

Broughton and Milton Keynes Parish Council

(Including Atterbury: Middleton: Oakgrove)

Minutes of the Parish Annual Assembly Meeting

Held on

Monday 3rd April 2006 in Milton Keynes Village Hall at 7.15 pm.

Present: Mrs J Brighton (Chair); Mr I Corlett; Mrs B Hulse; Mr I Mitchell; Mr A Kidd; Mr R Brown; Mr R Peters; Mrs M. Watkins; Councillor Sam Crooks; Mr D Miller – Clerk; and 13 members of the public. Guest speakers: Kapil Dudakia, MK Hindu Association (+ 2 colleagues); Geoff Wheeler, Bedford MK Waterways Trust.

Mrs Brighton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1 Apologies for Absence

Peter Johnson; Ward Cllr Derek Eastman

2 Minutes of the Parish Annual Assembly Meeting held on Monday 11th April 2005

The minutes were agreed as a correct record and were signed by Mrs Brighton.

3 Chair's Annual Report of the Parish Council

Copies of the Chair's Annual report (Annex 1) had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting.

Mrs Brighton invited any questions, but there were none.

4 Financial Report

Copies of the Financial report (Annex 2) had been distributed at the beginning of the meeting. The clerk reminded everyone that these figures related to the year which ended 12 months ago.

Mrs Brighton invited any questions, but there were none.

5 MK Hindu Association

Mrs Brighton welcomed Kapil Dudakia, who spoke about the Hindu Community Centre, capacity approx 500, to be built at Broughton. The local Hindu community, now numbering 1000 families, had been celebrating festivals and doing community work in hired premises and using people's homes as a base. The new building would provide a focal point from which to develop, and the £3.5 million funding was being provided by the families themselves. The development also includes some housing, for the over 55s, run by a housing Association, and with separate funding. It may be possible to build the adjacent section of the Bedford/MK canal at the same time as the Centre.

As well as being the venue for Hindu festivals and celebrations, the community centre will also be used for providing educational and medical services, targeting Hindu families and the wider community, examples including childcare, Mums & Toddlers, youth work and adult education.

It is hoped that funding will be in place within 6 months – commencement of the building of the housing is likely in May/June and the community centre about three months after that. The building should be completed within two years of the start.

Contact with the wider community has been extensive and positive – the Parish Council was thanked for its support over the planning application.

Mr Dudakia welcomed future contact with the Parish Council - it was suggested that a link should be provided to the MK Hindu Association website from the Parish Council's website.

Mrs Brighton thanked Mr Dudakia for an informative presentation.

6 Bedford/MK Canal Project

Mrs Brighton welcomed Geoff Wheeler, who spoke about the project, which had been mooted as long ago as 1810, the idea having been revived in 1995, with the goal of building the link by 2010.

The Bedford/Milton Keynes Waterways Trust had been formed to take the project forward. A number of different routes had been considered – the favoured one linking the centre of Milton Keynes with the centre of Bedford – the most expensive option.

Various technical challenges face the project – crossing roads, rivers, and Brogborough Hill.

A key objective has been to ensure the link is included in the Local Plans of the three authorities involved – Milton Keynes (now accomplished), Bedford (hopefully to be included at the next revision, being published very shortly), and mid-Bedfordshire.

The cost of the project runs into tens of millions of pounds – a bid for £25million for the Milton Keynes section has been submitted to the Big Lottery Fund – a 5-stage process, of which the first has been successfully completed – the second one due to be negotiated during April.

Support from the public, local MPs and Councils has been strong. Geoff Wheeler finished his talk by inviting people to sign a petition, join the Trust and sponsor a section of the canal.

Mrs Brighton thanked him for an informative presentation

7 Report from School Governors

Alex Kidd gave a brief summary of the report, written for Middleton Primary School in conjunction with the head-teacher, copies of which (Annex 3) had been distributed at the start of the meeting.

