

**MINUTES of the MEETING held on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017**  
**at 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church, Woughton on the Green**

**Councillors present:** A. Humphries (in the Chair) M. Blomley, C. Hall, R. Kenyon, R. Grindley, J Howson and P. Nash.  
Ward Cllr Peter McDonald.

7 members of the public

Clerk: Julian Vischer

**1. Public Open Forum**

**Irwin Hiddema (WP)** complained of the noise carrying over to his property from Standing Way (H9). His complaint had been passed on to the Parish Council in between meetings at which point the Clerk had researched information regarding a noise survey taken by Milton Keynes Council (MKC) in 2013 as recorded in the OWPC May 2013 minutes. Requests for the report from MKC had been declined as there was nothing to be found on their files. Councillors agreed that a new survey needed to be carried out as many residents and some parish councillors were affected by the noise. Cllr Howson reported that the same issue affected residents in Passmore and that she would ensure the matter would be discussed at the upcoming Residents Committee meeting. It was further agreed: to incorporate a questionnaire into the next OWPC newsletter; and that a letter be drafted to MKC requesting an official noise survey (Cllr Grindley). The Clerk offered to try and establish what policy if any MKC had with regard to road noise and the use of 'quiet tarmac'.

**Clerk/Cllrs Howson/Grindley**

**2. Procedural**

**2.1. Apologies** – Cllrs R Brown, R Freeman. These were accepted.

**2.2. Declarations of interest by councillors** – Cllr Hall regarding: the Heritage Group (Chair); the Patch Allotment Association (President); neighbour to planning item 5.4.1.

**2.3. To agree the minutes of the January meeting-** These were duly accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposer Cllr Hall, Seconder Cllr Nash. Unanimous.

**2.4. Matters arising from these Minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

**2.4.1. Future of the BT public phone box in WOTG(S)** – the Clerk had reported that BT had turned down the request to include the additional vandalised phone booth (adjacent to the Close on Newport Road, WotGS, MK6 3AP / 01908-679311) in their removals program on the grounds that 'it was not on their current list'. It was agreed to insist that it either be repaired or taken away. **Clerk**

