LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 03 February 2025 at 7.45pm in the Community Centre, Little Brickhill, Milton Keynes.

| Present: Cllr D Lewis - Chair | In attendance: D Priestley (Resident) | |
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| Clir K Morgan | G Bailey (Resident) | |
| Cllr E Priestley Cllr L Walker | L Mawer (Resident) D Williams (Resident) | |
| Cllr D Hopkins (Ward Councillor) | S Flowerdew (Resident) | |
| Cllr T Bailey (Ward Councillor) | R D'Souza (Resident) | |
| A Kemp (Parish Clerk) | | |
| 1. Apologies for Absence: | | |
| Ward Cllr V Hopkins. | | |
| 2. Public Open Session: | | |
| 2.1 – A Resident raised a concern with a poth Brickhill junction and asked if the Parish Cour inspection / repair. | | Clerk |
| 2.2 – A resident advised that a couple of resident picking event in the village. <u>The Chair thanker</u> | | |
| 2.3 – A resident advised that some branches had been damaged and asked the Parish Cou | | Clerk |
| 2.4 – A resident advised that there is still evid place on Woburn Road and asked that the Pa and suggestions on how to resolve this issue. | arish Council contact MKCC for help | Clerk |
| 2.5 – A resident stated that in the small bay o on a regular basis as a permanent parking ba investigate if this is allowable. | | Clerk |
| 3. Declaration of Interest: | | |
| None. | | |
| 4. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting hel | d on 2 December 2024: 3520 | |
| Minutes signed and approved. | | |
| 5. Progress on matters from last Minutes | : 3521 | |
| 5.0 – Parish Council Vacancy. It was noted interest in joining the Parish Council with and <i>Review at the next Parish Council meeting.</i> | | |
| 5.1 - (item 2.3 of minutes 06/03/23) - Street L consideration could be given to installing som Street near the George / Community Centre. | | |
| <u>Clerk has received verbal confirmation that M</u> but is trying to get a date for completion. | KCC will install an additional streetlight | Clerk |
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| 5.2 - (item 2.2 of minutes 26/06/23) - Old playground in Wyness Avenu e. It was noted that some tree work had been completed on the 4 November 2024, however residents are concerned that not enough work was completed and that a crown uplift should be completed. | |
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| <u>Clerk emailed MKCC again on the 29 January 2025 asking if a crown lift could be</u> undertaken but is waiting for a reply. | Clerk |
| 5.3 - (item 2.4 of minutes 26/06/23) - Between Greystones and The Court House on Watling Street in Little Brickhill with brambles, overhanging ivy and general foliage requiring clearing. Two issues have been identified now that the work has been completed, the tree issue being completed by Woburn Estates on the 18 November 2024. <u>The other issue with damage to the wall will be monitored by the Clerk and any further deterioration will be reported to Woburn Estates.</u> | Clerk |
| 5.4 - (item 8.8 of minutes 26/06/23) – Pavement on Great Brickhill Lane from the flats to the entrance of Wyness Avenue requires a safety check / repair by MKCC. | |
| Despite reporting this issue many times over the last few months It was agreed to continually monitor this situation. Ongoing. | Clerk |
| 5.5 - (item 2.3 of minutes 03/06/24) - Pot hole on Great Brickhill Lane. There is an enormous pothole on the Great Brickhill lane adjacent to Springfield Farm entrance. MKCC assessed this issue on the 17 September 2024 as a MEDIUM risk and plan a repair over the next few weeks usually within 28-90 days depending on the road type and volume of traffic. This was promised to be completed late December 2024 or early January 2025. | |
| It was noted that Ward Councillor David Hopkins had requested an update on the 29 January 2025 asking when this action would be completed by MKCC and received the following response. We have followed this up with the Highways team and will come back to you once they respond. | |
| 5.6 – (item 6.1 of minutes 03/06/24) - Recommendation from BALC received 10/04/24 for moving to Gov.UK Domains for websites and Email for better security. | |
| Our web provider has been asked to complete the changeover in the month of February 2025. for the Clerk and Website. When this has been successfully completed the Clerk will request new email addresses to be created for Parish Councillors. | Clerk |
| 5.7 – (item 2.2 of minutes 02/09/24) – Wyness Avenue - A Resident raised a concern with an overhanging hedge and asked if the Parish Council could investigate. | |
| It looks like this has been cut back successfully. Item closed. | |
| 5.8 - (item 15.1 of minutes 04/11/24) – Street Light problem – Cllr K Morgan advised that a street light was not working on Watling Street near Watsons Field and asked if the Clerk would report this to MKCC to action. | |
| This has now been repaired by MKCC. Item closed. | |
| 5.9 – (item 15.2 of minutes 04/11/24) – Coals Charity – Cllr K Morgan asked if an article could be included in the current edition of the newsletter advising how residents can access some help with fuel bills this winter. Cllr K Morgan stated that he was disappointed with the Newsletter article as he thought that it would not encourage residents to enquire about a grant. He asked if a meeting of the Trustees of the Charity could be arranged. | |
| It was noted that the Chair had email the Clerk for the Charity on the 2 December 2024 to request for a meeting of trustees to be held as quickly as possible. | |

