

**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 9th December 2020 at 7.30pm**

**by Zoom video conferencing**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A Rayment (Chairman), E Bhasin, R Botterell, P Ellis, C Luff,

J Nethersole, B Rogerson, E Russell, CBC Cllr J Jamieson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Barker (Clerk), 1 member of the public was present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7369 Apologies for absence** – Cllr E Leftly

7369.1 Councillor vacancy

The Clerk reported that the vacancy notice has been placed on the noticeboard and that the Parish Council should be able to co-opt at the January meeting.

**7370 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2020 were approved. Cllr Russell proposed, seconded by Cllr Nethersole the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and to be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting in person.

**7371 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Rayment - finance Point 7375.2

Cllr Botterell – finance Point 7375.2

**7372 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7373 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson gave an update on Covid-19. He said that cases have increased locally recently as well as nationally. The Local Plan hearing has commenced. CBC will be publishing their draft budget shortly. The sector is expected to receive better than expected funding from Government but it is not as much as is needed.

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that he will be standing down as leader of Central Beds Council from January but he will remain as a local Councillor. He explained that he had always intended to make way for a new leader ahead of the next elections.

7373.1 S106 funding opportunity

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that CBC is able to provide funding to organisations wanting to carry out a range of projects around Ampthill and Flitwick, as a result of securing contributions (planning obligations) from two major development sites. The funding is expected to fund improvements to the physical green infrastructure network, new outdoor sports facilities and/or major refurbishment works to outdoor sports facilities. The value of projects supported should be £25,000 or more. In general, CBC would not expect to fully fund projects; the level of match funding will be part of the project evaluation process. The deadline for applications is 5th March 2021. The Parish Council agreed to consider schemes to put forward.

**7374 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**7375 Finance**

7375.1 Bank balances and finance report:

The Clerk circulated the finance report prior to the meeting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 24,068.31 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,319.73 |
| **TOTAL** | 90,388.04 |

7375.2 Cllr Ellis proposed, seconded by Cllr Rogerson approval of the following payments, agreed by all:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque Number** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000417 | Clerk – salary | 481.45 |
| 000417 | Clerk – expenses | 42.45 |
| 000418 | HMRC – Clerks tax | 1.80 |
| 000419 | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000420 | Westoning Village Hall – storage invoice | 60.00 |
| 000421 | Fidelity Solutions Ltd – Banners | 210.00 |
| 000422 | Jet Electrical – James Taylor – installation of lights | 150.00 |
| 000423 | A Rayment – reimburse for printing | 200.00 |
| 000424 | R Botterell – reimburse cherry picker/lights install | 180.00 |
|  | **TOTAL** | 1,600.70 |

7375.3 Other finance matters:

7375.3.1 TSB - Mandate change

The Clerk said that the mandate change has now been completed for the Community Account but the Instant Access Account has not been updated. She said that she has asked the TSB in Barton to look into it. The Clerk said that she has applied for online banking approval.

7375.3.2 Funding request – Village Hall

The Clerk read out a request for funding from the Village Hall Committee. The plans to build a new entrance and toilets, including disabled toilet, to the front of the village hall are well advanced and sufficient funding has been secured to meet the original estimate of the cost. The Committee have decided to take this opportunity to move the point where electricity enters the building to make the meter and consumer unit more accessible and also to upgrade the supply to 3phase rather than the domestic single phase. The present supply is nearing capacity. The work necessary to install a 3phase electricity supply, new meter, consumer unit and associated wiring will cost approximately £14,000 (of which £11,000 is to UK Power Networks for a cable and trench from the supply by The Gables). The village hall committee feel this upgrade is essential to meet future demand. The Trustees would therefore like to request funding towards the cost of this work. The Parish Council resolved that they would like to supply funding to help with the upgrade to the electrical supply of £2,500. The amount to be added to the grant budget for 2021/22. (**Action Clerk**)

7375.3.3 Lighting upgrade – phase 3 quotation

The Clerk confirmed that the Contractor, Andy Muskett, has supplied a quote of £2,480.85 plus VAT to install LED lanterns including rewire and disposal of the old lanterns for the 9 remaining street lights in the Village. Cllr Botterell proposed, seconded by Cllr Bhasin to accept the quote and the work to be undertaken in the current financial year on condition that that this can be provided for the in current budget, agreed by all. The Clerk to check the budget and inform Andy Muskett. (**Action Clerk**)

7375.3.4 Budget and Precept 2021/22

Cllr Botterell proposed, seconded by Cllr Bhasin to approve regular expenditure of £39,148.98 and a precept of £42,852.00 for 2021/22, agreed by all present. This amounts to a 2.5% increase on the Parish Council element of the council tax bill for 2021/22. The Clerk to return the precept request form to Central Beds Council. The approved budget to be placed on the website and attached to the minutes. (**Action Clerk**)

**7376 Highways**

7376.1 Village Walk

The Chairman said that the next walk should be held late April/early May 2021.

7376.2 Zebra Crossing

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that the item should be on the next Traffic Management Committee in January and he will confirm the date.

7376.3 Layby opposite Chequers

Cllr Nethersole said that the vehicle reported as parking in the layby is not parked there every night. To be monitored. Remove from the agenda.

