



Simpson and Ashland Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held on 8 January 2018 at 8.00p.m., Simpson Village Hall

Present:	Cllrs Peter Barnes (Vice Chair), Carole Baume, Andrew Harrington, Robert Ling, David Pye (Chair), Cathy Pope, Sheila Thornton Sue Key (Clerk/RFO)	
Min. Ref.	Item	Action
	<p>Apologies: None</p>	
1 & 2	<p>Welcome and Community Consultation on S&PC Budget 2018-19: Cllr Pye, Chair, welcomed residents Anne and Martin Armstrong, Jane Anderson, Margaret and David Carrel, Nigel Chitty, Brenda Ladd, Jenny Hughes and Monica Shelley to the meeting.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the purpose of this evening was to capture the views of Simpson and Ashland residents as to how the monies generated by the 2018/19 precept might be allocated and, linked to this, what activities Simpson and Ashland Parish Council (SAPC) might undertake in the coming financial year. It was noted that:</p> <p>1.2a) – SAPC is funded through the parish precept which is an amount of money that is added to the Council Tax bill that residents pay to Milton Keynes Council (MKC). SAPC Cllrs decide the level of the precept each financial year and for the coming year, the proposal is to raise the precept by 15%. The impact of this is that the precept charge for a Band D property in Simpson and Ashland roughly works out at £1.70 per week.</p> <p>1.2b) – MKC is facing significant financial challenge as it seeks to balance its budgets. The impact of this is that the level of service it can provide to residents is changing as its budgets reduce. To make further savings, MKC is considering the devolution of some services to Parish Councils, with these councils taking on the costs, for example, the maintenance of open spaces. To plan for this, SAPC has increased the precept over the past couple of years and will do so for 2018/19.</p> <p>1.2c) – SAPC has taken over the full responsibility and running of Simpson Village Hall from the Simpson Association and are considering how this facility can support the community in the future and this development will likely have additional costs.</p> <p>1.2d) – Ashland does not at present have a meeting place and it may be that some SAPC funds, in addition to the S106 monies could be used to purchase, in partnership with residents, such a facility.</p> <p>1.2e) – SAPC is a very small Parish Council and the ways in which it works and the partners it works with are evolving all the time. The focus of SAPC is to support the community to the best of its ability and the discussions this evening will help to frame the work that it does over the next twelve months and beyond.</p> <p>There is a further consultation on Saturday 13 January 2018 at 10.30am in Simpson & Ashland Village Hall.</p>	

Chair asked Cllr Harrington to give a brief outline presentation (See Appendix 1) on current and projected SAPC finances before residents split into smaller discussion groups.

Discussion was focused around:

- What services should SAPC be looking to develop as part of devolvement from MKC?
- What activities/events are most beneficial to supporting residents and the community generally?
- Wish list - if you had the PC budget and there were no restrictions what would you want to use it for?

At the end of the session the following issues were noted:

- Sense of Community – need a central focus for the community.
- Ashland needs a community hub.
- Parking – issues need to be addressed in both Simpson and Ashland.
- Transport issues - for example speed of cars coming through Simpson and safety of people on paths in both Simpson and Ashland
- Environment – residents would like to continue living in a quality environment. For example, the maintaining of street cleansing, quality open spaces, reduction of litter and the like. Participants noted that with the devolution, residents, could decide, along with SAPC, what level of service they would like, though funds for this would need to be generated through the precept. There was also discussion as to how residents could get involved to work alongside the statutory agencies for example, further developing the group that collects litter.
- Village Hall – look at different uses for the community.
- Communications – still need to improve how SAPC communicates with residents about what it is doing.
- The importance of residents feeling safe and secure – including Police presence, improved lighting, neighbourhood watch etc. Links with the quality of the environment.
- Maintenance of pavements to ensure remain safe.
- Provision of Grit bins.
- Planning – look to ensure future planning developments are fit for purpose and in keeping with the local area.

Cllr Harrington thanked everyone for the contributions and noted that SAPC would take these away to consider.

At the end of the consultation exercise a number of residents left.