| Parish Clerk has been in contact with the Clerk for the Charity in the month of January 2025 and that efforts to engage with the Chair of the Charity are in hand to arrange a meeting of the trustees as soon as possible. | |
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| <u>It was noted that Cllr Morgan was very disappointed on how long it was taking to arrange this meeting.</u> | |
| 5.10 – (item 15.3 of minutes 04/11/24) – Pothole – Cllr D Lewis advised that there is a pothole near the entrance to Woburn Golf Club and asked the Clerk to report this to Central Bedfordshire Council. It was noted that Cllr D Lewis had reported this to Central Bedfordshire Council. | |
| This has now been completed. Item closed. | |
| 5.11 – (item 15.4 of minutes 04/11/24) – Dog Fouling – Cllr K Morgan advised that this still a problem and stated that we should consider installing some more no dog fouling stickers. Clerk has included this in the newsletter. | |
| It was agreed to close this action and discuss again at a future Parish Council meeting, if necessary. | |
| 5.12 – (item 2.1 of minutes 02/12/24) – Litter problem – A resident advised that there has been some rubbish left on Watling Street between the A5 entry and the island near the playing fields in an area that is difficult for the volunteers that complete litter picking in the village to clear. | |
| It was agreed to close this action and discuss again at a future Parish Council meeting, if necessary. | |
| 5.13 – (item 14.4 of minutes 02/12/24) – Village organisations – It was felt that as we have several groups in the village that we should understand and publicise when each group meet and the objectives are. | |
| Village Organisations Parish Council Community Centre Committee Residents Association Allotments? Church Friendship Group Open Gardens (every two years) Others? | |
| Further work to complete this task is required by the Clerk. | Clerk |
| 5.14 – (item 14.3 of minutes 02/12/24) – Litter Picking – Cllr E Priestley advised that arrangements will be made for a village litter picking event in Spring 2025. | |
| An advert will be included in the next edition of the Newsletter. | |
| 5.15 - (item 14.4 of minutes 02/12/24) – Village Facebook – Cllr K Morgan suggested that we publicise Parish Council meetings on this platform. | |
| <u>Cllr Emma Priestley has kindly put the February 2025 Parish Council meeting on the Village Facebook.</u> | |
| 6. Correspondence: 3522 | |
| 6.1 - Email received 07/01/25 from MKCC advising of the work that Arts for Health undertake in MK – www.artsforhealthmk.org.uk | |
| This was noted, no further action required. | |

