

**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 Monday 9th November 2022 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall, Westoning**

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

Cllr P Kelly, Cllr E Bhasin, Cllr C Luff, Cllr N McLoughlin

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

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7717 Apologies for absence** – Cllr E Russell, CBC Cllr J Jamieson

7717.1 Co-option

The Chairman proposed that Mrs Natasha McLoughlin be co-opted onto the Council as a Parish Councillor, this was seconded by Cllr Ellis. The co-option was agreed. Cllr McLoughlin signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office. The Clerk to send a copy of the Good Councillors Guide to Cllr McLoughlin. (**Action Clerk**)

7717.2 Cllr Vacancy

The Chairman reported that Cllr Botterell had resigned. The Parish Council wished him well for the future. The Clerk said that she had informed CBC and the vacancy notice has been put on the noticeboard.

**7718 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2022 were approved. Cllr Nethersole proposed, seconded by Cllr Russell the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**7719 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Kelly finance Point 7724.2

**7720 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7721 Chairman’s actions**

The Chairman said that he inspected Newlands Footpath following a complaint. See Point 7725.3

**7722 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson was not present but he sent a short report concerning Westview Farm, see Point

7729.2.3.

**7723 Public Participation**

A resident spoke about their concerns regarding the firework display held by the Recreation Club on the Recreation Ground. They alleged that someone was hit by a firework and questioned whether the Club carried out a risk assessment and whether the Parish Council are responsible as the land owners. See Point 7726.3

A resident reported their concern that non-members and underage people are allegedly going into the Recreation Club. The Chairman to raise the point with the Recreation Club. (**Action Chairman**)

Cllr Nethersole said that a banner advertising the firework event was placed by the Christmas Tree enclosure. She asked for it to be removed but it remained there.

**7724 Finance**

7724.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 43,387.52 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,780.80 |
| **TOTAL** | 110,168.32 |

7724.2 Cllr Ellis proposed, seconded by Cllr Nethersole the approval of the following payments, agreed by all present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000687 | Clerk – salary | 512.14 |
| 000687 | Clerk – expenses | 40.09 |
| 000688 | HMRC – Clerk tax | 4.00 |
| 000689 | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000690 | D J Granger – play area/village/cemetery Inv 023057 | 438.00 |
| 000690 | D J Granger – playing field Inv 023082 | 192.00 |
| 000690 | D J Granger – playing field Inv 023108 | 192.00 |
| 000690 | D J Granger – playing field, village, play area, cemetery Inv 023121 | 630.00 |
| 000691 | Anglian Water – water bill | 116.35 |
| 000692 | P Kelly – Christmas Event expenses | 334.78 |
| 000693 | Westoning Village Hall – hall hire Nov | 19.50 |
| 000694 | Mr Frith – planters | 40.00 |
| 000695 | Royal British Legion – wreath | 20.00 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **2,813.86** |

7724.3 Other finance matters:

7724.3.1 Budget/Precept 2023/24

A meeting to be held on Wednesday 23rd November at 7.30pm via zoom. The zoom login to be circulated nearer the time. The Clerk to circulate the draft budget prior to the meeting. (**Action Clerk**)

7724.3.2 RBL Donation

The Parish Council agreed to a £100 donation. The Clerk to add it to the December payments. (**Action Clerk**)

**7725 Highways**

7725.1 Highways Issues

Nothing to report.

7725.2 Footpath Number 7

Cllr Nethersole said that she corresponded with Michelle Flynn, the Rights of Way Officer. It is believed that the footpath belongs to the original developer but the only way to confirm this is to contact Land Registry. It was agreed to speak to the volunteer group in Flitwick to see if they are able to cut back and tidy the area including any vegetation that sits proud of the boundary fences. Cllr Nethersole said that she will report back at the next meeting.

(**Action Cllr Nethersole**)

7725.3 Newlands Footpath

Following a report from a resident that they sprained and bruised their ankle due to the uneven footpath, the Chairman said that he inspected the Newlands Footpath and there are some repairs that need undertaking. It is unclear who has legal ownership of the footpath but it should be safe for people to use. The Parish Council agreed that as an act of goodwill, they will arrange for the holes in the footpath to be filled and weeds sprayed. The Chairman to respond to the resident and arrange for the work to be done. (**Action Chairman**)

**7726 Recreation Ground**

7726.1 Recreation Club Licence

The Chairman said that he will be meeting the Recreation Club Chairman, Derek Geraghty shortly to discuss the licence.

