

**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 March 2024 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall, Westoning**

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

Cllr E Russell, Cllr B Rogerson, Cllr P Kelly, Cllr Y Omishore, Cllr A Rayment,

CBC Cllr J Jamieson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Barker – Clerk

4 members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7958 Apologies for absence** – Cllr N McLoughlin

**Absent** – no apologies given – None

**7959 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2024 were approved. Cllr Luff proposed, seconded by Cllr Rogerson the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**7960 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Nethersole – finance Point 7964.2

Cllr Rogerson – Planning Point 7969.1.1

**7961 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7962 Public Participation**

A member of the public who is also a member of the WI spoke about the need for a defibrillator outside of the Village Hall as there is currently only one device which is located on the clock tower. A second defibrillator would provide better coverage across the village. Grants are available but have to be match funded. The initial outlay would be £1,500 and then an annual fee for replacing parts. The resident said that she would be happy to coordinate the purchase and then the ongoing checks of the system as well as approaching other village organisations to ask for donations to purchase the equipment. The Spensley Trust have agreed to pay for the electrical installation. See Point 7967.4.2.

A resident spoke about their planning application CB/24/00288/FULL – The Birches. They said that the reason for the application is that their current house is too big now and as they want to stay in the village they would like to build a new house in their garden. They have been unable to find a house elsewhere that suits their needs. The resident said that they have spent a lot of time with the Designers in order to ensure the proposed house is acceptable to neighbouring properties. They have also kept as many trees in place as possible to ensure the application is environmentally and locally acceptable. The resident said that they decided not to sell their property to a developer as this would not be in the interests of the village.

A resident spoke about the flooding in the field by Home Farm Way. The field drains onto the adjacent gardens instead of into the drainage ditch. The resident said that when the riding school was set up they believe that no drainage was put in. Also they believe that the building on the field will cause more flooding. The floodwater will cause damage and destruction to property and is obstructing footpaths.

A member of the public asked about the accountability of the Recreation Club. The Parish Council confirmed that the Parish Council own the building used by the Recreation Club and the Recreation Ground and that the Recreation Club lease the building from the Parish Council and this includes certain obligations. A new licence is currently being drawn up.

**7963 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson gave a report:

-flooding – the drain at Home Farm Way has been looked at again. The ditch is not draining and the landowner has been asked to do some work on their ditches. It is believed that the pipe under the gardens in Home Farm Way is flowing but the ditch at the end is blocked and causing water to flow backwards.

-the grass verge off the A5120 reported last month as being driven over can be planted with trees. CBC are looking at this.

-a meeting will be held with Highways in the village on 19th March to identify any issues.

**7964 Finance**

7964.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 56,025.74 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 67,688.17 |
| **TOTAL** | 123,713.91 |

7964.2 Cllr Bhasin proposed, seconded by Cllr Rogerson the approval of the following payments, agreed by all Cllrs present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
| Transfer | Clerk – salary March | 547.07 |
| Transfer | Clerk – expenses March | 43.30 |
| Chq | HMRC – Clerk tax | 7.60 |
| Transfer | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| Debit | Wix – website renewal | 120.46 |
| Transfer | Westoning Village Hall – hire Jan | 19.50 |
| Transfer | Westoning Village Hall – hire March | 19.50 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – village Inv 024553 | 705.60 |
| Transfer | J Nethersole – vouchers | 200.00 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **1,938.03** |

7964.3 Other finance matters:

7964.3.1 Anesco Solar Farm £3,917.39 – payment received

Noted by the Parish Council

7964.3.2 Grass cutting contribution from CBC – awaiting payment

Noted by the Parish Council.

**7965 Highways**

7965.1 Footpaths/Highways Issues

* Layby on A5120 – to be discussed at the highways meeting on 19th March.
* Post Office parking – to be discussed at the highways meeting on 19th March.

**7966 Recreation Ground**

7966.1 Recreation Club Licence

Cllr Rayment said that he will make some amendments to the draft document and once the document is acceptable legal advice will need to be sought but there will be a cost for this service. The Clerk to investigate whether BATPC (Beds Association of Town and Parish Councils) can offer any advice regarding setting up a new licence.

(**Action Cllr Rayment/Clerk**)

The Parish Council were made aware that the Recreation Club AGM was the same evening as the Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council were disappointed that they had not been notified particularly as under the current lease a member of the Parish Council should have been invited. The Clerk was asked to write to the Recreation Club.