7376.4 Bus Stop – Flitwick Road

The Chairman said that CBC arranged for improvements to the bus stop on Flitwick Road.

The bollards and re-surfacing of the pavement have been done well but unfortunately the reinstatement of the grass verges has not been done so well and it may be best to leave the verges as they are until early Spring so that the seed then has a better chance to germinate. He said that he has asked CBC to diarise the work for next March/April.

7376.5 Flooding issue

The Chairman said that he met with Terry McAlpine from CBC. From the investigation carried out on 13th November of the field and tennis courts owned by the Parish Council, it would not seem likely that water is flowing from the field or tennis courts into gardens. Mr McAlpine will be suggesting to residents that it is ground water causing the problems. If this is proven wrong then tests may have to be undertaken to further the investigation and he will be asking residents to provide more evidence of the source of the flooding. Remove from the agenda.

**7377 Recreation Ground**

7377.1 Registration of Westoning Recreation Ground with Land Registry

Nothing to report.

7377.2 Recreation Ground – quote for grass cutting

The Clerk reported that the quote from David Granger, the grass cutting contractor, was £158 plus VAT to cut the grass on the Recreation Ground providing it is done at the same time as the rest of the village. The Chairman to speak to the Chairman of the Recreation Club, Derek Geraghty to find out what they were charged. (**Action Chairman**)

**7378 Village Matters**

7378.1 Community Christmas Event

Cllr Bhasin said that a lot of residents have decorated the outside of their houses for the competition. The competition closes on 13th December. The 10 best houses will be chosen and then judged by Cllr Nethersole, CBC Cllr Jamieson and Reverend Washington. Criteria to be drawn up. Cllr Bhasin said that a registration form needs to be drawn up for those entering the competition next year. It was suggested that the ‘best street’ could be included. The bauble competition went well and there were six winners. The Chairman said that there was a very positive response to the lights on the clocktower and he suggested extending the lights next year. The Chairman thanked all those involved.

7378.1.1 Storage of equipment in the Village Hall

Cllr Botterell said that the Village Hall Committee have said that the cost of using half the cupboard is £60 and there may be an increase if the Parish Council need to use the whole cupboard. The Clerk was asked not to send the cheque yet.

* 1. Youth Facilities/Club

Review when circumstances permit.

7378.3 Noticeboard

Nothing to report.

7378.4 Flagpole

Cllr Bhasin said that the school will submit some drawings in January.

7378.5 Flower Planters

Nothing to report.

7378.6 Rock Snake

Cllr Rogerson said that a new head has been supplied. The stones are ready to be put in place on the wall by the noticeboard. A notice to be put on the wall ‘please do not climb’.

7378.7 Dog bin

The dog bin is in place.

7378.8 Westoning School – replanting of trees

Cllr Bhasin said that the School Governors would like clarification as to whether they need to replant the trees in the area where the Cherry Trees were removed. The Parish Council agreed that they would like trees replanted and these can be obtained free from the Woodland Trust. Cllr Bhasin to inform the School. (**Action Cllr Bhasin**)

7378.9 London Luton Airport – consultation

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that CBC has responded asking for more consultations to be undertaken. Cllr Botterell to draw up a response to the consultation.

(**Action Cllr Botterell**)

7378.10 Active Travel Charter

Cllr Ellis said that he reviewed the Charter and also emailed Flitwick for the Future and asked what they would like the Parish Council to do. He said that some of the items mentioned in the document are already being looked at by the Parish Council such as path widening and the crossing on the High Street but the Parish Council are bound by CBC as to what can be done. He said he is awaiting a response.

7378.11 Covid-19 – updates

Cllr Nethersole said that Westoning Cares is still undertaking shopping for those who need it. A lunch is provided by the Chequers every Thursday free of charge. A Christmas parcel was delivered to some households last week and this was much appreciated.

7378.12 Triangle

The Chairman said that the area is fenced off, is full of grass and needs preparing for planting in March. The cost will be in the region of £300/350 including plants. The Parish Council resolved to accept the cost.

**7379 Play Area**

7379.1 Safety Surface replacement

Cllr Ellis said that he has reviewed the last play area inspection report and he does not think that the safety surface needs replacing at the moment. He suggested replacing the base instead with a concrete foundation to put the tiles on. He said he will obtain a quote. Cllr Ellis said that he needs some additional no dog signs and it was resolved that Cllr Ellis purchase 10 signs at a cost of £9.72 each. (**Action Cllr Ellis**)

**7380 Planning**

7380.1 Planning Applications:

There were no planning applications

7380.2 Other Planning Matters:

7380.2.1 Appeal - CB/20/02581/FULL – Land at Bryson Close

Noted by the Parish Council. The Clerk was asked to send the Parish Council’s objection comments to the Planning Inspectorate.

(**Action Clerk**)

**7381 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives - Reports**

Cllr Ellis said that the Charity has given out the Christmas vouchers this year.

**7382 General correspondence:**

Royal British Legion – The Parish Council resolved to give a donation of £100. The Clerk to add this to the payments in January. (**Action Clerk**)

**7383 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Village Hall, Westoning or via Zoom**

The meeting closed at 9.20pm

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