PC reviewed the issues raised and agreed this had been very valuable and would be reviewed more thoroughly in the coming months. Initial discussion held around communicating better and the need for more work to be done in this area. Use of Facebook was raised as a result of recent comments posted by residents concerning the Ashland completion and the waste collection.

Actions:

- i) Cllrs to take it in turns to monitor Facebook and restate the PCs position regarding abusive statements made on Facebook.**

All

All

	<p>ii) Cllr Thornton facilitating 13 January 2018 exercise and Cllrs to confirm what help they can provide.</p> <p>iii) PC to review feedback, discuss further and keep residents informed.</p>	All
3	<p>Declarations of Interest No change to current declarations in place.</p>	Noted
4	<p>Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 November 2017: Noted – Minutes and budget expenditure agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the Chair.</p>	Noted
5	<p>Matters arising from 6 November 2017 minutes:</p> <p>1&2a) 211 Simpson – Cllr Baume has spoken to Cllr V Gwynn at Old Woughton PC and they have agreed to make a joint submission to the Panel, when a date is known. The latest situation is that MKC have informed the agent that they need to make significant changes before resubmitting, and now waiting for a resubmission. The MKC panel meeting as scheduled for 25 January 2018 will note be going ahead and Cllr Baume to provide an update statement for posting on the website.</p> <p>3) Ashland Development – had been extended for completion to spring 2018. SAPC has been in contact with HCA and update statements have been posted on the SAPC Facebook.</p> <p>4) CA:MK Simpson Project – Cllr Barnes reported three focus groups and meetings with individuals held and building a picture to develop the survey questions. Project still having difficulty accessing hard to reach groups in Warren Bank and Old Groveway and the PC may want to consider carrying out door knocking to get those residents involved.</p> <p>5) Service Devolution – Cllr Baume reported that she had contacted MKC but received no response to date regarding the next cycle of the weed spraying programme. In addition, Cllr Baume thanked the Clerk for the notes from the MKC workshop on 20 December 2017 around devolving landscaping services. General discussion noted the feedback from the budget consultation exercise and also the request from MKC to indicate an interest to take on these services must be submitted by 9 January 2018.</p> <p>12.5c) Village Hall Management Cttee – discussion held concerning new user - a Toddler group wishing to use the hall and a possible start date. One issue still to be addressed is the need for additional storage. PC feel this is important to community development and want to be able to ensure the Village Hall fit for purpose to support such activities. General discussion held on sorting out storage improvements. Cllr Ling reported that the contractor lined up to carry out the capital works which included looking at storage is now unable to carry out the work. Cllr Ling will look for a new contractor and report back.</p> <p>12.6) Planning – Clerk has written to MKC confirming no objections to planning applications for 366 Simpson, 187 Simpson and 66 Lexham Road, Ashland. No more news on 4 Peshurst to report at present.</p> <p>Noted:</p> <p>i) PC agreed to write to MKC and indicate an interest in Landscape and the process for taking over these services.</p>	Noted

