

**P A R I S H O F W E S T O N I N G**

**MINUTES of the Meeting of**

**Westoning Parish Council**

**held on Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall, Westoning**

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Nethersole (Chairman), Cllr P Ellis, Cllr B Rogerson, Cllr P Kelly,

Cllr E Bhasin, Cllr C Luff, Cllr N McLoughlin, Cllr E Russell, CBC Cllr J Jamieson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Barker (Clerk), 2 members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7783 Apologies for absence** – Cllr A Rayment

7783.1 Cllr Vacancy

Remove from the agenda as the vacancy may be filled in the forthcoming elections.

7783.2 Elections

The Clerk gave out the nomination papers to all Cllrs and said that should they wish to stand as a Parish Cllr the deadline for applications is from 14th March to 4th April. Applications must be hand delivered to CBC at Priory House, Chicksands.

**7784 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2023 were approved. Cllr Rogerson proposed, seconded by Cllr McLoughlin the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**7785 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Bhasin Point 7790.2

**7786 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7787 Chairman’s actions**

There were no Chairmans actions.

**7788 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson gave a report:

* CBC are to set up a lane rental scheme to allow them to charge works contractors for the time that street and road works occupy the highway.
* Greenwheel – a network of linked walking and cycling routes is to be pursued between Toddington and Westoning.
* Hedge trimming was done on the main road to Flitwick but the Contractors left the area in a mess, this has now been cleared.
* CBC has agreed a 0% increase in council tax.
* Disabled access work at Flitwick Station is due to commence in the Summer.

**7789 Public Participation**

A member of the public asked about the trees being planted randomly by CBC in Westoning and that they were concerned that one tree was planted close to their house. Cllrs agreed that CBC should have consulted the Parish Council regarding the planting locations. The Clerk to email CBC Cllr Jamieson. (**Action Clerk**)

**7790 Finance**

7790.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 34,323.07 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,949.60 |
| **TOTAL** | 101,272.67 |

7790.2 Cllr Ellis proposed, seconded by Cllr Nethersole the approval of the following payments, agreed by all Cllrs present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000726 | Clerk – salary | 511.94 |
| 000726 | Clerk – expenses | 40.09 |
| 000727 | HMRC – Clerk tax | 4.20 |
| 000728 | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000729 | Westoning Village Hall – hall hire | 19.50 |
| 000730 | D J Granger – playing field Inv 023298 | 201.60 |
| 000731 | E Bhasin – coronation expenses | 36.61 |
| Debit | Wix – website renewal | 106.06 |
| 000732 | Andy Muskett – 4th quarter maintenance | 130.20 |
| 000733 | D J Granger – village etc Inv 023319 | 459.90 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **1,785.10** |

7790.3 Other finance matters:

7790.3.1 Grass cutting contribution from CBC received £734.31

Noted by the Parish Council.

7790.3.2 Invoice for bin usage from Recreation Club

The Clerk queried the invoice for £48.69 for January, February and March bin usage which is more than the previously agreed £10 per month. She also queried why the Recreation Club are charging the Parish Council VAT and whether it should have been backdated to January. The Chairman agreed to look into it. (**Action Cllr Nethersole**)

**7791 Highways**

7791.1 Highways Issues

Cllr Kelly said that additional signage is needed at the roundabout on the High Street to warn large vehicles of the low bridge on Greenfield Road. The Chairman to send a photo of the area to the Clerk for it to be reported to CBC. (**Action Cllr Nethersole/Clerk**)

The Clerk said that CBC has refused the request for a dog bin by Flitvale Garden Centre as this is on a busy road and will be a dangerous location to stop for the operatives emptying the bin.

**7792 Recreation Ground**

7792.1 Recreation Club Licence

Nothing to report.

7792.2 Bushes around football pitch

Nothing to report.

**7793 Village Matters**

7793.1 Rural Match Fund Scheme – kerb in Church Road

The Clerk read out an email from CBC in response to the Parish Councils email comments made in February:

*CBC have discussed the further information and are concerned that if the Parish Councils objective is to stop parking on the verge the installation of kerbing will not prevent this. CBC receive many reports of motorists bumping up over kerbing and this is likely to happen if kerbing was installed along Church Road. Perhaps a spring bulb planting scheme along the verge could be considered and promoted to prevent motorists and visitors to the Church from parking on the verge? The only way to prevent parking on verges is to install waiting restrictions but this would displace parking opportunity and visitors to the area would park further down the road. Double yellow lines would also impact on the visual character in this location. CBC are concerned that several thousand pounds would be spent on 75 metres of new kerbing that will not achieve the objective of protecting the verge. The Parish Council are asked to consider this and respond to CBC.*

The Parish Council discussed the response and said a planting scheme could be considered. To be discussed further.

7793.2 Burial Ground

The Chairman said that Cllr Rayment is continuing with his enquiries regarding options for the burial ground.

7793.3 Grass cutting – schedule for next season

Cllrs McLoughlin and Luff agreed to mark up a map of the areas cut by the Contractor for the Parish Council to consider. (**Action Cllrs McLoughlin/Luff**)

7793.4 Kings Coronation

Cllr Bhasin said that flyers have been printed for the Afternoon Tea event on 8th May and will be delivered around the village. A singer has been booked for 2 hours on the day at a cost of £175. Raffle prizes, tablecloths, serviettes and bunting to be organised. The Recreation Club are organising an event on 6th May and would like to involve all village organisations.

7793.5 Flag Pole

Nothing to report.

7793.6 Planters

Cllr Ellis said that Mr Frith will organise a red, blue and white planting scheme.

7793.7 Community Benefit Group

Nothing to report.

7793.8 Ampthill and Flitwick Green Wheel – event 16th March

The Parish Council noted the event to be held on 16th March regarding a network of linked walking and cycling routes. A number of Cllrs expressed their interest in attending.

7793.9 Base station upgrade – Orange Wood, Tingrith

The Parish Council noted the proposed upgrade of the telecommunications equipment at Orange Wood, Tingrith and had no comments.

7793.10 May Annual PC Meeting/Monthly PC Meeting – 10th May (within 14 days of elections)

Annual Meeting of the Parish – Monday 15th May

The Clerk to send out invites to the Annual Meeting of the Parish and book the hall for 15th May. (**Action Clerk**)

**7794 Play Area**

7794.1 Picnic Table

Nothing to report.

7794.2 Play area interim inspections

The Clerk said that a resident had reported broken glass in the play area and that the locks on the gates are broken. Cllr Ellis said that he regularly inspects the play area in addition to the quarterly inspections by Wicksteed. He said that he will adjust the gates.

(**Action Cllr Ellis**)

**7795 Planning**

7795.1 Planning applications:

7795.1.1 CB/23/00088/FULL – Land at Bryson Close – construction of a one bedroom chalet bungalow (re-submitted from last month).

The Parish Council object to the application. The Clerk to submit the comments made at the February meeting.

7795.1.2 Appeal: CB/20/02054/FULL – Chestnuts Caravan Park – siting of 4 additional caravan plots

Noted by the Parish Council

7795.2 Other Planning Matters:

7795.2.1 Solar Farm

Nothing to report.

7795.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road

Nothing to report.

7795.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

Nothing to report.

**7796 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

No reports were given

**7797 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7798 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Approved: ………………………………………………. Date: ……………………………………………………….