



SIMPSON AND ASHLAND PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on 8th January 2024 at Ashland Lakeside

Councillors present: Cllr Pye – Chair (DP), Cllr Barnes – Vice Chair (PB), Cllr Ezeh (CE), Cllr Dalgarno (RD)

Apologies: Cllr Tucker

Others present: Katherine Harmsworth - Parish Clerk (KH),
Charlotte Hall - Ward Councillor (CH) (20:45 arrival)

88) Introductions and apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Tucker. PB chaired the meeting as DP arrived at 20:30.

89) Specific declarations of interest

None received.

90) Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the council held on 6th November 2023 were received and signed as a correct record.

91) Public forum

No members of public present.

92) Finance report and discussion

- a) Payments from 1st November – 29th December were reviewed and approved.
- b) The budget for 2024-25 was agreed.
- c) The precept for 2024-25 was agreed at £52800, a decrease of 7.99% for the taxpayer.
- d) No applications for grants were received.

93) Dog waste bins

- a) The Canal & River Trust (CRT) have yet to undertake the ground surveys needed before dog waste bins can be installed at Bowlers Bridge and Lickorish Bridge.

94) Road Safety – H9 Groveway

- a) The road safety survey is due to be carried out once the roadworks on the H9 are completed in February.

95) Winter Funding

- a) The Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) will be holding two sessions at Simpson Village Hall on 25th January and 29th February.
- b) Milton Keynes Play Association (MKPA) is holding two craft sessions at Ashland Lakeside on 10th February and 9th March 10:00 – 12:00. For children aged 3-12 that live in Simpson and Ashland.
- c) The friends of Simpson Village Hall are preparing to hold some monthly skill sharing events. These will include themes such as singing, local history, repairing, upcycling and crafting. The PC already agreed to cover the cost of hall hire. It was agreed to provide an additional budget of £400 to cover materials for the first four events.

96) Defibrillators

- a) Match funding for two defibrillators has been awarded to the PC and the PC now awaits delivery.
- b) It was agreed that due to defibrillators needing to be installed by a qualified electrician within 4 weeks, the PC will use an electrician that is already familiar with SVH and AL.

97) Planning applications

- a) 22/01585/FUL Five Acres – the building works are progressing at pace and it is hoped that all works will be completed by the end of February.
- b) 23/02096/PRIOR Simpson Day Care Centre – PB, DP and CH had a meeting with Bee Lewis (BL), Assistant Director of Property at MKCC to discuss the plans for buildings 1 and 5 on the Simpson Day Care Centre site on 8th December. BL informed the PC that MKCC has an asset rationalisation program and that these buildings are part of this. MKCC has no plans to use building 1 (the old house) due to its proximity to the Simpson Day Care Centre. The building has structural issues as the chimneys are not safe. Their plan is to commence the demolition of the building on 18th March. The PC questions whether a better use could be found for building 1. It was agreed that the PB, on behalf of the PC, would go back to BL and ask for the options to be investigated more.
- c) 23/02833/LBC 203 Simpson – Listed building consent for replacement of windows. The PC supports the application.

98) Review of Policies

- a) The Freedom of Information policy was reviewed and agreed.

99) Open space

- a) The Landscaping meetings with MKCC are now taking place monthly. The hedges around Simpson were cut back in November, however it seems the tops of some hedges have been missed. These have been reported to MKCC.
- b) The PC would like to thank MKCC for their response to the flooding in Simpson on 5th January. They responded quickly, providing some sandbags and swept the road afterwards. There are concerns about future flooding and the PC would like to investigate what actions could be taken to prevent future flooding or to respond to flooding even quicker. CH will contact the Resilience team at MKCC and investigate what help or advice is available.

100) Ashland Lakeside

- a) Payments and hire income for Ashland Lakeside was reviewed and approved. Hire income has exceeded expectations.
- b) The water bills for AL have not been coming to the PC. The PC is trying to arrange to take over the account, however this is proving challenging. Once successful a large bill is expected for the last 18 months of water usage.
- c) Feedback from residents and hirers was discussed. There was a discussion over the amount of people that can be accommodated in AL. It was agreed that this would be investigated further, and any updates would be included on the PC website and booking page.
- d) The purchase and installation of a replacement panel heater was agreed.
- e) It was noted that AL must pay business rates, due to it being the second building the PC owns.

101) Simpson Village Hall

- a) Payments and hire income for Simpson Village Hall was reviewed and approved. Hire income has exceeded expectations and is levelling out after covid.
- b) It was agreed to plant pyracantha around Simpson Village Hall at a cost of £475 + VAT.
- c) Due to safety concerns it was agreed to ask an electrician to repair or replace the motion sensitive light outside the village hall urgently.

102) Young people

- a) The winter holiday activity session was held at Ashland Lakeside on Tuesday 2nd January. Seven children attended with their parents and gave positive feedback, including requesting further sessions. Additional feedback was received via Facebook that the outside door wasn't open and because of this that some people thought the session had been cancelled. It was agreed to install a doorbell.

103) Community engagement

- a) The next meeting of the street champions will be in February.

104) East West Rail

- a) The next meeting date is yet to be set. It was noted that there will be a statutory consultation will be in 2024.

105) Matters arising

None

106) Review of Delegated Decisions

The following delegated decisions were reviewed and approved:

- 1) Purchase of a wreath for Remembrance Day at a cost of £20.
- 2) Purchase of lockable cupboard for storage of new floor cleaner at Ashland Lakeside at a cost of £134.99 + VAT.
- 3) Purchase of a wi-fi hub for managing the heating system at Ashland Lakeside at a cost of £137.90 + VAT.
- 4) Purchase of radio frequency modules for panels heaters at Ashland Lakeside at a cost of £207.40 + VAT.
- 5) Purchase of a new tap for SVH kitchen at a cost of £25.

107) The next meeting of the Full Council will be held on Monday 4th March at 8pm at Simpson Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 22:00

Signed (Chair)

Date

Signed (Clerk)

Date