

LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:

Cllr D Lewis - Chair
 Cllr K Morgan
 Cllr E Priestley
 Cllr L Walker
 Cllr D Hopkins (Ward Councillor)
 Cllr T Bailey (Ward Councillor)
 A Kemp (Parish Clerk)

In attendance:

D Priestley (Resident)
 G Bailey (Resident)
 L Mawer (Resident)
 E Morgan (Resident)
 J Hannah (Resident)
 L Golson (Resident)
 R Avery (Resident)
 S Avery (Resident)

<p>1. Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Ward Cllr V Hopkins.</p>	
<p>2. Public Open Session:</p> <p>2.1 – Clerk reported that he had received an email from a resident advising of a Water leak he saw in the road by Fox Hills Farm Road and reported to Anglian Water, who fixed it quickly. The flushing of pipes seems to have caused some discolouration of the drinking water for some houses. Anglian Water reported to say the blockage in the sewer was caused partly by lots of water wipes being flushed down toilets.</p> <p><u>Clerk agreed to contact Anglian Water and if they have any marketing materials on this type of incident and he will include something in the next Newsletter.</u></p>	Clerk
<p>3. Declaration of Interest:</p> <p>Cllr K Morgan declared an interest in item 5.0 as a relative has applied to join the Parish Council.</p>	
<p>4. Approval of the Minutes of Meeting held on 2 December 2024: 3531</p> <p>Minutes signed and approved.</p>	
<p>5. Progress on matters from last Minutes: 3532</p> <p>5.0 – Parish Council Vacancy.</p> <p><u>Two people have expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Ongoing.</u></p> <p>5.1 - (item 2.3 of minutes 06/03/23) - Street Lighting – A resident asked if consideration could be given to installing some more street lighting on Watling Street near the George / Community Centre.</p> <p><u>It was noted that MKCC Streetlighting team will be installing a new streetlight on this road later in the year.</u></p> <p>5.2 - (item 2.2 of minutes 26/06/23) - Old playground in Wyness Avenue. 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.</p> <p><u>As no replies to email requests had been received, Clerk contacted MKCC by phone on the 28 February 2025 and received a verbal assurance that arrangements to schedule for a crown lift too be completed as early as possible.</u></p>	

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. The other issue with damage to the wall will be monitored by the Clerk and any further deterioration will be reported to Woburn Estates.

Clerk has included this on the Risk Assessment (issue 19 – March 2025) and emailed Bedford Estates regarding this issue on the 28 February 2025.

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.

Clerk has reported this again to MKCC on the 28 February 2025 under reference number FS691615500.

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 this response - We have followed this up with the Highways team and will come back to you once they respond.

Cllr D Hopkins has emailed MKCC on the 26 February 2025 requesting an update.

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 and should now be completed within the next two weeks 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 **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 Parish Council 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 contacted the Clerk for the Charity again requesting confirmation that a date for a meeting of the trustees had been arranged and received a reply stating that the Charity was waiting for the Chair to convene a meeting.

5.8 - (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.

- 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. No change.

Clerk

5.9 – (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.

5.10 – (item **2.1** of minutes 03/03/25) – A Resident raised a concern with a pothole at the Watling Street / Great Brickhill junction and asked if the Parish Council would report this to MKCC for inspection / repair. Clerk has reported this to MKCC under reference number FS691216447.

The following response was received from MKCC on the 3 March 2025.

- Not investigatory level. Our highways inspector has checked the defect you reported to us and assessed it based on our criteria that categorises defects into low, medium or high risk. Those assessed as high risk will usually be repaired between 2 -24 hours depending on the severity. Medium level defects will be planned in for repairs from 28-90 days depending on the road type and volume of traffic. Defects classed as Low risk are unlikely to be repaired unless they get worse and we will monitor them. The defect you reported has been assessed as LOW.

5.11 – (item **2.3** of minutes 03/03/25) – A resident advised that some branches on some of the trees on Watsons Field had been damaged and asked the Parish Council to investigate.

Clerk has requested our Tree Contractor to inspect the trees and is waiting for a response.

Clerk

5.12 – (item **2.4** of minutes 03/03/25) – A resident advised that there is still evidence of anti-social behaviour taking place on Woburn Road and asked that the Parish Council contact MKCC for help and suggestions on how to resolve this issue.

Following the Parish Council meeting on the 3 February 2025, Ward Cllr D Hopkins contacted the MKCC Environmental Crime Managers and received the reply below:

- We will continue to monitor the fly tipping and will investigate any that takes place. To date there are no reports and no clearances that I am aware of. If residents do experience fly tipping, they should report it us on line.

Clerk has contacted MKCC (Highways Team) to ask for consideration and funding of installing a barrier to deter anti-social behaviour and recent confirmation that there are no funds available from MKCC.

Should the Parish Council have funds available to install a barrier a formal request for approval must be submitted to MKCC asking for the necessary permissions. A typical cost for supply and installation is £2,668.78 + VAT. Clerk provided a barrier example at the Parish Council meeting.

