

**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 October 2024 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 N McLoughlin, Cllr Y Omishore, Cllr E Russell, Cllr A Rayment,

Cllr B Rogerson

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

7 members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**8049 Apologies for absence** – CBC Cllr J Jamieson

**Absent** (no apologies given) – None

**8050 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2024 were approved. Cllr Bhasin proposed, seconded by Cllr McLoughlin the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**8051 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Ellis – finance Point 8055.2

**8052 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**8053 Public Participation**

A resident spoke about their concern regarding the affordable housing being built on the new development and they were under the impression that these houses had been allocated to Luton Council and that people in the village cannot buy them. The Chairman said that this has been queried with CBC Cllr Jamieson. See Point 8054.

A resident spoke about the youth group currently run by the Church and suggested a possible joint youth group with the Church and the Parish Council.

A resident queried why the Parish Council have put up a flagpole and suggested purchasing a recyclable bench.

**8054 Reports and representations**

The Chairman read out a response from CBC Cllr Jamieson with regard to affordable housing on the new development. CBC Cllr Jamieson is not aware whether the affordable housing on the new development has been allocated to Luton Council. He said that CBC have been forced by Central Government to help other areas meet their housing needs, namely Luton, and he will make enquiries.

**8055 Finance**

8055.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 78,139.47 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 68,277.25 |
| **TOTAL** | 146,416.72 |

8055.2 Cllr Rogerson proposed, seconded by Cllr Bhasin the approval of the following payments, agreed by all Cllrs present. The Clerk to hold off payment of the Recreation Club room hire until who is paying this invoice is clarified:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
| Transfer | Clerk – salary Oct | 560.03 |
| Transfer | Clerk – expenses Oct | 43.30 |
| Chq | HMRC – Clerk tax | 16.80 |
| Transfer | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – Inv 025384 village grass | 571.20 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – Inv 025339 village grass | 571.20 |
| Transfer | J Dennis Garden Maint - cut Rec Ground – Inv 7 | 390.00 |
| Transfer | Mr Frith – planters/village tidying | 147.50 |
| Transfer | Westoning Village Hall – hire Oct | 19.50 |
| Transfer | Andy Muskett – Light Maintenance 2nd quarter | 130.20 |
| Transfer | Recreation Club – use of club bins (12 months) | 253.19 |
| Transfer | Recreation Club – use of room for defib training | 120.00 |
| Transfer | NPower – electricity bill | 285.83 |
| Transfer | Barbara Osborne – payroll July to Sept | 70.50 |
| Transfer | P Ellis – bedding plants | 19.20 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **3,473.45** |

8055.3 Other finance matters:

8055.3.1 Budget/Precept 2025/26

A meeting to be arranged in November to discuss the budget/precept for 2025/26.

8055.3.2 External audit completion

The Clerk confirmed that the external audit has been completed for 2023/24 and no issues were identified. The Clerk to place the completion certificate on the website. (**Action Clerk**)

**8056 Highways**

8056.1 Footpaths/Highways Issues

* Layby on A5120 – CBC Cllr Jamieson has suggested that the Parish Council carries out an informal consultation/survey and if there is strong support and no fundamental objections to the removal of the lay-by, then this could be put before the Traffic Management Committee.
* Footpath No 7 – The Chairman said that she met with the Flitwick volunteer group and they have agreed to clear the vegetation along the footpath. CBC will however, need to provide a vehicle to remove the rubbish.
* CBC free Salt Bag Scheme – the Clerk read out the annual offer of a free 1 tonne or half tonne salt bag from CBC with a maximum of 3 deliveries. The Clerk was asked to contact resident, Nick Edmondson to see if a bag can be delivered to him as done previously.

(**Action Clerk**)

**8057 Recreation Ground**

8057.1 Recreation Club Licence

Nothing to report.

8057.2 Youth Facility

Cllr Bhasin said that the Church runs a youth group and it would be good to consider running this alongside the Parish Council as suggested by a resident. The Church are also happy to discuss a possible Christmas event. The Chairman, Cllr Bhasin and Cllr McLoughlin are currently DBS checked and so will be able to help run the event if required. The Parish Council were in agreement to explore this option.

