



**Simpson and Ashland Parish Council**  
**Minutes of Meeting held on 3 September 2018 at 8.00p.m., Simpson Village Hall**

<b>Pre-sent:</b>	<p><b><u>PART ONE - COMMUNITY ASSETS AND VISION - DISCUSSION/WORKSHOP</u></b></p> <p>18 residents and 6 Councillors</p> <p>Cllrs David Pye (Chair), Peter Barnes (Vice Chair), Robert Ling, Cathy Pope, Carole Baume, Sheila Thornton.</p> <p>Alicja Bunio (taking the minutes)</p> <p>The following residents attended the public discussion - Jane Anderson, Trish Skingsley, Stephen Bates, Lena Bates, Eric Coles, Brenda Ladd, Geoff Lee, Ann Monk, Glyn Collins, Pat Hodges, Janis Lees, Margaret Green, Margaret Young, Hasmik Mitchell, Tom Mitchell, Ruth Barton, Roy Barton, and Emma Basson.</p>	
<b>Min. Ref.</b>	<b>Item</b>	
1	<p><b>Apologies:</b> No apologies received</p>	
2	<p><b>Welcome:</b> The Chair welcomed the residents to the September 2018 PC meeting</p>	
3	<p><b>Appointment of Clerk:</b> Chair noted that Rupert Fairclough has been appointed clerk following the resignation (due to personal circumstances) of faith Gyimah. His appointment is effective as of 4 September 2018.</p>	

4.1

## **Community assets - Simpson Village Hall**

### **Overview and introduction by Chair Cllr David Pye, Cllr Sheila Thornton and Cllr Peter Barnes:**

The Simpson Village Community Hall is a well-loved and used space. It provides a physical presence which is enjoyed and appreciated by a majority of residents. The hall is currently being managed, owned and run in its entirety by SAPC on behalf of Simpson community. The responsibility of looking after the hall currently lies on one or two people (physical changes to the hall as well as legal and health and safety management).

The Chair has formally thanked Cllr Peter Barnes for his hard work and involvement with the hall proceedings throughout the years. It was noted that such system of management is not sustainable in the long term and community involvement is deemed crucial and necessary. The SAPC is very keen to enable the community members to be actively involved in decision making, planning and management of the village hall.

There are currently a large number of community assets available for community use (see paragraph 4.5). SAPC contemplated if such high number of community spaces is needed, and if so, what would be the best way for the spaces to work on liaison to support the residents in variety of ways while responding to their needs.

The Parish Council asked what the community members see as important, worthwhile and why? SAPC expressed its interest in working in partnership with the community members, to ensure that the hall evolves as the community needs change overtime. PC is keen to explore the right ways for the community members to be involved in the management of the hall and essentially, what are the residents' needs and vision for the hall for the years to come. These are crucial questions which are being posed in response to the research led by SAPC and Community Action MK. The research revealed that although the majority of residents are happy and satisfied with their life in Simpson at the moment, there are also a number of issues raised that would be helpful for SAPC and the community to consider how best to address, such as residents' mobility difficulties, isolation, and loneliness. SAPC created a draft vision which aims to ensure the wellbeing and contentment of all community members.

4.2	<p><b>Draft Vision for the Village Hall :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An asset which supports activities and events in order that the communities of Simpson and Ashland are resilient and cohesive</li> <li>• Activities and events should fit within the approach that the PC has adopted to support people wherever possible, to do things for themselves as well as alongside the PC, and be open and accessible to all unless it is a private function</li> <li>• The PC takes responsibility to facilitate activities that will benefit quality of life for the vulnerable and at risk residents</li> </ul>	
4.3	<p><b>Workshop outcomes:</b></p> <p>There followed a period of group work with residents led by Cllr Sheila Thornton. The main objective of the discussion was to let the community voice their opinions in regard to the future of Simpson Village Hall. Main issues and ideas presented by the residents included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acoustics of the hall (difficulty hearing each other during meetings, especially for members with hearing impairment, noise coming out of the hall disturbing neighbours in close proximity)</li> <li>• Management of the hall and existing groups - necessity to expand the Management Committee and shifting some of the workload onto the community members</li> <li>• Parking provision</li> <li>• Possibility of hiring a caretaker but there are costs involved</li> <li>• Introduction of checklists of responsibilities for groups and individuals hiring the hall</li> <li>• Organisation of social activities such as film nights and children events</li> <li>• Use of the hall for 'pop' up services e.g. health services such as podiatry and also perhaps a pop-up shop selling basic provisions</li> <li>• Working in partnership with other village halls: ideas sharing</li> <li>• Promotion of the hall: community members to act as hall ambassadors</li> <li>• Asking groups who use the hall to allow community members to try activities before deciding to join; and</li> <li>• Liaison with, for example, U3A and other groups who could provide events at the hall both those living within Simpson &amp; Ashland and outside.</li> </ul>	

