was visiting Simpson. • Several MOP came forward to express their concerns over the new planning application for Five Acres. They asked how the PC would be responding, what they themselves could do to help, and 	<p align="center">Noted</p> <p align="center">Noted</p> <p align="center">Noted</p>

	what the likely outcome could be. The PC answered under minute 211110.	
211105	Finance Report and Discussion	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accounts from 23rd July 2021 – 21st October 2021 were reviewed and found to be in order. 2020/21 AGAR was reviewed and actions agreed. The external auditor report found that Box 4 contained incorrect items. This will be corrected before submitting the AGAR for the current financial year. The PC agreed to add KH to the Bank Account as a signatory, in her role as Parish Clerk and RFO. The PC agreed to remove all other signatories from the account, apart from DP, PB and KH. The PC have been investigating whether to register for VAT. After receiving advice from various professional bodies, it has decided not to pursue VAT registration. 	<p>Resolved</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>Resolved</p> <p>Resolved</p>
211106	Precept for 2022/23	
	The PC voted unanimously to raise the precept by 2% for the year 2022/23.	Resolved
211107	Ashland Meeting Place (AMP)	
	<p>The Chair thanked Lisa Emmanuelle (Project Manager), Andrew Armes (Architect) and the Steering Group for their continuing efforts with Ashland Meeting Place.</p> <p>A report was received from the Steering Group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The internal fit out is now underway. The external fencing is soon to be removed which presents a possible security issue to the underside of the building. Possible solutions are being investigated including piling soil up to prevent access. The possibility of graffiti is a concern. Solutions being investigated include anti-graffiti paint or alternatively commissioning a local graffiti artist to discourage unwanted graffiti. There has been a series of open sessions at AMP and the building has been well received. To note that the onsite portable toilet was stolen over the course of the weekend. The PC will now start to look forward to a possible opening date and will also consider the management of the building. 	Noted
211108	Simpson Village Hall Reopening (SVH)	
	<p>The Chair thanked ST for the report on the reopening of SVH, received in her absence. Thanks also given to ST and the working group for their continued efforts in improving SVH ready for its reopening.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PC has agreed that they are committed to forming a management committee and to further investigate the possibility of creating a charity to run the Village Hall. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The working group has requested that there is a set budget for the improvement of the Village Hall. The PC has asked for further information on what this is likely to entail in advance of agreeing a figure. The working group has requested that a new sign is purchased to put on the front of the Village Hall. RE has received several quotes and it the PC unanimously agreed to spend up to £300 for this sign. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Resolved</p>
211109	Open Space	
	<p>Thankyou to ST for the report on Open Spaces, received in her absence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair informed us that he and ST are meeting with residents of Warren Bank on 6.11.21 to discuss the possibility of replanting the hedge that borders the canal. RE noted that a Towpath Clear up has been organised for 20.11.21 in partnership with Bletchley and Fenny Stratford TC, Old Woughton PC and the Canals and River Trust. PB noted that there are continuing issues at the new Bowlers Close development. The landscaping has not yet been completed in front of Bowlers Close by the Developer. The PC is continuing to pursue a resolution to this. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
211110	Planning Applications	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (21/02173/FUL) 426 Simpson – The PC has submitted their objections to this application. It will now be going to the Development Control Committee where PB will represent the PC. (21/02627/FUL) 392 Simpson – The PC submitted no response. (21/02027/FUL) 203 Simpson – The PC submitted no response. (20/01529/FUL) Five Acres – The Secretary of State dismissed the previous planning application on one aspect; parking, as it did not conform with MKC parking standards. A new application has now been submitted for a 28 bed HMO with 27 parking spaces. This application will now go to the Development Control Committee for their decision. The PC are planning on engaging a Planning Consultant to put together our response. The PC will continue to make known their objections to this Development and would encourage residents to do the same. PB informed us that there is a possible residential development of 102 flats in the old Travis Perkins building in Fenny Stratford. PB attended a zoom meeting for further information. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
211111	Children and Young People	
	<p>It was agreed to subsidise a youth club one day per week at a cost of £35. This will be reviewed no later than March 2022.</p>	Resolved

211112	Other Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A traffic survey recently took place in Simpson to provide baseline data while the Simpson Road closure is in place. Once the road is reopened another survey will be organised. • The PC is increasingly disappointed with MKC and the DRT service. The PC will continue to monitor and lobby on behalf of residents. 	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
211113	Review of Standing Orders	
	Standing Orders were agreed.	Resolved
211114	Review of Delegated Decisions	
	Delegated Decisions were agreed.	Resolved
211115	Confidential Item – Review of Member of Staffs pay	
	The PC agreed that they are a Real Living Wage Employer and as such staff will be paid in accordance with this and reviewed every April.	Resolved
211116	To note that the next meeting of the Full Council will be held on a date to be agreed at this meeting.	
	The next meeting will be held on 7 th February at 8pm in Simpson Village Hall.	Resolved
The Chair closed the meeting at 22:00		

Signed Chair Date

Signed Clerk Date