

**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 13th September 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall, Westoning**

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Nethersole (Chairman), Cllr E Bhasin, Cllr C Luff, Cllr P Ellis, Cllr P Kelly,

Cllr E Russell, Cllr Y Omishore, Cllr A Rayment, Cllr B Rogerson, Cllr N McLoughlin

**IN ATTENDANCE:** No members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

The Minutes of the meeting were taken by Cllr Bhasin

**7866 Apologies for absence** – CBC Cllr Jamieson, Mrs K Barker - Clerk

**7867 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2023 were approved. Cllr Russell proposed, seconded by Cllr Luff the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**7868 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Ellis – Finance Point 7872.2

**7869 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7870 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**7871 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson was not present.

**7872 Finance**

7872.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 39,324.44 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 67,250.22 |
| **TOTAL** | 106,574.66 |

7872.2 The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Bhasin the approval of the following payments, agreed by all Cllrs present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
|  | **August payments (paid)** |  |
| Transfer | Clerk – salary August | 547.07 |
| Transfer | Clerk – expenses August | 40.09 |
| Chq 781 | HMRC – Clerk tax | 7.60 |
| Transfer | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – village etc Inv 023916 | 661.50 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – field Inv 023884 | 201.60 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – village etc Inv 023849 | 661.50 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – Hedge Work Inv 023862 | 228.00 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – field etc Inv 023939 | 201.60 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – field, village, hedge Inv 023981 | 719.10 |
| Transfer | CBC – election uncontested charges | 88.43 |
| Transfer | Anglian Water – water bill | 174.67 |
| Transfer | Mr Frith – planters, footpath clearance | 330.00 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **4,136.16** |
|  | **September payments** |  |
| Transfer | Clerk – salary September | 547.07 |
| Transfer | Clerk – expenses September | 40.09 |
| Chq 782 | HMRC – Clerk tax | 7.60 |
| Transfer | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – field Inv 024011 | 201.60 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – village/field Inv 024044 | 661.50 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – field Inv 024078 | 201.60 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – village/field Inv 024106 | 661.50 |
| Transfer | Wicksteed – cradle seats Inv 0000822553 | 358.06 |
| Transfer | Westoning Village Hall – hall hire July | 19.50 |
| Transfer | Westoning Village Hall – hall hire September | 19.50 |
| Transfer | P Ellis – defibrillator pads | 269.94 |
| Transfer | Mr Frith – planters etc | 160.00 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **3,442.46** |

7872.3 Other finance matters:

7872.3.1 Precept – 2nd half £21,961.50 received

Noted by the Parish Council

**7873 Highways**

* 1. Footpaths/Highways Issues
* Cllr Rogerson said that dog fouling has increased around the village. The Chairman said that she will replace the dog bags and dispensers around the village to help prevent this problem. (**Action Chairman**)
* A complaint has been received about the shrubs in the garden of 7 De Sanford Court overhanging the footpath. The Chairman said that she will politely ask the owner to cut the shrubs or offer to cut them. (**Action Chairman**)
* The footpath on Richmond Road (turning onto Tyburn Lane) is in need of urgent repair. The Clerk to report this to CBC. (**Action Clerk**)
  1. Highfields entrance

CBC have agreed to clear the problem of nettles in November but request that the Parish Council maintain the area thereafter. The Parish Council agreed to review the area in the spring and consider potential options that can be considered in the future to avoid ongoing issues.

**7874 Recreation Ground**

7874.1 Recreation Club Licence

Cllr Rayment advised that the draft agreement was circulated to all Cllrs and he requested that everyone share their feedback in the next two weeks. The revised license will then be sent to the Recreation Club for review. (**Action All Cllrs**)

7874.2 Recreation Club complaint

The Parish Council noted that there is an annual event organised by the parents for the end of the school year at the Recreation Club. It was noted that three different complaints have been received from parents about the behaviour of the Recreation Club and the closing of the club early during this event without any explanation. The Chairman said that she will arrange a meeting with the Recreation Club Committee to understand the rationale and explanation as to why the event ended early. She will then report back to the concerned parents. (**Action Chairman**)

7874.3 Dogs fouling on the Recreation Ground

Complaints have been received from residents about the number of dogs on the Recreation Ground/football pitch. Dogs have also been seen in the Recreation Club decking area. The Parish Council agreed to re-issue “no dog” signs around the Recreation Ground and speak to the Recreation Club about reinforcing a “no dogs” policy within the Recreation Club vicinity. Cllr Ellis to organise the new signs and the Chairman to speak to the Recreation Club. (**Action Chairman/Cllr Ellis**)

**7875 Village Matters**

7875.1 Burial Ground

The Chairman and Cllr Rayment to have a meeting with the landowner of Westview Farm to review and ascertain options for access and the car park for the burial ground.