7726.2 Recreation Club bin collections cost/school bin

The Chairman said that he is still to ascertain the cost to the Recreation Club of bin collections. The Clerk said that the school responded that their bin cannot be used by the Village Warden as it is usually full to capacity but this will be looked at by the School Goverenors as the rubbish collected benefits the school.

7726.3 Fireworks Event

Following concern from a member of the public regarding the firework event held on the Recreation Ground, the Chairman said that licensing is not a matter for the Parish Council. The Recreation Club lease the land from the Parish Council and organize events themselves and are responsible for them. The Chairman said that he will ask the Recreation Club for a full written report about what occurred at the event and what steps were taken beforehand to ensure the event was safe. (**Action Chairman**)

**7727 Village Matters**

7727.1 Christmas Event

Cllr Kelly gave an update:  
-The event will start at 4pm on Sunday 27th November  
-Toddington Town Band will play Christmas carols

-Tree lights switch on at 4.45pm by Santa Claus and the elves to hand out chocolate coins

-Prizes given for the Cupcake and Bauble Competitions, flyer to be sent to the school

-Cupcake Competition to be judged by Cllr Nethersole and 1 other

-WI to judge the Bauble Competition

-Tree lights to be ordered by Cllr Kelly

-Additional lights to be put on the clock tower

-PA system to be organised

-Mulled wine, mince pies and hot chocolate to be offered from the Chequers Pub

-The PTA to organise a craft stall

-PC craft stall if this can be manned

-Food Bank collection

-Popcorn machine

-Generator – the Chairman offered the use of his generator, transportation to be organised

-Transformer hire

Cllr Kelly was thanked for his work on the event.

7727.2 Rural Match Fund Scheme – kerb in Church Road

The Clerk to ask CBC Cllr Jamieson to look into this. (**Action Clerk**)

7727.3 Flower Planters and Plaques

Cllr Ellis reported that a plaque will cost in the region of £95 and can include all the wording as supplied by one of the planter sponsors. This was accepted by the Parish Council.

7727.4 Burial Ground

The Chairman to draft a letter to the diocese and to contact Reverend Washington. He said that there are some possible pieces of land in the village, one of which was offered by a resident but this is not large enough for a burial ground, the Chairman to respond to the resident. (**Action Chairman**)

7727.5 Allotments

Cllr Ellis said that the quote for installing new fencing was cost prohibitive at over £7,000. It was suggested that the damage to crops may be done by badgers and not deer. The Clerk to inform the Allotment Association that the Parish Council are unable to help with any measures at this stage. (**Action Clerk**)

7727.2 Grass cutting – current schedule/schedule for next season

The Chairman said that the Contractor is within the agreed number of 15/16 cuts this year but he will mention to him the frequency of cuts that took place during the dry weather.

The Parish Council agreed that the Recreation Club should make a request to the Clerk who will contact the Grass Cutting Contractor when the Recreation Ground needs cutting. This will ensure that invoices can be verified and authorised as correct. (**Action Clerk**)

The Clerk to draw up a schedule/policy for grass cutting for the 2023 season for approval and distribution to the Contractor. (**Action Clerk**)

**7728 Play Area**

7728.1 Picnic Bench x 2

The Chairman to order the benches in February 2023 at £400 each. (**Action Chairman**)

7728.2 Area under gate replacement

Cllr Ellis said that the work has been done with no cost. The person who did the work to be thanked on behalf of the Parish Council.

7728.3 Play Area inspections – frequency

Cllr Ellis agreed to clarify when future inspections will take place as well as the annual inspection. (**Action Cllr Ellis**)

**7729 Planning**

7729.1 Planning Applications:

7729.1.1 CB/22/04080/FULL – 7 Manor Park Drive – rear extension to the existing double garage with the creation of a roof terrace and balustrading above.

The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7729.1.2 CB/22/04043/FULL – Land north of Clayhill Farm, Greenfield Road – erection of two storey detached dwellinghouse with associated landscaping and car parking. The Parish Council has no objection to the application providing it is a dwellinghouse for settling agricultural workers.

7729.2 Other Planning Matters:

7729.2.1 Solar Farm

Nothing to report.

7729.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road

Nothing to report.

7729.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

CBC Cllr Jamieson has reported that the likely number of dwellings will be reduced below 99 closer to 85. The development will be around 480m away from the Recreation Ground making it just outside the recommended walk time catchment for play provision. Therefore the development should be making its own provision for children’s play onsite.

**7730 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

Westoning Charity – vouchers of £50 will be given out this year.

**7731 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7732 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 14th December at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

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