| Review taking place from Thursday 23 January 2025 to Friday 28 March 2025. Endlowing discussion, it was suggested that we should ask for consideration to narcease the number of Councillors to six for Little Brickhill Parish Council. Clerk 5:3 - Letter dated 31/01/25 from Citizens Advice advising of the Services that provoide and asking for a financial donation to help them continue supporting he residents of Milton Keynes. Clerk 7: Clerks Report / Local Issues: 3523 Clerk will ask Clerk 7: A - Newsletter - Next Edition planned for the end of March 2025. Clerk will ask for content by the 7 March 2025. Clerk 7: A - Procedures / Policies. Clerk Clerk • Biodiversity Policy - Currently being completed by the Clerk. Clerk 7: Juliage Grass Cutting - The current grass cutting from the 1 April 2024. Contractual proteo for 2024/2025 is 51, 980 00. Following review, it was based costs as of 2020. New quotations were obtained, and it was agreed to award the contract to Rose Tree Surgeons Ltd at annual cost of £2, 995.00 + VAT. Clerk Advice and the order for £1,805.00 + VAT as the Community Centre Committee will be taking on the responsibility for the grass cutting for the Hall and grounds from April 2025 and onwards. 7: 4 - Football Issue - Clerk gave an update following discussion with the football lybu regarding a recent incident and parking. It was noted that the football lob will agregarin bulish the agreed prixing arrangements with their users and will address any esident concerns if required. It was suggested that we should confirm the days when they are using Watsons Field. <th></th> <th></th> | | |
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| 8. Unitary Councillors' Report: 3524 | |
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| A copy of the Ward Councillor's reports to Little Brickhill Parish Council for February 2025 <u>are available to view on the Parish Council website</u> and <u>are appended to these minutes.</u> | |
| 9. Planning: 3525 | |
| 9.1 - PLN/2025/0170 - Grain and machinery store at Hunters Farm Shop, Watling Street, Little Brickhill. | |
| No issues were raised. | |
| 9.2 - PLN/2024/2549 – The removal of Cypress tree (T1) approx 12m tall and mature Eucalyptus tree (T6) approx 23m in height, along with the removal and replanting of 7 Leylandii Conifers (T3, T4, T5, T7, T8, T9 & T10) approx 15m tall, and the reduction all round by 2.5 meters of Birch (T2) approx 12 meters tall at Mulberry Cottage, Watling Street, Little Brickhill. | |
| Notification received from MKCC 04/12/2024 that consent for works were approved. | |
| 9.3 – ENF/2024/0463 – Land North of The Clock House, Watling Street, Little Brickhill. | |
| <u>Correspondence received on 22/11/2024 alleging a breach of planning control at the above address has been logged. Alleged breach detail: Untidy Land relating to the building plot opposite The Clock House.</u> | |
| 9.4 – ENF/2024/0490 – D Moseley and Son, George Farm Close, Little Brickhill. | |
| <u>Correspondence received on 04/12/2024 alleging a breach of planning control at the above address has been logged. Alleged breach detail: Erection of a stable building in conservation area</u> | |
| 9.5 – PLN/2024/2459 - Approval of details required by conditions 12 (surface water drainage scheme), 13 (surface water run-off during construction) and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) of permission ref. 24/00740/FUL at Maintenance Yard Woburn Golf and Country Club, Bow Brickhill to Little Brickhill Road, Little Brickhill. | |
| Notification received from MKCC 30/01/2025 that planning condition had been approved. | |
| 10. To discuss any Highway issues: 3526 | |
| It was noted that CIIr K Morgan and the Clerk met with MKCC Highways on the 9 December 2024 and the following suggestions for slowing traffic movements through the village are noted below: | |
| 10.1 – New LADS sign - Proposed change: signage to state, 'Access to village centre and Great Brickhill only STRAIGHT ON' and 'Woburn, Milton Keynes and all other routes TURN RIGHT.' | |
| Following discussion at the Parish Council meeting it was considered that the above proposal would have a positive impact for Little Brickhill, and the Clerk was asked to response to MKCC (Highways Team) to request confirmation that funding will be available to complete this item. | Clerk |
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| 10.2 – Improve existing gateway feature as you enter the village from the A5 northbound - new signs potentially depending on budget availability. No red coloured surfacing will be installed due to the cost and ongoing maintenance cost to the Council. | |
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| Following discussion at the Parish Council meeting it was considered that the above proposal would have a positive impact for Little Brickhill, and the Clerk was asked to response to MKCC (Highways Team) to request confirmation that funding will be available to complete this item. | Clerk |
| 10.3 – Informal crossing point opposite playground - MKCC explained that it was not possible to upgrade this to a zebra, due to the significant cost and how the numbers crossing would not meet the requirement for a zebra. Additional warning signs have already been put in place advising motorists of the crossing point. | |
| CIIr K Morgan made the following suggestion. | |
| • Would it be possible to install an additional warning sign on the right-hand side of the carriageway in line with the existing one. I believe this would increase awareness of drivers to the hazard and they would adjust their speed accordingly. Note: It could actually be attached to the existing street lighting post that in that location to save money. | |
| Following discussion at the Parish Council meeting Clerk was asked to response to MKCC (Highways Team) to request consideration of this change and confirmation that funding will be available to complete this item. | Clerk |
| 10.4 – Visibility issue as you exit Great Brickhill Lane onto Watling Street - With parked cars on Watling Street, it does provide limited visibility when motorists look to their left. Possible waiting restrictions (DYL's) would help improve visibility, but there would be a high number of objections to this from residents. There is no history of collisions at this junction. Installation of safety railings on the footpath in front of Chew Cottages and Wisteria House to discourage this practice. Looks like there are services in the footway, which might be an issue. I will look into this prior to making a decision on what is the best course of action. | |
| Cllr K Morgan made the following suggestion. | |
| In my opinion this is this biggest road safety issue we have in the village. Although we had no collisions, we have had lots of near misses due to limited visibility at the location. | |
| Agreed you will have some opposition from residents in the area I am sure they will be greatly outnumbered by people welcoming the intervention. | |
| I take the point about services in the footpath, but this could be overcome by bolting surface plates that the railing could be fitted to. | |
| Following discussion at the Parish Council meeting Clerk was asked to response to MKCC (Highways Team) to request consideration of this change and confirmation that funding will be available to complete this item. | Clerk |
| 10.5 – Speeding issue as vehicles exit the village - MKCC to look at relocating the existing national speed limit sign, which might deter speeding. MKCC also advised the PC to reduce the trigger speeds for both existing SID's. | |
| Following discussion at the Parish Council meeting it was considered that the above proposal would have a positive impact for Little Brickhill, and the Clerk was asked to response to MKCC (Highways Team) to request confirmation that funding will be available to complete this item. | Clerk |
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| 10.6 - Install new SID on Gt Brickhill Lane - It was agreed that a new SID as vehicles enter the village from Gt Brickhill Lane would be of benefit. | |
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| Following discussion at the Parish Council meeting it was considered that the above proposal would have a positive impact for Little Brickhill, and the Clerk was asked to response to MKCC (Highways Team) to request confirmation that funding will be available to complete this item. | Clerk |
| 10.7 - Remove existing sign and post on Gt Brickhill Lane - <i>Playground warning sign no longer required, as the playground is not in use.</i> | |
| Clerk to write to MKCC (Highways) agreeing to this suggestion. | Clerk |
| 10.8 - New gateway feature and speed count - At the meeting, a new gateway feature similar to the one shown below in Sherington was mentioned as an option. MKCC will also arrange for a speed count on Gt Brickhill Lane in the new year to get an idea of current speeds. | |
| CIIr K Morgan made the following suggestion. | |
| I think the gateway similar to that one in Sherington would be suitable but would like to suggest that we install a planter in front of it paid for by the Parish Council which would enhance the look of our village. | |
| Following discussion at the Parish Council meeting it was considered that the above proposal would have a positive impact for Little Brickhill, and the Clerk was asked to response to MKCC (Highways Team) to request if funding or any grants are available to complete this item. | Clerk |
| 10.9 - November 2023 Incident at the A5 slip road – National Highways have provided MKCC with an initial design showing proposed improvements to the junction and MKCC have provided feedback on this option. It was noted that there are still instances of vehicles entering the A5 the wrong way. | |
| Confirmation received from MKCC (Highways) 29/01/25 that the only recent email they have had from National Highways is with regards to carrying out some surfacing works within their proposed scheme. They have not been informed by them that the scheme will go ahead next financial year yet. | |
| 10.10 - Damaged / Missing Road Sign as you exit the A5 to Woburn and Little Brickhill / Great Brickhill. | |
| MKCC have now confirmed that it is the responsibility of Highways England to replace these signs and will consult with them to make sure that the job is completed when the exit junction safety repairs are undertaken. No change. | |
| 10.11 – (item 16.2 of minutes 06/03/23) - Great Brickhill Lane Pot Holes - Bucks CC have confirmed the road is inspected on a regular basis. Cllr D Hopkins has reported this problem to Bucks CC again, but the same response has been received that it does not still meet the criteria yet. Monitor at the next <u>Parish Council meeting.</u> | |
| 10-12 – Speed Indicator Devices – Clerk confirmed that Swarco have confirmed that the 2 SID's would have their annual service on Friday the 7 February 2025 and that he has asked that they are set to operate at 26 MPH. | |
| 11 – To discuss the Future of Roundacre Field: 3527 | |
| CIIr K Morgan presented the following suggestion for Roundacre Field. | |
| • Since Tall Timbers and Pinehaven were demolished and rebuilt around 12 to 14 years ago there has been 22 new builds constructed in Little Brickhill all of them valued at over half a million pounds most substantially more than 1/2 million. | |

