



SIMPSON AND ASHLAND PARISH COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting date:	7 December 2020
Venue:	Zoom Online Meeting
Councillors present:	Cllr Pye – Chair (DP) Cllr Barnes – Vice Chair (PB) Cllr Ezeh (CE) Cllr Thornton (ST)
Also present:	L Brazier, Parish Clerk (LB)
Apologies:	None
Members of public:	4 members of public

Ref.	Agenda item and Minutes	Action
20048	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence	
	Councillor Pye welcomed everyone at the meeting and introductions were made. No apologies for absence.	
20049	Declarations of Interest	
	Cllr Pye declared that he has been appointed by the Department of Health & Social care (DHSC) to Chair a series of Public Health programmes, in the North of England. The position will have no impact on role as Chair for S&APC. Declaration of interest noted.	Noted
20050	Public Forum	
	No update.	
20051	To approve the minutes of the: 1) Full Council meeting held on 5 October 2020 2) Extraordinary PC Meeting held on 28 November 2020	
	The minutes as previously circulated were approved.	Approved
20052	Chair's Report	
	Cllr Pye expressed thanks to everyone for their efforts in supporting the community, particularly over the second lockdown period. The council are paying particular consideration on how support can be provided for everyone through this challenging time. Acknowledgement and thanks were given to Cllr Barnes and Cllr Thornton for the latest guidance and advice sheet. Cllr Pye also thanked the combined efforts of the residents who worked together to for the Five Acres planning appeal, and to Cllr Barnes	

	for presenting the appeal. Louise Brazier was introduced and welcomed into the SAPC team as the new Parish Manager, including the role of Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer.	
20053	Ashland S106 Community Space	
	<p>Planning permission has been granted and the work will start in the near future. Cllr Pye thanked the Ashland Steering Group for their continued support.</p> <p>Cllr Thornton explained the team are busy locating resources to build 3 hibernacula that are required before building work on the community space can start.</p> <p>Cllr Thornton also discussed the recent planning consultation regarding the siting of electronic charging points at the car park near the lake in Ashland. This links to the MK Council/ Open University, nine-month electric car club pilot scheme. Although S&APC support the initiative, concern has been made when considering the remaining parking spaces as well as the impact of these spaces on access to the Ashland community space construction site.</p> <p>Cllr Thornton has drafted a response to MK Council highlighting the issue and concerns, to circulate Cllrs before sending.</p>	Action: ST
20054	Devolved Services Third Option	
	Cllr Thornton and the Clerk attended the monthly landscape contract meeting with MK Council and SERCO. Cllr Thornton reported that the winter maintenance works are due to commence very soon in Simpson. The clerk will arrange a further meeting with Cllr Thornton and MK Council to discuss specific issues relating to proposals for open spaces.	Action: LB & ST
20055	Working Groups	
	<p>Cllr Pye expressed thanks to the garden group for all they did to support the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and the work they do on Monday mornings in and around Simpson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Nothing to report. • Open Spaces The Open Spaces resident groups have continued working in the Parish over the autumn. They are now taking a break for winter and looking forward seeing the results in the spring. <p>One resident asked if any agreement had been made with the maintenance team about the wildflower hedgerow in Lissel Road, to ensure it is not cut back. The clerk is arranging a meeting to discuss our landscape plan and options, LB will ensure this is</p>	

	<p>covered as one of the items.</p> <p>Thanks, were expressed to David Carrell for the clearance work around the bus stop.</p> <p>The Hanmer Green working group continue to meet to discuss plans and ideas.</p> <p>The church group reported no progress for the church yard, they have discussed a plan, but need to find a suitable map to help note the detail to report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident activity To report below. • Village Hall To report below. 	Action: LB
20056	Village Hall	
	<p>The possibility of reopening the hall was delayed due to changes in lockdown and now the move to Tier 2. It was noted that the council was considering plans for the running of both Simpson Village Hall and the Ashland Community space and would report back at the February 2021 meeting, During the period of lockdown, all relevant and necessary checks to the Simpson Village Hall had either already been completed or were soon to be actioned.</p>	Action: PB & LB
20057	Climate Action	
	<p>Climate change action has been restricted through lockdown; however, the council will consider what actions could be taken going forward.</p> <p>Cllr Thornton noted that the No. 18 Bus will be replaced with the new Demand Responsive Transport. Cllr Thornton will provide further updates as and when they become available.</p>	
20058	Parish Precept 2021/2022	
	<p>Cllr Pye noted that the pandemic will impact on the amount that SAPC receives as precept. Due to a reduction in the tax base (because of an increase in the Council Tax Support Scheme) and also a reduction in council tax collection levels across Milton Keynes, the amount that will be generated for SAPC through the precept will fall by around £9,000 for the coming financial year (this being around 20% of the total). In addition, SAPC continue to lose around £800 a month from lost income from the village hall. Given the financial challenges that residents are under due to the impact of the COVID pandemic, SAPC has decided to set a 2% increase to the precept for 2021/22 which is considerably smaller</p>	

	<p>than previous financial years.</p> <p>SAPC will continue to closely monitor spend and budgets to ensure financial sustainability for the council.</p> <p>Next step is to report the precept decision.</p>	Action: LB
20059	Covid-19	
	<p>The impact of Covid-19 on the Parish has been considerable, and it was noted that this impact would likely continue for some time. The council will continue to consider how best to support local residents and anybody with ideas or concerns were encouraged to contact either the Clerk or any member of the PC. A covid-19 newsletter has been distributed which is the latest in a series.</p> <p>Cllr Thornton commented on the efforts that residents had made in decorating their homes for the festive period. It was suggested that the Clerk could collect photographs to share on FB and encourage people to enjoy them in evenings on a local walk following guidelines. Cllr Barnes suggested he would contact a local resident to ask if he would share local festive light photographs.</p> <p>In addition, it was noted that the Simpson Christmas Tree would be decorated during the weekend of the 12/13 December. Given the current restriction in place, there would not be a formal or public lighting of the tree.</p>	Action: PB & LB
20060	Finance Report and Payments list	
	<p>The finance report, previously circulated, was noted.</p> <p>It is noted that the amounts in the SAPC accounts include the £167,000 for the Ashland Community Space. All of these funds will be used to cover build costs and in addition, SAPC will pay around £19,000 in related fees and charges. Cllr Pye and Cllr Thornton are shortly meeting with the representatives from Guinness to investigate how Guinness might be able to support the Ashland Community Space.</p>	
20061	Planning Applications	
	<p>-Five Acres A formal letter has now been sent to the applicant detailing the refusal.</p> <p>-141 Simpson It was noted that the council had considered the plans and responded to the application. With one suggested amendment, the council was in favour of the development</p>	
20062	Delegated Decisions	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement for up to £700 to purchase a laptop. - Agreement for 30 packs of winter activity crafts from Milton Keynes Play Association, to help families at this challenging time. Charles Warren Academy identified 30 children across Ashland and Simpson who would benefit from this support. Up to £250 total. 	
20063	Note any changes to risk management	
	No changes to report.	
20064	Any other business	
	<p>Cllr Ezeh noted that part of the newsletter will be given over to children and encouraged younger members of the community to provide material for this.</p> <p>A resident asked if the hedge near to Abbey Rd could be cut back as it was blocking the pavement. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up with SERCO to ensure that this was done during the winter cut back.</p> <p>Participants were reminded to submit any lockdown stories.</p>	Action: LB
20065	Date of next meeting	
	The next meeting will be held on Monday 1 February 2020, 8:00pm via Zoom	
The meeting closed at 9.25pm.		

Signed Chair Date

Signed Clerk Date