

**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 14th October 2020 at 7.30pm**

**by Zoom video conferencing**

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

J Nethersole, B Rogerson, CBC Cllr J Jamieson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Barker (Clerk), no members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7340 Apologies for absence** – Cllr E Russell, Cllr C Luff

**7341 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2020 were approved. Cllr Botterell proposed, seconded by Cllr Marlow 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.

**7342 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Rayment - finance Point 7346.2

Cllr Leftly - planning Point 7350.1.1

**7343 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7344 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that Westoning Village Hall Committee were successful in being awarded the Community Asset Support Grant. There has been a sharp increase in positive covid tests. Anything the Parish Council can do to get the message across to stop the spread of the virus would be helpful. CBC has community champions to help reach hard to reach groups to spread awareness. The Government is now pushing for local testing and more targeted testing rather than those who have symptoms. The testing capacity should double by the end of the month.

7344.1 Zebra Crossing

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that CBC has issued a consultation to replace the current pelican crossing on the High Street with a zebra crossing. The current crossing is too old to maintain and needs replacing. CBC do not want to replace a like for like crossing due to the cost involved which could be in the region of £80,000 to replace the crossing as it currently is. They are looking for a cheaper alternative.

The Chairman said he has received details of the proposals including a map and notice and this has generated a lot of interest and opposition in the village. He said that he will put the details on the noticeboard. The Chairman said that he has been in contact with Member of Parliament, Nadine Dorries who supports the opposition.

The Parish Council agreed to oppose the proposal to replace the pelican crossing with a zebra crossing as strongly as possible. The Chairman agreed to draw up the objection for submission to CBC. It was agreed that this should be publicised with local media. Cllr Nethersole said that she will ask the Police for their support and it was suggested that residents, as individuals, should also object to CBC. The Parish Council agreed that they would like the current crossing to remain in place for as long as possible.

(**Action Chairman**)

**7345 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**7346 Finance**

7346.1 Bank balances and finance report:

The Clerk circulated the finance report prior to the meeting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 34,782.37 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,264.61 |
| **TOTAL** | 101,046.98 |

7346.2 Cllr Nethersole proposed, seconded by Cllr Ellis approval of the following payments, agreed by all:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque Number** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000397 | Neil Gates – noticeboard and tree trimming | 315.00 |
| 000398 | Clerk – salary | 481.45 |
| 000398 | Clerk – expenses | 101.46 |
| 000399 | HMRC – Clerks tax | 1.80 |
| 000400 | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000401 | D J Granger – grass cutting invoice 020894 | 402.94 |
| 000401 | D J Granger – grass cutting invoice 020954 | 402.94 |
| 000402 | Andy Muskett Ltd – light maintenance 2nd quarter | 186.00 |
| 000403 | Barbara Osborne – payroll and pension submission | 91.00 |
| 000404 | A Rayment – Land Registration fee | 30.00 |
| 000405 | E.on – electricity bill | 76.83 |
|  | **TOTAL** | 2,364.42 |

7346.3 Other finance matters:

7346.3.1 TSB - Mandate change form

The Clerk said that the mandate change has not yet been approved by the bank. The bank has again lost the mandate form and the Clerks copy ID but fortunately they took copies. The bank in Barton Le Clay agreed to send the copies to the branch that deal with mandate changes and this is now being processed.

Bank charges £5.00 per month

Pending..

7346.3.2 Budget and Precept 2021/22

The Clerk to liaise with the Chairman and draw up the draft budget. A finance meeting to be held on Monday 16th November at 7.30pm via zoom.

(**Action Clerk**)

**7347 Highways**

7347.1 Village Walk/Reports

The Chairman said that emails have been received reporting overgrowing vegetation. He said that he undertook a village walk with the Contractor, David Granger. A quote was supplied to cut the hedges either side of the High Street, cut and clear the vegetation side of the footpath from Sampshill Road to Spensley Road and cut the bushes and brambles on the grass verge side of the Village Hall next to footpath with a total cost including disposal of waste of £580 plus VAT.

A quote was also supplied to make good the ground around the Christmas tree area, supply 2 tons of good quality topsoil,1 Bag of grass seed, cultivate the area where the shrubs have been removed and clear the roots and stones at a total cost of £790 plus VAT.

The Clerk said that these costs could be allocated to the ‘general maintenance’ budget. Cllr Ellis proposed, seconded by Cllr Marlow to accept the quotes, agreed by all.

The Clerk was asked to contact CBC and request a dog bin at the junction of Home Farm Way and Church Road. (**Action Clerk**)

**7348 Village Matters**

7348.1 Community Christmas Event

Cllr Botterell said that the Christmas Committee is looking to illuminate the clock tower and he is awaiting a quote to fit lights to the clock tower. The Village will still have a Christmas tree with lights but there will be no switching-on event for the tree lights. The tree will be around 20ft and cost in the region of £400. The Chairman offered a tree from his paddock which was welcomed by the Parish Council. New lights are needed for the tree at circa £300 plus the use of a cherry picker and the cost of someone to put up and take down the lights. It is expected that the total cost will be around £1,000.

It is hoped that children in the village will once again make baubles to decorate the tree and prizes will be awarded for the best entry in each age group. To brighten up what has been a very difficult year residents are to be encouraged to decorate the fronts of their houses or the windows at the front of their house. Prizes will be awarded for the 3 most innovative and tasteful displays. Parents will be encouraged to walk their children around the village, observing the decorations and passing by the Christmas tree one evening in early December, observing social distancing and not forming a group of more than 6 persons.