Wyness Avenue which most people would consider our affordable housing area in the village is no longer affordable. The last house I am aware that was sold in Wyness was on the market for £330,000. We have a generation of young people who if they want to get on the housing ladder will have no option but to move away, leaving Little Brickhill a middle class, middle aged Getto. In 10 years', time we will not need a school bus as we will not have any children living here. I would therefore like to propose that the parish council explore the possibility of building 10 shared ownership semi-detached properties that is 5 units on roundacre, which will give our young people the opportunity to both enter the housing market and stay in the area if they so wish. It was agreed that we need to undertake more research (housing needs survey) on this as it was felt that villages would prefer the field to stay as open space for residents to use and improvements made as per the application for lottery funding that was not successful last year. Further discussion to be held at the next Parish Council meeting. 12. Financial: 3528 12.1 - Cheques presented for payment: S/O £196.80 Alan Kemp – Salary January 2025 101029 £136.00 | HMRC – Tax for Clerk – January 2025 101030 £1,884.45 | Clear Insurance Management Ltd – Insurance Renewal 101031 VOID £1,084.67 Alan Kemp – Village Hall Electric Work – See note below 101032 £196.80 | Alan Kemp – Salary February 2025 S/O 101033 £47.90 | HMRC – Tax for Clerk – February 2025 101034 £21.60 | Alan Kemp – Salary Arrears 01/01/25 – 31/03/25 £1,092.00 Marcus Young Environmental Services – Dog Waste 101035 £495.00 W&WFC – Village Grass Cutting 101036 101037 £216.00 | Starboard Systems Ltd – Accounting Package **Note** – Monies have been recovered from the Village Hall funds less VAT that the Parish Council can recover. This expenditure was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously.