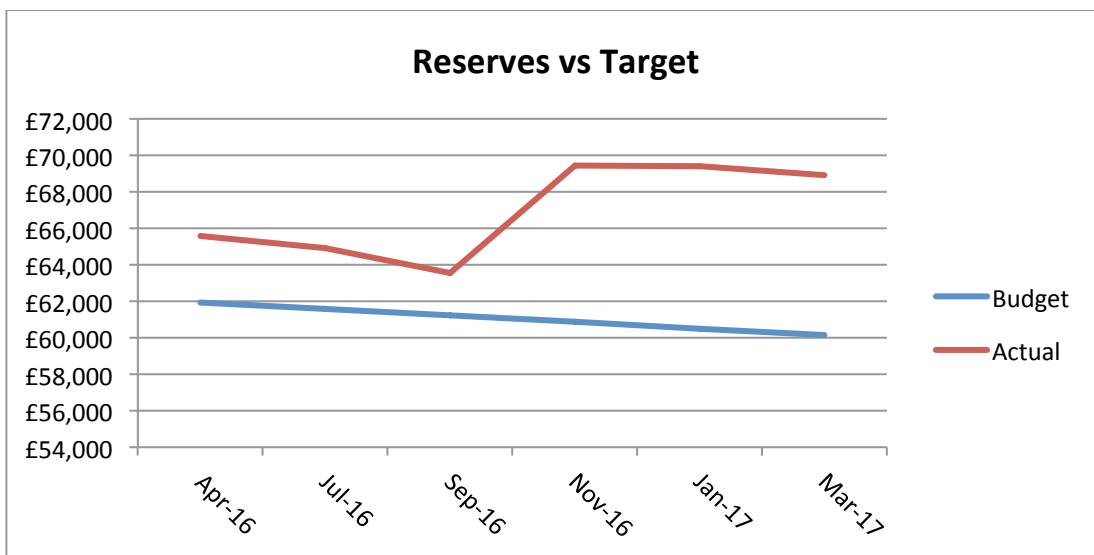
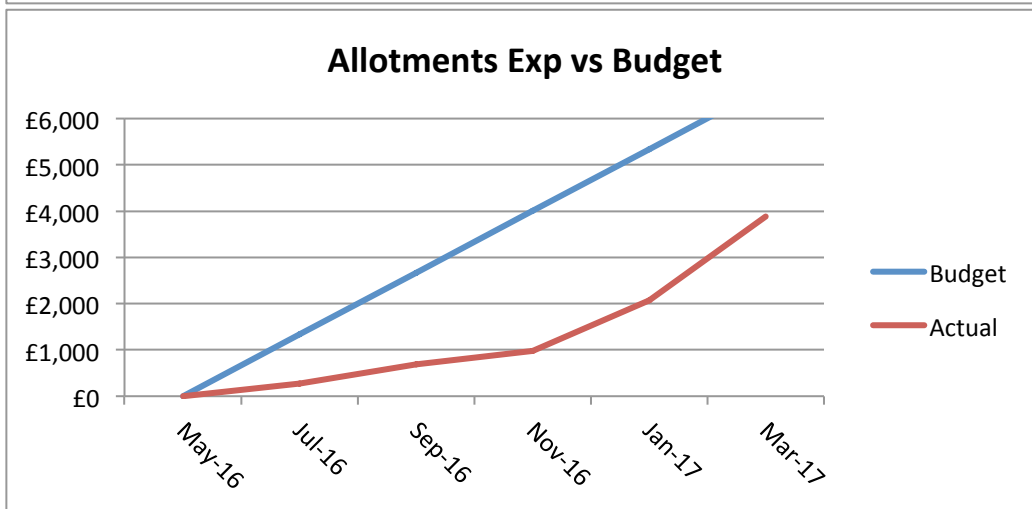
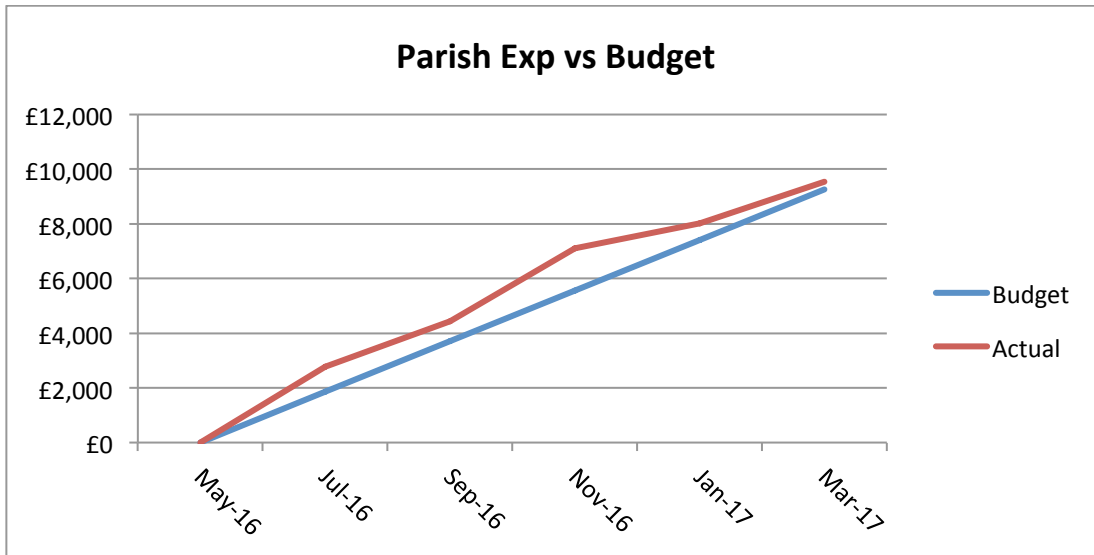
**3. Finance**

**3.1. Balances and approval of the payments schedule –**

Main account: £58,066.92; Allotments account: £7,515.49; Key deposits: £3,773.00

Both Parish and Allotments expenditures were moving closer to the target median, the current year fund having reduced by about £500. However overall reserves were still well above target at £68,917 and therefore the year-end closing balance was likely to be about £3,000 more than last year, principally due to the lack of spending on budgeted allotments capital projects.