(**Action Clerk**)

7966.2 Youth Facility

Cllr Bhasin advised that the Recreation Club has provisionally agreed to the use of their function room for a youth facility dependant on days/time required and what facilities will be needed. The Parish Council agreed to review a 4 week trial and Cllr Omishore volunteered to plan, organise and liaise directly with the Recreation Club about how and when the event can take place. (**Action Cllr Omishore**)

7966.3 Dog fouling Bye-Law

The Parish Council agreed that the situation has improved and to monitor it. The legal route would cost a lot of money and introducing a bye-law would have to be policed. An annual reminder of the rules on the Recreation Ground to be included in one of the publications such as Westoning On Sunday.

7966.4 Recreation Ground use

The Chairman said that the Parish Council have been made aware that the Recreation Club have agreed to the use of the Recreation Ground for a summer school leavers party organised by parents and that the Club facilities will not be made available. The Parish Council agreed that they are unable to make a contribution to the event as this is not being held by a village organisation.

**7967 Village Matters**

7967.1 Burial Ground

Nothing to report.

  7967.2 Grass cutting/Contract

The Parish Council noted that there had been complaints regarding the recent cut of the Recreation Ground. It was reported that the Recreation Ground was too wet when it was cut and there were tyre marks on the field by the gates.  The cut was very patchy with some areas cut and other areas not.  The adult pitch was put out of action last weekend because of this. The Clerk said that she had emailed the Contractor, Mr Granger and he said that he was not informed that the field was in such a poor state. Some areas had not been cut as they were under water and if no cut had been made, the next cut would have been very difficult to do. As the field has been treated recently the grass grows extremely thick and if left uncut there will be piles of grass laying around. This has been an extremely wet start to the season and they try to stay on top of the grass areas they can maintain.

The Chairman said that a meeting has been arranged between the Parish Council, Recreation Club and the Football Club to discuss the ongoing cutting of the Recreation Ground. The Clerk to hold off sending out the grass cutting contract for the time being.

* 1. Planters

Cllr Rayment agreed to move the remaining planters to their locations. The Chairman said that she will ask Dycol if they would be willing to fill the planters with soil and how much this will cost. (**Action Chairman/Cllr Rayment**)

* 1. Defibrillator
     1. Training

The training can be held in the Village Hall if necessary. Nothing further to

report.

* + 1. New defibrillator

See public participation Point 7962. The Chairman suggested that village organisations that use the hall be asked to make a contribution towards the cost, 8 Cllrs agreed to this suggestion with 1 objection. The resident who raised the item agreed to speak to other village organisations regarding donations with any shortfall being covered by the Parish Council. This was resolved as agreed by the Parish Council.

* 1. Noticeboard damage

The Clerk said that she is in the process of completing the claim form.

7967.6 Flagpole

Cllr Kelly agreed to put the flagpole in place. (**Action Cllr Kelly**)

* 1. Clock Tower – doors repair

Cllr Ellis said that he has obtained 3 quotes so far and is awaiting a 4th. Birds are nesting at the moment so the work will have to wait. The cheapest quote was from Sean Jackson of £1,640. The Parish Council resolved to accept this cost and the work to be done in due course.

7967.8 Allotments

Cllr Ellis said that the invoices have not yet been sent out to the allotment holders. He is amending the allotment agreement and will circulate it. (**Action Cllr Ellis**)

* 1. Litter Pick

The litter pick date to be agreed for May.

7967.10 May Meetings – 8th May

Annual PC Meeting 7.00pm/Annual Meeting of Parish 8.00pm  
Invitations to be sent out for the Annual Meeting of the Parish with a copy of the last Annual Minutes. (**Action Clerk**)

**7968 Play Area**

Nothing to report.

**7969 Planning**

7969.1 Planning applications:

7969.1.1 CB/24/00288/FULL – The Birches, Church Road – erection of new dwelling and attached double carport. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7969.1.2 CB/24/00388/FULL – 3 Sanderson Road – first floor side extension, part garage conversion and pitched roof to front porch. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7969.1.3 CB/23/04127/RM - Land off Flitwick Road, Westoning - following Hybrid/Outline Application CB/21/05411/FULL (Hybrid Planning Application) – amendments. Noted by the Parish Council.

7969.2 Other Planning Matters:

7969.2.1 Solar Farm

Nothing to report.

7969.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road

Nothing to report.

7969.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

Nothing to report.

**7970 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

No reports were given.

**7971 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7972 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

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