	<p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Cllr Baume to ask MKC for a statement regarding 211 Simpson that can be circulated to residents to indicate what has been stated to the developer. ii) Cllrs to agree a date for door knocking as soon as possible. iii) Clerk to write to K Pettit at MKC to register an interest in Landscape services and to ask for details. iv) Cllrs agreed to arrange a day to have an initial first clear out to free up space in the village hall. In addition, Cllrs Pope, Harrington and Ling to speak to potential user to find out more details of storage requirements in order to see what additional actions can be taken. Agreed this needs to be completed as soon as possible. v) Cllr Ling to look for a new contractor to carry out the capital works and report back. 	<p>Cllr Baume</p> <p>All Clerk</p> <p>All/Cllr Pope/Cllr Harrington /Cllr Ling</p> <p>Cllr Ling</p>
6	<p>Delegated Decisions made since last meeting: To note no delegated decision made.</p>	Noted
7	<p>Any Other Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Financial Report: 2017/18 up to end of Period 9:– Cllr Pope and Clerk had checked the period and presented a summary position update (Paper 2) which the Cllrs noted including 10% variances in forthcoming payments regarding village hall expenses. Noted committed expenditure as reported at 6 November meeting remains unchanged except for the two 10% variances. b) Precept 2018-2019 – as stated in item 1&2 above and at 6 November 2017 and 9 Jan 2017 meetings the PC recognise the need to prepare for taking on more services for the community which means an increase in the Precept to allow for this. As stated earlier this evening SAPC are proposing a 15% rise be asked for 2018-19 to continue to build up funds in preparation to take on and provide more services. The PC recognised this consultation exercise would also help to develop the budget more to support the community with their key needs. c) Planning update – Cllr Baume reported planning applications received for the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 390 Simpson – to build a two storey extension to the rear, single storey extension to the rear and a new garage to the side of the premises. Cllr Baume stated no properties behind and a path to the side. The double storey is in the middle and recommended the PC to make no objections. 139 Simpson – to build 4 new dwellings and appropriate car parking and external works. PC noted this was the fourth planning application. PC stated the key issue is around getting the developer to finish off the external works e.g highways works in Walden Croft in order that it can then be adopted and MKC take over the maintenance and welfare of that area. d) Village Hall Funds – agreed that the money transferred from Simpson Association be ring fenced for Village Hall use only. e) Insurance cover – Cllr Thornton asked for clarification regarding insurance cover for activities. Cllr Thornton is proposing to organise a Litter Pick with the Friends of Ouzel Park and asked if the PC Liability would cover this. 	

	<p>Noted:</p> <p>i) 2017/18 Income and Expenditure – PC agreed as an accurate statement up to 28 December and approved variances.</p> <p>ii) Precept 2018-2019 - PC unanimously agreed to increase the Precept for 2018-19 by 15%.</p> <p>iii) Planning – PC agreed no objections to 390 Simpson. With regard to 139 Simpson, PC agreed to ask guidance from MKC if as part of this new application, a request be made that if approved it would have to be on the condition that the developer finish the work in Walden Croft to a level that MKC adopted those facilities.</p> <p>iv) Village Hall Funds – PC agreed unanimously to ring fence the money transferred from Simpson Association (£6,830.01) for Village Hall use only.</p> <p>ACTION:</p> <p>v) Precept 2018-2019 – Clerk to submit Precept submission to MKC by 1 February 2018 deadline.</p> <p>vi) Cllr Baume to contact K Lycett, MKC Snr Planning Officer to seek guidance regarding 139 Simpson and the possibility that planning approval only be given if works completed on Walden Croft and adoption by MKC was completed. Clerk to confirm to MKC Planning no objection to 390 Simpson.</p> <p>vii) Clerk to check insurance policy and report back to Cllr Thornton.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Baume/ Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
8	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.</p> <p>Date and time of next meeting: 5 March 2018 at 8.00 p.m.</p> <p>Next informal Planning consultation meeting – Monday 5 February 2018, 8.00pm, Simpson Village Hall</p>	

Slide 1

Appendix 1
2018-2019 Budget Consultation Slides

Simpson & Ashland
Parish Council Budget
Consultation
2018-2019

Slide 2

Income 2017-2018

Balance at start of year = £31,906.76

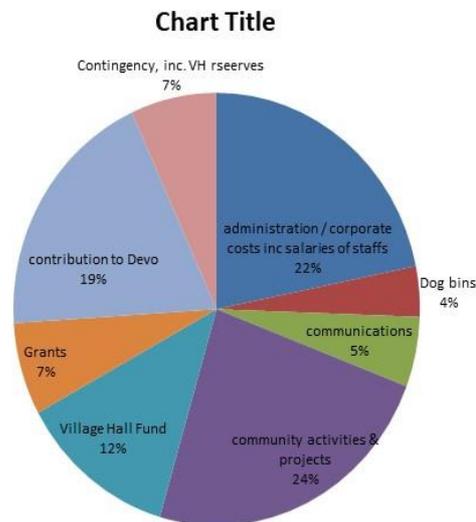
- Income = £54,962.49 (£41,892.37 income to PC, £5.14 interest on reserves account and £13,064.98 hall income includes transfer of balances)
- Expenditure = £16,525.49 (as of 28th December 2017) made up of £13,619.18 for PC and £2,906.31 for Village Hall