Graphs -



**Payments schedule (since the last meeting) -**

Main account: Website host (January) - £4.99; OWIS (January) - £27.50; Clerk's (January) salary – £316.37; newsletter (February) – £60.00; bin emptying (January) - £188.50; Website host (February) - £4.99; OWIS (February) - £27.50; Royal Mail – PO Box rental - £252.00; bin emptying (February) - £188.50; Clerk's (February) salary – £253.26; admin expenses (since last meeting) - £67.49; Post Office PAYE (4<sup>th</sup> Qtr) - £205.60; MKALC – conference fees - £30.00.

Allotments account: repairs to main gate - £60.00; re-stocking - £298.25; repairs funding - £600.00; admin expenses (including Devolvement Voting costs) - £229.94; key deposits transfer - £80.00.

The above payments were approved. Proposer Cllr Hall, Seconder Cllr Blomley. Unanimous.

- 3.2 Internal Audit Arrangements** – the Clerk proposed using Auditing Solutions again this year, for the third year, in order to bed down the use of the new accounting software. This was approved: Proposer Cllr Humphries, Seconder Cllr Nash. Unanimous.
- 3.3 Reserves: agree a list of Parish Improvement Projects** (to be earmarked against the Reserves) - Cllr Hall, in discussions with the Clerk, had re-edited the Project List to separate out major works (list A) from small community support projects (list B). **Resolved: To set aside capital reserves for the purchase of (List A) listed below: Total: £15,000.** Proposer Cllr Howson, Seconder Cllr Kenyon. Unanimous.
- 3.3.1 White-lining (approx. £500)** – contribution to H7 junction improvement works: price to follow
- 3.3.2 Gated Signage x 5: £10,000** (+ possible Parish Partnership Funding (MKC) of £5,000)
- 3.3.3 Village Green Signage x 3 - £2,500**
- 3.3.4 Fly-tipping H9 hotspot - cameras or bollards - & Lower Newport Road disused 'Ball Park' refurbishment/bollards £2,000**
- 3.3.5** All these in addition to the already agreed Allotments Capital Investments totaling: £10,000.
- 3.3.6** On List B the Mikron Theatre grant had already been approved - £200 – as had an unspecified grant towards the purchase of new more suitable sound relay equipment for use in St Mary's Church. Cllr Hall was in the process of negotiating free litter-picking equipment for OWPC for use by a community litter-picking group. *[post-meeting note: it was noted the easiest way to support many of the List B 'community' projects would be through grant funding but this would require a revision of OWPC Policy – possible item for next agenda]*
- 3.4 MKC Budget, Implications for Non-statutory Service Provision** – Following a 4 month public consultation exercise it was agreed that the OWPC policy line to take at the Parishes' Conference on 24th March would be as follows: We do not believe that devolving non-statutory service delivery to parishes without funding is wise. The efficiency and economic benefits of centralised commissioning and management will be lost and there will be a real danger of a deterioration of standards across the city. Moreover, as a smaller parish with low population and large green areas, we will be affected disproportionately by the substantial tax (tripling of the precept) and contract management burden. The wide differences in MK parish situations will make the production of a standard solution impossible to find. We do not believe that MKC has fully explored the obvious efficiency savings open to it which further undermines the proposal's credibility. Our position is thus to reject it.

#### 4. Allotments

- 4.1 Patch Report and Spending – in brief:** A big step had been taken with the consultation and voting on Devolved management.
- 4.2. Devolved Management** – The consultation meeting had been held on 8th February at St Mary’s Church. MK Council Electoral Services have been employed and are formally administering the Ballot and Count. Voting slips to be returned by 24<sup>th</sup> March.