Ian Corlett, a Community Governor of Broughton Fields Primary School, gave a verbal report. He reported that the school had grown in the 18 months since it had opened, now having 165 pupils on roll, in classes of 25-29. By next year numbers will have increased to 300, across the full primary age range, organised mostly with 1 class per year-group, but probably with an extra class for years 3, 5 and the Foundation year. Five extra teachers have been recruited in the current academic year.

The school will be included in the first phase of those embracing the Extended Schools initiative, and it is hoped that play scheme facilities will be offered before and after the school day.

The playing fields should be available for use from September.

8 Milton Keynes Councillors

Sam Crooks recalled the challenge he had put to the Parish Council last year regarding the adjustment necessary as the area altered in character and as the population grew.

The next challenge will be adapting to the effect of double devolution – as central government devolves more power to MK Council, whose role will become more strategic as it, in turn, will devolve more powers to Parish Councils.

He felt this Parish Council had the competence and professionalism to adapt to these new circumstances and mentioned past successes, noting in particular the case articulated effectively by the Parish Council resulting in the change of location of the secondary school.

9 Reports from Local Organisations

Middleton & Monkston Youth Club

Sue West gave a report in Phil Keech's absence. The club had just completed its first year. The main issue was the availability of sufficient volunteers to staff the club – people do not have to commit themselves every week - a rota can be built around people offering to help fortnightly or

even once a month. The Parish Council would place a note about this on the website – Phil Keech to be invited to write some copy.

The young people had enjoyed the pond clearance work and Sue expressed the hope that there would be new projects in future that the young people could undertake for the community.

Thames Valley Police

Sgt Tim Puleston updated everyone with recent developments. The Kingston area station now provides a beat officer role to 19 areas – patrolling on foot and cycle to create visibility in the community and to build contacts. He mentioned the new centralised telephone system, which had led to a reduction in the number of calls lost, and he explained that there was a good system in place for forwarding messages to individual officers who were accountable for responding to them.

He anticipated that Sgt Vanessa Wilson would update the Parish Council shortly on the developments in neighbourhood policing.

Two Villages Archive Trust

Geoff and Joy Dawe spoke on behalf of the Trust, explaining that it had been set up to preserve memories of the original villages of Broughton and Milton Keynes. It is hope that newcomers moving into the area will feel welcome - there is a programme of visits this summer, including Wavendon Church, the local churchyard (guided by local naturalists), Ravenstone church and almshouses.

People were invited to the AGM which was due to take place the following week.

10 Any other Business

Mikron Theatre visit

Jenny Brighton reminded everyone about the visit of the Mikron Theatre company on June 13th, noting that this was an example of the Parish Council sponsoring the arts.

Parish Precept

In response to a parishioner, who queried the percentage increase in precept compared with last year, councillors explained that a minor error had been made – the figure communicated to MK Council had been the whole income requirement, instead of the net income after deducting the other income received by the Parish Council. The effect of the error for the year was estimated at around £3-£5 for most households. As the cost of putting this right in the current year was prohibitive the Parish Council has decided to make appropriate adjustments to next year's precept. A note to this effect will be placed on the website.

11 Date of Next Annual Assembly Meeting

Monday April 2nd 2007

Signed.....2nd April 2007.

DJM

Mrs J Brighton

Annex 1 - Chair's Annual Report

Over the year we have had one or two changes in personnel, Kieron Bramall and Julian Osborne left us, Monica Watkins joined us, as did Richard Peters in March 2006. Welcome to them and a well earned thanks to all current and all other councillors for their stalwart efforts throughout the year.

Our work continues in maintaining and improving the Council's assets, you may well have seen the work being done to the Old Forge bus shelter in MK Village for example. We have contributed to the maintenance of the pond on Walton Road which the Youth Forum so ably assisted with, planted some trees on our land and we are in the process of assessing what should be done with the largely moribund pond on Worrelle Avenue. We have also replaced the notice board in MK Village and provided a new one outside the combined school in Noon Layer Drive. Hopefully these boards in conjunction with the quarterly newsletter and the website (which has been live since August 2005) will help keep residents up to date on the Parish Council's activities.