Cllr Nethersole suggested that mince pies could be delivered to all households in the village.

Cllrs agreed that although this was a good idea it would be logistically difficult obtaining a large amount of boxes of mince pies, problems with deliveries and sell-by dates. It was therefore suggested that a number of boxes of mince pies be delivered to Westoning Charity for them to distribute.

Cllr Nethersole said that she will donate a hamper, champagne and wine towards the prizes and Cllr Bhasin said that she will donate the prizes for the bauble competition. Both Cllrs were thanked for their generosity.

The Chairman said that the Committee are doing a fantastic job and it will make the Village feel special after these very difficult times.

7348.1.1 Storage of equipment in the Village Hall

Nothing to report.

7348.2 Burial Ground

Remove from the agenda until further information is forthcoming regarding land registry.

7348.3 Recreation Ground

7348.3.1 Registration of Westoning Recreation Ground with Land Registry

The Chairman said that the application to register the land will be submitted shortly by a Solicitor who has offered her services free of charge. The Parish Council expressed their thanks.

7348.3.2 Recreation Ground and management options

The Chairman said that he met with members of the Recreation Club and Steve Maker from the Football Club to discuss the Recreation Ground. Work to the Ground including grass cutting is to be managed by the Parish Council and it was agreed that the Contractor, David Granger be asked to cut the grass. Bookings of the Recreation Ground and payments to be managed by the Recreation Club who will retain any revenue received. These arrangements to be reflected in the new lease.

The Chairman said that he met with David Granger and is awaiting a quote for 15/16 cuts of the Recreation Ground per year.

7348.3.3 Recreation Ground fence and gates

The Chairman said that the work will commence on 26th October. Cllr Nethersole said that she will obtain some cones from the Police to use to cordon off the area.

* 1. Youth Facilities/Club

Review when circumstances permit.

7348.5 Noticeboard

The Chairman said that the new noticeboard has been installed. There was some concern expressed regarding the back of the noticeboard which could be subject to damage in the future. It was agreed to ask a local artist to put a design, possibly a mosaic on the back.

(**Action Cllr Nethersole**)

7348.6 Clock Tower

Cllr Ellis said that the clock has been repaired.

7348.7 Flagpole

Cllr Bhasin agreed to draw up a proposal and liaise with the school. (**Action Cllr Bhasin**)

7348.8 Flower Planters

The Chairman said that he, Cllr Bhasin and a representative from CBC met to discuss the possible locations for the planters. The representative will confirm whether CBC has approved the proposal. There are potentially 17/18 locations with each planter costing £250 each. It was suggested that residents could be given the option to purchase a planter in commemoration of a loved one.

7348.9 Covid-19 – updates

Cllr Nethersole said that there are still some residents who require help with their shopping. The steering group will be holding a zoom meeting shortly.

7348.10 Speedwatch

Cllr Nethersole said that Speedwatch is on hold now until the Spring.

7348.11 Rock Snake

Cllr Rogerson agreed to take photos of the rock snake and carefully remove it for it to be moved elsewhere. A new head to be made. (**Action Cllr Rogerson**)

7348.12 Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman expressed the need to preserve the day as best as possible. This year the COVID-19 restrictions make it impossible to hold the Remembrance Sunday event at the Westoning War Memorial in the usual way. It is proposed to hold a short formal ceremony at the War Memorial at 12.00 noon on Sunday 8th November with just 6 people in attendance in line with current local and national guidance. To reduce the risk of transmission of the virus, the Parish Council is asking individuals and organisations in the village who would like to lay a wreath or cross at the memorial to do so between 9.00 am and 11.00 am that morning. At noon, Reverend Nigel Washington, the Parish Council Chairman, a British Legion representative and 3 other residents representing various village organisations and business operators will participate in a short, dignified, socially distanced service. These changes are both sensible and prudent and it is hoped that residents will respect these arrangements.

**7349 Play Area**

7349.1 Safety Surface replacement

Cllr Ellis said that he has obtained a quote from Wicksteeds of £5,300. Cllrs agreed that this seems very expensive and Cllr Ellis said that he will approach a local contractor for a quote.

(**Action Cllr Ellis**)

7349.2 Play Area Inspection Report

The report was noted.

**7350 Planning**

7350.1 Planning Applications:

7350.1.1 CB/20/03478/FULL – 1 The Balcony, High Street – two storey front extension. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7350.1.2 CB/20/03622/FULL – 30-32 High Street – single storey rear extensions to numbers 30 and 32 High Street. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7350.2 Other Planning Matters

7350.2.1 CB/20/02581 – Land at Bryson Close – one 2 bed dwelling with 2 car parking spaces and associated landscaping. Refused.

Noted by the Parish Council.

7350.2.2 Government White Paper (reform of planning) – consultation

The Clerk urged Cllrs to read through the Governments proposals for planning reform and agree a response by the Parish Council or submit a response individually.

**7351 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives - Reports**

There were no reports.

**7352 General correspondence:**

Th Clerk read out two emails regarding speeding vehicles and the potential issue of drug dealing in the Village. The Clerk was asked to inform the residents to contact the Police by ringing 101 or 01234 841212. It was also raised that vans and trucks are parking in the bus stop opposite the Chequers which is causing an obscured view. The Chairman said that he has written to CBC Cllr Jamieson regarding this issue.

**7353 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 11th November 2020 at 7.30pm**

**Village Hall, Westoning or via Zoom**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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