#### 5. Environment

- 5.1. Grand Union Canal update** – Cllr Howson reported that the towpath repair work had again been postponed as conditions proved unsuitable. However the assembled group of 10 volunteers had moved on to litter-picking between most of the section between H7 and H9. Canal adoption papers were still awaited. Ward Cllr P McDonald had walked an inspection tour with C&RT representative the previous week.
- 5.2 Update on Road and Paths Programme** – Cllr Hall reported that a full update was still awaited from MKC. It was noted that the newly appointed Head of Highways had since resigned.
- 5.3 Other environmental issues: Environment Log** – the Clerk reported that there was one new item on the Log which had been transferred from the capital projects/Parish Improvement Lists as it was not an item to be funded through OWPC: a second police camera at the southern end of Newport Road. Cllr Nash added that he had been unsuccessful in obtaining any discussion with Thames Valley Police about it. The Log had been further reduced by 3 items.

#### 5.4 Planning comment

- 5.4.1 16/02721/LBC 5** The Green Woughton On The Green, Listed Building Consent for remedial and strengthening works to external brickwork, foundation, roof and chimney. Objected to. *Awaiting Decision*. It was noted that the Development Committee (MKC) hearing would be held on 16<sup>th</sup> March.
- 5.4.2 16/03304/FUL** Adams Lodge 8 Baskerfield Grove Woughton On The Green Alterations to roof at the rear of property. No objections. *Permitted*.

#### *Planning Applications since the last meeting (Cllr Grindley)*

- 5.4.3 17/00361/LBC & 17/00360/FUL** Mercure Parkside Hotel Newport Road, Listed building consent and planning permission for the proposed single storey dining Room and ancillary accommodation extension and associated external landscaping. Comments had been submitted.
- 5.4.4 17/00411/FUL** Fairview 1 Newport Road, Single storey rear and front extensions. No objections.
- 5.4.5 17/00371/FUL** 52 Passmore, Build single story 4m x 4m extension on back of house, replace existing rear conservatory with new one, replace existing front porch with new one. No objections.
- 5.4.6 17/00617/FUL** 20 Verley Close, Woughton On The Green, Detached two storey garage. No objections.
- 5.5 Working from Home** – there were at least two potential cases and possibly three within the Parish - postponed to the next meeting.

#### 5.6 Village Green Consultations

- 5.6.1 The Green** – to be decided at the next Regulatory Committee hearing 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017. Cllrs Humphries/Nash/Hall would speak at the meeting.
- 5.6.2 The Orchard** – the First Hearing would take place at the Regulatory Committee session on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**6. Communications**

- 6.1 Woughton Heritage Group** – Cllr Hall reported that an events and activities list would be published in the next Newsletter.
- 6.2 Reports to note on any outside meetings** – Cllr Nash had attended the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners regional meeting. The meeting had been helpful in discussing with other officers the problems that all allotment administrators face. It was as also a useful support network. Cllr Grindley had attended the latest Pavilion meeting where One-Life stated that they were investing in the site whose capacity had now doubled. He had drawn their attention again to the litter issue at events, which had not yet been resolved. At present SERCO were contracted to carry out litter collection and removal, but consideration was being given to moving it in-house.
- 6.3 Correspondence** – *in addition to that circulated by email to all councillors* – none.
- 6.4 Newsletter** – Cllr Howson proposed a new issue before the end of March. Various articles were already in preparation. A reader survey on road noise to be included.
- 6.5 MK 50 celebration plans** – Cllr Hall reported that an events and activities list would be published in the next Newsletter.
- 7 Date and Time of Next Meeting** – Annual Meeting 10th April 2017 at St. Mary's Church, Woughton-on-the-Green at 7.00pm.

Next ordinary meeting & AGM 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

***Meeting closed at 9.10pm***

*Signed*

*date*