(**Action Chairman/Cllr Rayment**)

7875.2 Grass cutting – schedule/contract

Weekly complaints have been received from the Recreation Club/Football Club about the unnecessary and regularity of the grass cutting on the field. The Chairman to speak to the Recreation Club to fully understand the grass cutting issue and discuss the best solution going forward.

7875.3 Christmas Events

* Afternoon tea: Cllr Bhasin briefed that the invites have been created and need to be printed and circulated by the middle of October. The hall, singer and volunteers have been booked. Menu cards will be created and displayed on the tables. The decorations, tree and crackers to be sourced. Once numbers of attendees are confirmed, a detailed shopping list will be established.
* Christmas light event – Cllr Kelly to order the tree, Toddington band have been booked and the bauble competition leaflet to be circulated with the afternoon tea event leaflet. The Parish Council to also have a tombola stall. Cllr Rayment to organise the electrics and liaise with Cllr Kelly about the requirements.

7875.4 Flagpole

A quote is awaited to create a fixture for the flag post.

7875.5 Planters/Oak Tree

* Planters: It was agreed to build and paint some remaining planters on 1st Oct at 10.00am at Cllr Rayments house. (Planter locations: Newlands Road, Village Green, Flitwick Road, Sampshill Road). A further date to be arranged to fill and locate the planters.
* Oak Tree: Dycol have kindly agreed to remove the old tree, take it away and source and replant a new oak tree for £90. This will be organised in late October.

7875.6 Litter Pick

Volunteers to meet at the Chequers from 9:15am on 16th September for refreshments. The Parish Council to provide litter pickers, bags & hi vis jackets. CBC Cllr Jamieson will speak to the waste team at CBC to remove the rubbish bags. Cllr McLoughlin to post on Facebook to raise awareness of the event which was already featured in last month’s village link.

7875.7 Access to allotments

An email has been received about the difficulty with right of way over private land due to overgrown hedges and lack of maintenance by the land owner. The Chairman said that she has inspected the area and agrees with the issue raised. Cllr Bhasin agreed to approach the land owner and request if they can maintain the hedges to help with right of way/access.

(**Action Cllr Bhasin**)

7875.8 Parking outside the Church for functions

Complaints have been received about the parking around the village especially for popular functions. Many cars were parked in awkward spaces causing roads to be blocked and inaccessible for emergency vehicles. Although these situations are rare and infrequent, the Chairman agreed to speak to the church warden about more efficient marshalling at such times to avoid the blockages in the future. (**Action Chairman**)

7875.9 Defibrillator

The defibrillator pads were out of date and required replacing. Cllr Ellis said that he purchased two new pads costing £269.94. They will serve until 2027 (children pad) and 2028 (adult pad). Cllr McLoughlin offered to provide free defibrillator training to the community. The Chairman to advise dates when the Recreation Club is available and organise the training accordingly. Training to be advertised on Facebook for anyone who is keen to participate. (**Action Chairman**)

**7876 Play Area**

7876.1 Wicksteed Play Area Inspection Report June 2023

The report was noted. No urgent repairs required. A review of a deep clean/repaint of equipment will be considered in the spring.

**7877 Planning**

7877.1 Planning applications:

7877.1.1 CB/23/02542/FULL - 24 Lovett Green - garage conversion into habitable room, loft conversion into habitable room and two-storey side extension with associated internal space – circulated August. The Parish Council has no comments.

7877.1.2 CB/23/01771/VOC - 4 Westoning Manor, Manor Gardens - variation of condition number 3 of planning permission CB/21/01390/FULL (Erect a wooden gazebo). Variation sought to the height of the gazebo. Circulated August. The Parish Council has no comments.

7877.1.3 CB/23/02390/FULL - Sunnyside Farm, Toddington Road - demolition of existing storage, distribution and wholesale unit and construction of two storey office and workshop, parking and upgrades to existing road junctions. External areas to be retained for plant and materials storage – circulated August. The Parish Council has no comments.

7877.1.4 CB/23/01948/FULL – 16 High Street – two storey rear extension and demolition of existing outbuilding – revised plans – circulated August. The Parish Council has no comments.

7877.1.5 CB/23/02184/FULL – Park Farm, Park Road – change of use of land and formation of a menage with surrounding fence and gate – circulated August. There has been suggestion that the planning application may be different to what is being built. The Clerk to contact Enforcement for them to check on this. (**Action Clerk**)

7877.2 Other Planning Matters:

7877.2.1 Solar Farm

Nothing to report.

7877.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road – street naming for consideration

The Parish Council suggested that the developer selects names based on indigenous flora and fauna to the area. As the fields were once covered in poppies over the summer, a name to consider could be Poppy Fields, Poppy Drive etc

7877.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

Nothing to report.

**7878 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

No reports were given.

**7879 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7880 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 11th October 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

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