It was agreed to review this at the Parish Council meeting on the 7 April 2025.

5.13 – (item **2.5** of minutes 03/03/25) – A resident stated that in the small bay opposite Watsons Field is being used on a regular basis as a permanent parking bay and asked if the Parish Council could investigate if this is allowable.

Clerk has contacted MKCC (Highways Team) and it was confirmed that anyone is entitled to park in these bays with no restrictions.

5.14 – (item **6.2** of minutes 03/03/25) – Email received 23/01/25 from **MKCC** advising **of a Community Governance Review taking place from Thursday 23 January 2025 to Friday 28 March 2025.** Following discussion, it was suggested that we should ask for consideration to increase the number of Councillors to six for Little Brickhill Parish Council.

Clerk will action this before the deadline of 28 March 2025 for responses.

Clerk

5.15 – (item 14.1 of minutes 03/03/25) – 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 1st 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.

It was noted that an MKCC (Housing Officer) and Clerk met the resident to discuss the above on the 11 February 2025. The Housing Officer explained that she did not think that there was any unauthorised parking (not from any Housing Association residents) but it was agreed to investigate who the land where vehicles are parking belongs to. Clerk has requested an update on the 27 February 2025 and is waiting for a reply.

5.16 – (item 14.2 of minutes 03/03/25) – Parking Issue – It was noted that there is an issue with cars damaging the grass verge outside the apartments.

Clerk asked the MKCC Housing Officer on the 11 February 2025 who agreed to investigate this issue. Clerk has requested an update on the 27 February 2025 and is waiting for a reply.

5.17 – (item 7.5 of minutes 03/03/25) – CPR Training – Clerk confirmed that 4 residents have expressed an interest in attending a training event.

South Central Ambulance Service has been approached to ascertain dates when the necessary training equipment will be available to enable a date for the training to be arranged. Target date for the training 16 April 2025.

Clerk

5.18 – (item 7.6 of minutes 03/03/25) – Hall Honour Boards displayed in the Community Centre – These require updating, Clerk to obtain a quotation.

Clerk

5.19 – (item 7.7 of minutes 03/03/25) – School Sign on Great Brickhill Lane – Clerk has reported to MKCC (02/02/25) that the sign near Roundacre Field is in the ditch again.

Update – Clerk received confirmation (27/02/25) from MKCC that the sign would be permanently removed.

5.20 – (item 7.8 of minutes 03/03/25) – Watling Street – Clerk has reported to MKCC (02/02/25 that as you exit the Village from Fox Farm Road to the A5 northbound on Watling Street in Little Brickhill that the pavements on both sides of the road are covered in moss and asking for them to be cleaned.

Clerk confirmed that he had reported this again to MKCC under reference number MKCC691213300.

<p>6. Correspondence: 3533</p> <p>6.1 Email received 05/02/25 from MKCC advised of that Milton Keynes City Council is working collectively to better understand the current and future provision of outdoor sports facilities and have commissioned management consultancy Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to carry out a needs assessment in the area, which will result in the production of an Authority wide strategy. It will involve carrying out a comprehensive assessment of the supply and demand issues relating to outdoor sports facilities.</p> <p>Clerk advised that as the closing date for this consultation was the 1 March 2025 that he had responded advising that the only facility in Little Brickhill was Watson Field. <u>Item closed.</u></p> <p>6.2 - Letter received 07/02/25 from the Founder of Covid19 families UK inviting Parish Councillors to a National Day of Reflection on Sunday 9 March 2025 at 2.00 pm taking place at Willen Lake Peace Pagoda.</p> <p><u>This was noted; no actions are required.</u></p> <p>6.3 – Email received 11/02/25 from MKCC regarding VE Day – 8 May 2025 asking if any local councils are planning any events to register them on the VE Day 80 website page.</p> <p><u>This was noted; no actions are required.</u></p>	
<p>7. Clerks Report / Local Issues: 3534</p> <p>7.1 – Newsletter – Next Edition planned for the end of March 2025. <u>Clerk has asked for content by the 14 March 2025.</u></p> <p>7.2 – Procedures / Policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Policy – <u>To be completed by the Clerk.</u> 	
<p>8. Unitary Councillors' Report: 3535</p> <p>A copy of the Ward Councillor's reports to Little Brickhill Parish Council for March 2025 <u>are available to view on the Parish Council website and are appended to these minutes.</u></p> <p><u>Cllr T Bailey advised that she continues to ask MKCC (Highways Team) if they have received any updates from National Highways England on the A5 slip road planned safely improvements.</u></p>	
<p>9. Planning: 3536</p> <p>9.1 - PLN/2025/0170 - Grain and machinery store at Hunters Farm Shop, Watling Street, Little Brickhill.</p> <p><u>Notification received from MKCC 25/02/2025 that prior approval is not required.</u></p> <p>9.2 – ENF/2024/0490 – D Moseley and Son, George Farm Close, Little Brickhill.</p> <p><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></p> <p><u>Clerk received an enquiry from the land owner since the last PC meeting stating that they were unaware of this issue and following contact with MKCC received the following response.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Thank you for your email. I have notified the case officer of your concerns; they will contact the land owner if and when required. The case is currently being triaged, and updates will be made in line with the Local Enforcement Plan</u> 	