12.2 – Payments received: None

12.3 - It was noted that the **Bank Balance** following the payments made tonight and cheques not cashed was $\underline{228,861.55}$

12.4 - Bank Mandate:

Clerk confirmed that he had contacted Barclays Bank and that he would have to ring back with a current signatory to arrange for a new mandate to be generated to add other signatories. It was agreed that all Parish Councillors should become signatories. <u>Ongoing</u>

12.5 - (item **5.6** of minutes 07/10/24) – **Play Equipment** – Clerk to ask MKCC if they can clean all the play equipment on Watsons Field. <u>Clerk confirmed that the cost for</u> <u>MKCC to clean all the play equipment is £300 for two men at £75 per hour.</u>

Clerk to arrange for this to be completed in April 2025.

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| 14.6 - Invoices: <u>Clerk has sent an invoice for 1 High View access allowance and one to W&WFC for</u> | |
| the use of Watsons Field in 2024. | |
| | |
| 14.7 – Budget 2024/2025: | |
| Clerk will update the budget at the end of this fiscal year to reflect the precept increase and year end balances. | |
| | |
| 14.8 – Funding Contribution from the Community Centre Committee: | |
| Following the request for the Clerk to contact representatives from the Community | |
| Centre Committee to see if they have funds available to make a yearly contribution towards any Parish Council expenditure for the Community Centre. | |
| | |
| Clerk gave the update below. | |
| <u>The Community Centre Committee have agreed to take on the responsibility</u> | |
| for grass cutting from the 1 April 2025 saving the Parish Council £1000 and | |
| to pay for the annual security service at £100 per year. | |
| <u>It is the responsibility of the Parish Council to pay for the annual Insurance</u> <u>costs.</u> | |
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| 13. To receive reports on the Community Centre: 3529 | |
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| No issues were raised. | |
| 14. Councillors Report: 3530 | |
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| 14.1 - Parking in High View, Little Brickhill – Cllr E Priestley has received the | |
| following request from resident. | |
| I wondered if it could be discussed about the parking in High View, it is for | |
| High View and the 1 st block of flats residents only, but someone in Wyness | |
| Ave is parking there, sometimes 2 cars, they have put a gate up in the back | |
| garden for access, but I'm pretty sure MKCC don't know about it, it is MKCC | |
| and, they have been asked not to park there. We have a private drive due to us taking half the garden away, and people are parking there, typical | |
| situation is district nurses are visiting 4 times a day to number 3 High View | |
| and they have been parking on our drive, the residents of number 2 have 4 | |
| cars parked, maybe they could be told to limit it to 2 cars only, I know | |
| parking is problem everywhere but it is annoying having them constantly | |
| turning and parking. If it is possible to check with MKCC who should use it | |
| and maybe you could tell Wyness Ave resident to stop using it, many thanks. | |
| | |
| Ward Councillor, David Hopkins has requested help and advice on this query from | |
| MKCC Housing department. | |
| Clerk also confirmed that a representative from the MKCC Housing department had | |
| offered to meet in the village, date to be arranged. | Clerk |
| | |
| 14.2 – Parking Issue – It was noted that there is an issue with cars damaging the | Clerk |
| grass verge outside the apartments. <u>Clerk to report this to MKKC.</u> | |
| 15. Items for the next / future agendas. | |
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| Risk Assessment Review – March 2025. | |
| Clerks Position – March 2025. | |
| Climate Change Review – June 2025. | |
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16. Date of Next Meeting:

Future dates are noted below:

- Monday 3 March 2025
- Monday 4 April 2025
- Thursday 8 May 2025 AGM / Annual Village Meeting?

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

Chair for Little Brickhill Parish Council