<p>4.4</p>	<p><b>Community assets available for community use based in Simpson and Ashland:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pub (keen to be more involved in aspects of community life)</li> <li>• Action for Youth - hall</li> <li>• St Thomas's Church,</li> <li>• The Walnuts - development of the centre for dementia in Milton Keynes,</li> <li>• Charles Warren Academy,</li> <li>• Ashland - S106 moneys (£167000) to be used on the development of the community space</li> <li>• 2020 Blue Light Hub - emergency services</li> </ul> <p>Members of community are keen to find out what activities are being held in venues mentioned above: A discussion to be had with Steve Bates.</p>	
<p>4.5</p>	<p><b>Variety of groups and activities currently running at the Village Community Hall, as noted by Peter Barnes;</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekend: Church group, private parties for children</li> <li>• Monday: Yoga group</li> <li>• Tuesday: Coffee morning, Buddhist meditation</li> <li>• Wednesday: Childbirth Trust</li> <li>• Thursday: Dance group and practice</li> <li>• Also Monthly PC meetings and other one of events.</li> </ul>	
<p>4.6</p>	<p><b>Conclusion:</b></p> <p>SAPC to work in close partnership with community members to promote an ongoing discussion on the subject of the hall and the needs of residents.</p> <p>Chair thanked all residents for attending the workshop and taking part in discussion. It was also noted that discussions regarding a potential community asset in Ashland would take place with residents from autumn 2018 onwards. SAPC had received confirmation from Milton Keynes Council that S106 monies (circa £167,000) would be made</p>	

	available and would need to be allocated to a project or projects by June 2020.	
<b>Pre-sent:</b>	<p><b><u>PART TWO - FORMAL PC MEETING</u></b></p> <p>Cllrs David Pye (Chair), Peter Barnes (Vice Chair), Robert Ling, Cathy Pope, Carole Baume, Sheila Thornton</p> <p>Alicja Bunio (minute taking)</p>	
	Item	
5	<p><b>Apologies:</b></p> <p>No apologies received</p>	
6	<p><b>Resignation and appointment of the new Clerk</b></p> <p>Chair formally noted that Clerk Faith Gyimah resigned from her position on the 20th of August 2018.</p> <p>Rupert Fairclough has been appointed as a new Clerk via a fit for purpose process and will start as the SAPC Clerk from the 4th of September 2018. A number of points have been discussed with regards to the contract and an increase in remuneration within the same band (to Point .22) has been offered. The new Clerk is to meet with Sue Key for a discussion and a handover. A fee has also been offered to Sue Key which she has accepted.</p> <p>The Chair thanked everyone involved in the appointment process.</p>	

7.1	<p><b>Planning and development</b></p> <p>The Chair thanked Cllr Peter Barnes for Simpson update.</p> <p>It has been noted that 139 Simpson has started with a plan for 4 houses.</p> <p>SAPC is expecting to hear about the future of the Five Acres shortly</p>	
7.2	<p><b>211 Simpson:</b></p> <p>SAPC said that it was supportive of the proposed development but the access arrangement should be reconsidered in the light of ongoing discussion. SAPC will continue to monitor to any revised plans for the site.</p>	
7.3	<p><b>Ashland:</b></p> <p>As far as SAPC is aware the estate will be completed in the autumn but no specific date has, as yet, been given . PC is pleased to note that the play equipment has been installed and SAPC look forward to the whole estate being completed as soon as possible.</p> <p>As soon as the PC gets a formal update from the developer this will be available on the SAPC website and Facebook page.</p> <p><b>Ashland S106</b> - Chair still awaiting final and definitive S106 letter confirming the amount of £167000 to be allocated by June 2020.</p>	
8	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>The replacement of the Clerk has led to a slight delay in the production of the figures but the PC is aware of the state of the accounts and all are well in surplus.</p> <p>With regard to the invoicing for the village hall, SAPC members will liaise with the new clerk to ensure that invoicing arrangements are fit for purpose. To ensure <i>fitness</i>, any new system and approach will be discussed and agreed with the Parish Council auditors.</p>	

9	<p><b>SAPC papers</b></p> <p>SAPC noted that there were no formal papers for this meeting due to the change in clerk. Formal notes of this meeting will be posted on the website and all standard approaches to papers will be put in place from 4 September 2018 onwards.</p>	
10	<p><b>Minutes of the Council meeting held on 4 June 2018</b></p> <p>The Chair noted that the minutes for June are final and have been posted on the SAPC website.</p>	
11	<p><b>Woughton Community Hall Liaison</b></p> <p>Cllr Sheila Thornton to meet with Steve Bates, the manager of Woughton Community Council, to discuss Council's services such as mental health support and also the council's methods of researching the needs of communities. Chair noted that SAPC is keen to promote working in partnership with other officers and members in order to share ideas and to improve the provision of services for Simpson and Ashland residents.</p>	
12	<p><b>Defibrillator</b></p> <p>SAPC wishes to investigate the possibility of having a defibrillator in a suitable location within Simpson Village, and will work with relevant residents to achieve this.</p>	
13	<p><b>Simpson Village Hall Acoustics - Paper</b></p> <p>Cllr Robert Barnes to produce a paper regarding the issue of the acoustics in the Simpson Village Hall raised by the residents. The paper is to explore and research solutions available and costs to give a clearer picture of options available.</p>	
14	<p><b>Newsletter</b></p> <p>Peter thanked all members involved in newsletter deliveries and future delivery duties have been arranged.</p>	
15	<p><b>Grant</b></p> <p>It is formally noted that a grant of £40 has been agreed for a bat walk held on the 3rd of August 2018.</p>	

16	<p><b>Parish Advisory Group:</b> Chair noted that he is now a member of the Parish Advisory Group and he has invited all the Cllrs to attend the forthcoming Parish Advisory Forum (PAF) that is to be held at the Civic Centre on the 13th of September 2018 at 7.00pm.</p>	
17	<p><b>TUPE forms:</b> SAPC will be returning relevant TUPE forms to Milton Keynes Council</p>	
18	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.58p.m.</p> <p>Date and time of next meeting:  <b>Next informal meeting - Monday 1 October 2018 (location to be decided)</b>  <b>Next PC meeting - Monday 12 November - to be chaired by Cllr Peter Barnes</b></p>	