<p>9.3 - PLN/2024/2105 – The erection of a single-storey side and rear extension at The White House, Watling Street, Little Brickhill.</p> <p><i>Notification received from MKCC 06/02/2025 that householder planning permission had been approved.</i></p>	
<p>10. To discuss any Highway issues: 3537</p> <p>Clerk advised that he had received an emailed from MKCC (Highways) on the 24 February 2025 requesting the Parish Council to prioritise our requirements from items 10.1 to 10.6 and 10.8. When we provide this information, they will assess our requirements and respond accordingly. MKCC have completed a speed count on Great Brickhill Lane, results attached to this report.</p> <p><i>Clerk to advise MKCC of our priorities, see below:</i></p> <p>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.’</p> <p><i>Following discussion, it was agreed that this was PRIORITY 1</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Following discussion, it was agreed that this was PRIORITY 3</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Following discussion, it was agreed that this was PRIORITY 3</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Following discussion, it was agreed that this was PRIORITY 1</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Following discussion, it was agreed that this was PRIORITY 2</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Following discussion, it was agreed that this was PRIORITY 2</i></p> <p>10.7 - Remove existing sign and post on Gt Brickhill Lane - Playground warning sign no longer required, as the playground is not in use.</p> <p><i>This is being actioned by MKCC – see item 5.18.</i></p>	<p>Clerk</p>

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.

Following discussion, it was agreed that this was **PRIORITY 4**

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. NO CHANGE.

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.

It was noted that Ward Cllr D Hopkins has received the following response from the Leader of Bucks CC on the 2 March 2025.

- Yes, happy to forward this to our Head of Highways and ask the Local Area Technician to inspect and arrange a repair.
- The recent very wet and cold weather has yet again this year done enormous damage to our more rural roads. We are making safe where necessary with more permanent repairs planned for when the weather improves sufficiently.

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.

No issues were identified, and the change of activation speed was completed.

11 – To discuss the Future of Roundacre Field: 3539

It was noted that Cllr K Morgan presented the following suggestion for Roundacre Field at the Parish Council meeting on the 3 February 2025.

- 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.

This was discussed again in more detail at the Parish Council meeting tonight and issues are noted below:

- 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.
- Have any other Councils undertaken any similar housing schemes that we could seek advice and guidance from?
- Concerns were raised on how the dwellings could be retained for locals from a legal point of view.
- It was suggested that we should first seek some advice and guidance from a Town Planner (one was suggested at the meeting). Clerk was asked to send details requesting some guidance so that we can have further discussion at the Parish Council meeting on the 7 April 2025.

Clerk

12. Financial: 3540

12.1 - Cheques presented for payment:

S/O	£196.80	Alan Kemp – Salary March 2025
101038	£136.00	HMRC – Tax for Clerk – March 2025
101039	£262.66	Vision ICT (Website Hosting)

This expenditure was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously.

12.2 – Payments received: £1,495.54 – Community Centre Committee

12.3 - It was noted that the **Bank Balance** following the payments made tonight (£595.40) and cheques not cashed (£1,850.90) was **£27,871.18.**

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. No change.

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. Clerk confirmed that the cost for MKCC to clean all the play equipment is £300 for two men at £75 per hour.

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

12.7 – Year end 2024/2025 / Budget 2025/2026:

Clerk will update the budget at the end of this fiscal year to reflect the precept increase and year end balances.

<p>13. To discuss the Clerks Position: 3541</p> <p>It was agreed that there would be no change to the current Clerk salary for budget year (2025/2026) will be £3,830.00 plus £250.00 for home working, making the total for the year of £ 4080.00.</p> <p>Clerk advised that it was time for him to step down as Clerk and start the process of recruiting a replacement. The following actions are required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to prepare Job Specification, agreed hours and pay. Purchase Laptop and Office Software for a new Clerk. <p><u>Clerk will prepare a comprehensive list of actions required for discussion at the April Parish Council meeting.</u></p>	Clerk
<p>14. To conduct a Risk Assessment Review: 3542</p> <p>Clerk presented an updated copy of the Risk Assessment (issue 20) for the Parish Council which was reviewed and accepted by all present.</p>	
<p>15. To receive reports on the Community Centre: 3543</p> <p><u>Cllr E Prestley confirmed that she would be representing the Parish Council at the Village Hall Committee meeting (AGM) on the 23 April 2025.</u></p>	
<p>16. Councillors Report: 3544</p> <p><u>No items were raised.</u></p>	
<p>17. Items for the next / future agendas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate Change Review – June 2025. 	
<p>18. Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Future dates are noted below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday 7 April 2025 • Thursday 8 May 2025 – AGM / Annual Village Meeting • Monday 2 June 2025 - Clerk is unable to attend this meeting. <p><u>There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.47 pm.</u></p> <p>..... Chair for Little Brickhill Parish Council</p>	