**8058 Village Matters**

8058.1 Burial Ground

Nothing to report.

* 1. Defibrillator training/new defibrillator

The Chairman confirmed that the new defibrillator is working. It will be relocated to the outside of the hall shortly. Cllr McLoughlin agreed to take responsibility for the new unit and the defibrillator at the Clock Tower and the ordering of supplies and replacement parts.

Cllr McLoughlin confirmed that 4 training sessions have been booked starting from 29th October, 7-9pm in the Recreation Club. The other dates are 5th November, 19th November and 3rd December. The sessions have been advertised on Facebook, Westoning Cares and in the School. The cost of the room hire will be paid for by the RLSS but the Parish Council may need to pay this and be re-imbursed. It is hoped that further sessions may be held after Christmas.

* 1. Noticeboard damage/New noticeboard

The Chairman said that the old noticeboard cannot be repaired so it was agreed to continue to use the board as it is.

Cllr Russell proposed, seconded by Cllr Rayment to purchase a new wall mounted noticeboard for outside the Village Shop, at a cost of £478 plus Vat, agreed by all present. The board to be delivered to Cllr Kelly at the Chequers in Westoning. Cllr Luff to send the details of the noticeboard to the Clerk for ordering. (**Action Cllr Luff/Clerk**)

8058.4 Allotments

Cllr Ellis said that he has sent out an email to allotment holders confirming that dogs must be kept on a short lead while on the allotments, the appropriate disposal of dog waste and also that cultivation on the plots must be at least one metre from the adjacent boundary.

Cllr Ellis agreed to respond to a resident concerning overgrown weeds on the adjacent allotment to her garden which is preventing her from bolting her gate. (**Action Cllr Ellis**)

8058.5 Christmas Event  
Cllr McLoughlin said that she has had a number of local organisations confirm their involvement including the Recreation Club, the PTA, the WI and Westoning Players. The Chequers have agreed to provide mulled wine and hot chocolate and there will be a van providing hot food. The Chairman agreed to obtain mince pies. Cllr Kelly said that Toddington Band are not available and he will look at other options. (**Action Cllr Kelly**)

8058.6 Bench on the Village Green

Options for the bench were discussed and it was agreed to re-visit the idea in February.

8058.7 Flitabus

Cllr Rogerson spoke about the valuable service that is provided by the Community Service called Flitabus. They provide reliable transport whether it is to the shops or to a medical appointment or social events and she asked if some funding could be provided by the Parish Council to the organisation towards the cost of a new bus. The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Rayment that a donation of £500 could be made to Flitabus but that they should write to the Parish Council to request funding. It was agreed that information be put in the forthcoming newsletter.

8058.8 Flagpole

Cllr Kelly to look at options for a 10m flagpole. Cllr Bhasin proposed, seconded by the Chairman to spend a maximum of £350 on a new flagpole, agreed by all present.

(**Action Cllr Kelly**)

8058.9 Westoning News

Cllrs to provide articles to Cllr Bhasin by Friday 18th October. Cllr Bhasin agreed to draft the newsletter and circulate prior to printing. (**Action Cllr Bhasin**)

8058.10 Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman, Cllr Ellis and Cllr Rogerson agreed to attend on behalf of the Parish Council. The Chairman said that a wreath has been arranged.

**8059** **Play Area**

Nothing to report.

**8060 Planning**

8060.1 Planning applications:

8060.1.1 CB/24/02708/FULL - The Nest, 34D Church Road - first floor front and side extension above existing garage. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

8060.1.2 CB/24/02791/FULL - Park Farm, Park Road - demolition of stables and erection of replacement stables, and the erection of a horse walker (Retrospective). The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

8060.2 Other Planning Matters:

8060.2.1 Solar Farm

Nothing to report.

8060.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road

Nothing to report.

8060.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

Nothing to report.

**8061 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

Village Charity – Cllr Ellis said that the Charity has agreed to provide funding of £500 to the Youth

Group and up to £10,000 to the Spensley Trust towards a new meeting room in the Village Hall.

**8062 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**8063 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

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