Current Balance is £70,343.76



Slide 3

2017-2018 Budget plan



Slide 4

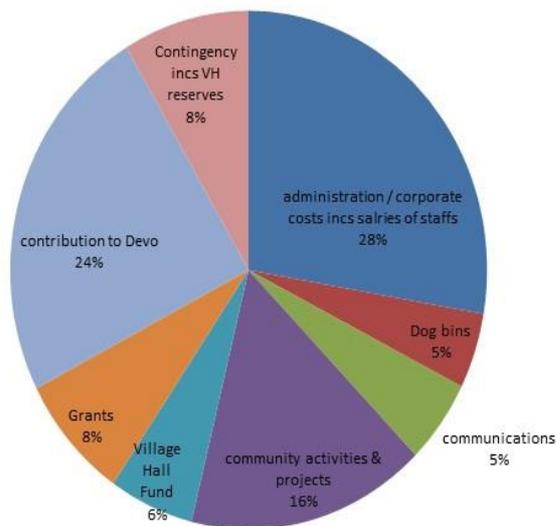
Income for 2018-2019

- Balance to carry forward approx £56,976.47
- Income = £50,700
- Expenditure = TBC

Slide 5



Proposed budget for 2018-2019



Discussion

- What services should the parish council be looking to develop as part of devolvement from MKC? (E.g. weed spraying, landscaping, street cleaning)
- What activities / events are most beneficial to you and your community?
- Wish list – if you had the PC budget and no restrictions what would you want to use it for?

Appendix 2

Finance Report: Part A: Balance statements for all 3 Accounts:

<u>PARISH COUNCIL ONLY</u>	Actual 2016-217 £	Budget 2017-18 Budget £	Actual 2017-18 To date £	Committed Nov to Jan 2017-18 £
Balance on Annual Return	£9,900.75		£20,437.09	£14,250.35
Income	£27,516.66	£40,068.43	£41,892.37	
Transfer In			£769.28	
Transfer Out			£35,605.41	
TOTAL BALANCE OF INCOME	£35,015.75		£27,493.33	£14,250.35
Operational Expenditure	£13,760.00	£36,070.00	£12,955.06	£12,126.65
Grant Expenditure	£818.66	£3,300.00	£287.92	£1,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£14,578.66	£39,370.00	£14,250.35	£1,123.70
Bank Balance at end of each period				£1,123.70

<u>PARISH RESERVE ACCOUNT ONLY</u>	Actual 2016-217 £	Actual 2017-18 To date £	Committed Nov to March 2017-18 £
Balance on Annual Return	£9,004.47	£11,309.67	£46,349.02
Income	£3.54	£5.14	£5.52
Transfer In	£2,301.66	£35,410.41	
Transfer Out			
TOTAL BALANCE OF INCOME/TRANSFERS	£2,305.20	£46,725.22	£46,354.54
Expenditure		£376.20	
Bank Balance at end of each period	£11,309.67	£46,349.02	£46,354.54

<u>SIMPSON VILLAGE HALL ONLY</u>	Budget 2017-18 £	Actual 2017-18 To date £	Committed Nov to March 2017-18 £
Balance on Annual Return		£160.00	£9,744.39

Income	£8,250.50	£13,064.98	£1,395.00
Transfer In		£195.00	
Transfer Out		£769.28	
TOTAL BALANCE OF INCOME	£8,250.50	£12650.70	£11,139.39
Operational Expenditure	£5,550.00	£2,906.31	£1,625.64
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£2,700.50	£9,744.39	£9,513.75
Bank Balance at end of each period			£9,513.75

<u>TOTAL BANK BALANCE</u>		Bank Balance at 28 Dec 2017	Projected at Year end 2017-18
		£70,343.76	£56,986.47

Part B – List of Expenditure and Income –

All expenditure and income to date can be viewed on the budget page at the Simpson and Ashland website. See link below:

<http://www.simpsonandashland.co.uk/budget--finance.html>

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