

Attendees:

John Orr (Chair); Nicky Johnson (notes); Ron Ellis; Bill Fuller; Paul; Sam Hegarty; Barbara Willis; Jenny Morris; Anne Bircham (YourMK); Terry Weller; Derek Weller; Jenny Hathaway; Dave Lee; Ann Bircham (YourMK); Tina Douglas; Anthony Douglas.

Apologies:
Lesley Berry; Kathy Higgins

**Action
by whom**

- 1 Welcome**
The chair opened the meeting and welcomed members.
- 2 Minutes of the previous meeting**
The minutes of the previous meeting (25th August 2016) were approved.
Matters arising:
3 Neighbourhood watch: 25 people have now signed up for neighbourhood watch.
- 3 Chairs report**
John Orr attended the parish council monthly meeting and the services meeting at the parish. Work is being done on the council tax for next year. A 1%, 3% or 6% rise was offered for consideration. John was surprised that there was no 0% rise and asked the meeting for direction on the matter. The meeting agreed that John should put forward a 0% rise as there had been only rises in council tax over the last 17 years. Questions were asked on what the money would be used for.

The service committee had considered our bid for the £1000 grant and awarded £500. The will review the work that has been done using this money in Spring and a further bid could be submitted in May next year.

4

Treasurers report

We currently have £2,928.85 in the bank. Of this £1,179.16 is from the First steps grant and £647.77 in petty cash.

This month we have paid out £20 for flowers and a thank you for Carly who has stepped down as treasurer. We also have our printing costs of £137.00 for the small printing firm in Woburn Sands for the Newsletter. This comes from the grant that we have received from First Steps and was one of the objectives reached from the consultation and survey we performed in Autumn last year. However, paying this sum on a monthly basis is not sustainable in the long term.

We have reached agreement on purchasing a printer and printing the item ourselves. This will bring the monthly costs down to the cost of the ink and paper. We hope to keep this below £60 a month in this way. The initial cost of the printer will be paid for through the remaining First Steps grant.

5

Environmental report

Ron reported that now the children had returned to school the litter problems were reduced. Fly tipping is also enjoying a brief respite. A lot of people have left things in the front of the houses because they simply cannot afford the charges of having bulky waste picked up by the council. Kathy has provided another photograph of fly tipping to go into the news letter.

Pink sacks had been delivered to houses, but at the end of Buckby, children had retrieved them and torn them up, tying them to the play equipment in the play area. Jenny had removed 5 full sacks of waste from the playground as a result. It was noted that the delivery of pink sacks might be better done when the children were at school, not in school holidays.

Julia Bandy is looking into complaints that had been put in by Ron as some were coming back as completed, however, no action had been taken. There are some 13 lights still not functioning. Terry, Graham and Paul are helping Ron with environmental issues.

It was noted that over the city three quarters of play areas were being scrapped after a review by the council. The two on the estate are presently safe, but other areas will have 'destination parks' introduced.

6

Neighbourhood plan

Members were urged to complete a response form for the WCC neighbourhood plan. Suggestions of how to respond were given and members urged to use their own thoughts/desires for the area when filling the forms out. Responses could be returned to the council or given in to Nicky at 36 Brent who would collectively deliver them to the council. Any responses going through Nicky would be entered into a

£25 Tesco voucher.

7

Regeneration

Look East had a programme that is available still on UTube where David Gresham spoke about the decant process and having a one move solution. If this should happen (and Ann Bircham stressed that no plans are yet in place for this), new houses would be built, people would be moved into these houses from neighbouring old houses, then the older houses demolished and new built in their place and more people moved into them and so on. This minimizes the disruption to tenants.

It was suggested that we step up our campaign and join forces with other estates in the same situation.

Pennington Choices Ltd are the firm that are surveying the council houses between October and March. The surveys will take approximately 40 minutes. A letter will come out indicating which days they will be in the area and tenants invited to either make an appointment or be in on those days as they will go around knocking on doors to do the survey. If no response is received they will leave a card. The tenant must be present during the survey. They will be looking at structure, electricity, walls, ceilings and windows among other things. 8500 houses will be inspected in this way. They already have the required information on some houses and these will not be inspected.

The announcement on the first estate to be 'regenerated' will come in Spring. Then a door knocking consultation with tenants will be conducted with every house in the area. There will be opportunity for discussion and negotiation at this time. Each house will be dealt with individually.

It was noted that many residents feel the stress of not knowing the fate of the estate was severe.

On the 12th October there is a regeneration meeting at the civic offices. Residents were encouraged to attend in Tinkers Bridge T shirts. Car sharing can be arranged, T shirts can be picked up from Sheila Taylor. Email info@tinkersbridge.org.uk

Pressure should be put onto the 3 Labour councilors in Milton Keynes to encourage council to repair and refurbish rather than demolish.

It was noted that some information had been received that the council had suspended all planned maintenance on the estates until a decision had been made. Ann promised that she would look into that. Normal maintenance and repair for the duration had been promised in the YourMK FAQs.

8 Council tenants

It was noted that there was a movement towards means testing council tenants and rents being appropriately assessed from the testing. This was to compensate for the losses through 'Right to Buy' scheme. Labour have promised that if they get into power they would resist this.

9 Community action plan

The community action plan currently has several ongoing actions:

The Newsletter

The Yoga group

The grants sub committee

10 MKC Grants

MKC used to provide services such as printing but this ended on 31.3.16. Instead, it offered grant aid and we were awarded a £700 grant in July for the costs of producing the newsletter. This was now used up. The First Steps money was used to order a printer and consumables today to reduce costs on printing.

There is a further MKC grant of £500 to be applied for and the grants sub-group suggested that this should be used for the Christmas party. This was agreed.

WCC Grants

As well as the Environment Fund from which we have just been awarded £500, WCC also provides grant aid to each estate. Tinkers Bridge can claim up to £1050 in 2016-17. If it is not claimed by December we are likely to lose it. The Environment Fund application took a long time because of problems with getting the right supporting documents. Sheila paid tribute to Nicky's hard work in solving this problem. She also pointed out that we need people to lead projects in order to get these grants. Quotes must be obtained. There are specific rules on how we apply for grants and what the money should be spent on.

Sheila listed some possible uses for this funding, put forward by the grants sub-committee. After discussion, the members agreed funds from this grant should be used on a trip to a pantomime over the Christmas holidays. Nicky will provide Sheila with minutes and a bank statement by 10th October. Dave Lee would get the quotes together and let Sheila have the information.

For a second application in November, one suggestion is to buy lighting for the darker areas on the estate. Solar lights at various places and cutting back of the trees around the present lighting. Ron

to provide a quote.

10 Christmas party

A date change to 3rd of December was requested by Father Christmas. He is unable to make other dates. Logistically this would also be the best time for getting the sleigh as Coffee Hall – who share these resources would also have theirs on this date. Jenny to speak to John on Health and Safety issues.

Pauline Prop had donated £250 for this. The money would also fund a Sunday Lunch.

Jenny would be organising the Christmas Day meal.

11 Anti social behaviour

A group of youths had been behaving anti-socially, causing fear and disruption on the estate. John was trying to contact the various authorities to provide a joined-up solution and work with the youths. There had been racial abuse. It was hoped that talking with youth services, council and police we would be able to provide a co-ordinated response.

7 Next meeting:

27 October 2016 it was noted that the time of the meeting may be put forward to 7pm. Please watch the facebook page and the newsletter for more information on this.

JO/nj