We have given grants to various bodies such as the Village Hall, the Community Sports Pavilion, the Youth Forum, the MK City Counselling Centre, the MK Village garden, and we are looking forward to supporting a visit by the Mikron Theatre Company in June. This event will also raise funds for the project to reinstate the bell in the village hall in memory of Tim Eastaff. Currently the aim is for the bell to be erected in August this year, so look out for a noisy launch event!

We continue to have a considerable input into planning matters in the parish, notably the proposed Oakgrove development, the Broughton/Atterbury development as well as smaller scale developments such as the demolition and rebuilding of 12 Walton Road in Milton Keynes Village. Inevitably such matters can be controversial with varied views held by parishioners and councillors, but we continue to try and present a consensus view to those consulting us.

Thanks as ever to our tireless clerk David Miller and to our internal auditor Chris Davies, both of whom give very generously of their time.

Jenny Brighton - Chairperson

Annex 2 - Financial Report

Below is a summary of the Income and Expenditure Account for 2004-5

GENERAL FUND

Income	2004-5
Precept	24,480.00
Rents	1,206.85
Bank Interest	581.08
Insurance contributions	1,934.01
Parish Partnership Grant	0.00
Newsletter advertising	192.50
Total	28,394.44
Expenditure	
Clerk salary and employment costs	6,617.08
Insurance	2,972.72
All other admin expenses	1,439.85
Communications	1,484.44
Maintaining Land & Assets	5,153.10
Grants	1,100.00
Projects	6,686.50
Misc	0.00
Total	25,453.69
Surplus/(deficit) on General Fund	2,940.75

PAVILION FUND

Income	572.39
Expenditure	2,000.00
Surplus/(deficit) on Pavilion Fund	-1,427.61

For the year 2004-5, the Precept raised was on the basis of 1129.32 Band D equivalents at a rate of £21.68 per Band D property.

Expenditure on Grants and Projects in 2004-5 included investment in Dog Waste bins for Milton Keynes Village and Middleton, investment in the flooring project for the Village Hall, and grants towards start-up costs for Middleton and Monkston Youth Club, and towards playground equipment at Middleton Primary School.

Section 137 expenditure was £1200.

The finances of the Parish Council are in a sound position as shown by the end of year Balances below:

Fund Balances

	31-Mar-05
General Fund	17,197.01
Reserved Funds	16,997.50
Pavilion Fund	12,907.24
TOTAL	47,101.75

David Miller, Clerk to the Parish Council
31st March 2006

Annex 3 – Reports from School Governors

Middleton Primary School

The permanent Governing Body of the School was established in September 2003 and currently consists of 15 members with both Sam Crooks and myself being involved.

We currently have 306 pupils on the roll and our capacity will increase to 360 next September. Of these 188 live within Middleton, 9 live in Broughton, 42 in Monkston or Monkston Park and 65 from various other areas within Milton Keynes.

We continue to enjoy our new building which now feels like home although there are a number of ongoing irritating snagging issues which we have yet to finalise – typical of builders some may say! The external landscaping is almost complete and should be finished this summer if all goes well which will help to make the exterior of the school more attractive and allow the use of external teaching areas. Unfortunately the playing fields are unlikely to be fully usable until next year – a common problem with new schools in Milton Keynes.

The Governors believe that the school should be fully integrated within the community it serves and we have begun to develop links with Peter Barnes at Oakgrove School which we intend to strengthen in the coming year. The school is now used by external organisations on 5 days a week and we hope to improve on this use in the future; linked to the Extended Schools initiative wherever possible. Parishioners are always welcome to visit the school during one of the open mornings or regular social events. More information can be seen on our website www.middletonschool.org.

I must extend my thanks to Jane Miller and her team for all of their excellent work in running the school and to my fellow governors for all of their effort and commitment. Thanks also to the Friends of Middleton who make a significant contribution to the school.

The school is fully appreciative of the support of the Parish Council and the generous grants it has provided.

Alex Kidd

March 2006