

**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 8th November 2023 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 E Russell, Cllr A Rayment, Cllr N McLoughlin, Cllr B Rogerson

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

1 member of the public was present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7896 Apologies for absence** – CBC Cllr Jamieson, Cllr Y Omishore

**7897 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2023 were approved. Cllr Luff proposed, seconded by Cllr Bhasin the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**7898 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Kelly – Finance Point 7902.2

Cllr Rayment – Finance Point 7902.2

**7899 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7900 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**7901 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson was not present.

**7902 Finance**

7902.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 54,171.95 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 67,367.73 |
| **TOTAL** | 121,539.68 |

7902.2 Cllr Ellis proposed, seconded by the Chairman the approval of the following payments, agreed by all Cllrs present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
| Transfer | Clerk – salary November | 547.07 |
| Transfer | Clerk – expenses November | 40.09 |
| Chq 784 | HMRC – Clerk tax | 7.60 |
| Transfer | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – field Inv 024277 | 201.60 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – village/field Inv 024303 | 661.50 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – tree work Inv 024351 | 492.00 |
| Transfer | P Kelly – flyers and leaflets for Christmas event | 97.25 |
| Transfer | Westoning Village Hall – hall hire | 19.50 |
| Transfer | Anglian Water – water bill Aug to Nov | 26.42 |
| Transfer | Mr Frith – planters etc | 327.99 |
| Transfer | A Rayment – wreath | 20.00 |
| Transfer | Dycol – removal and planting of new tree | 108.00 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **2,823.92** |

7902.3 Other finance matters:

7902.3.1 Budget/Precept 2024/25

A finance meeting to be held on Wednesday 6th December at 10.00am in Westoning. The Clerk to draw up a draft budget for circulation prior to the meeting. (**Action Clerk**)

7902.3.2 CBC Cllr Grant Scheme

The Clerk confirmed that CBC cannot make a contribution towards the Christmas tea event as meals are not eligible. The Clerk to approach CBC Cllr Jamieson with the suggestion of contributing towards the soil and plants for the planters. (**Action Clerk**)

**7903 Highways**

7903.1 Footpaths/Highways Issues

* Layby on A5120 – CBC Cllr Jamieson is looking into the issue of the van and trailer being parked in the layby.
* Drains – the Clerk to report blocked drains outside 45 Church Road, outside of the Cemetery and outside of the Village Hall (opposite the Pound). (**Action Clerk**)

**7904 Recreation Ground**

7904.1 Recreation Club Licence

Cllr Rayment advised that the draft agreement will be re-circulated and reviewed at the next meeting. (**Action Cllr Rayment**)

7904.2 Dogs fouling on the Recreation Ground/Bye-Law

The Clerk said that CBC Cllr Jamieson will be looking into a bye-law or an alternative and will feed this back to the Parish Council. He sent some information regarding dog control orders which was circulated and will be put on the website. A summary of the information:

* If walking a dog, it must be kept on a lead (it is an offence not to). This should be no longer than 2 metres and on land covered by a dog order which includes cemeteries, marked sports pitches, A and B roads, adjoining footpaths and verges. It can also apply to some car parks, picnic sites and sensitive wildlife areas. It is an offence to allow a dog to enter an exclusion area including enclosed children’s play areas, closed multi-use games areas and designated education areas.
* The fine for committing an offence contained in a dog order is a maximum of £1,000 and a fixed penalty notice of £100 may be offered in place of prosecution
* To report a breach of dog control order telephone 0300 300 8302 or email [customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

**(Action Clerk)**

**7905 Village Matters**

7905.1 Burial Ground

The Chairman said that she will invite the landowner of Westview Farm to the December meeting. (**Action Chairman**)

  7905.2 Grass cutting

The Clerk circulated the draft contract to the Chairman and Cllr Bhasin. The Chairman and Cllr Bhasin to confirm any amendments. (**Action Chairman/Cllr Bhasin/Clerk**)

7905.3 Christmas Events

* Afternoon tea: Cllr Bhasin said that there are 65 confirmations so far. There are some people attending with allergies which needs to be taken into account.
* Christmas light event – Cllr Kelly said that the lights have been organised. The PA system and tombola prizes to be organised and the Christmas tree delivery to be confirmed. The Parish Council agreed that any money raised will be given to a Charity.
  1. Planters/Oak Tree
     1. Planters

Cllr Rayment to organise the purchase of soil in the Spring.

(**Action Cllr Rayment**)

7905.4.2 Oak Tree

Dycol have planted the new tree. The Clerk to pay their invoice of £90 plus VAT once received. (**Action Clerk**)

* + 1. Dead Tree

The Clerk said that the grass cutting Contractor reported a dead tree on the corner of Bunyan Road/Sampshill Road and asked whether the Parish Council would like this removed. The Clerk to circulate pictures of the tree to all Cllrs for consideration. (**Action Clerk**)

7905.5 Defibrillator Training

The training to be held after Christmas, date to be confirmed.

* 1. Noticeboard

The Chairman reported that the noticeboard has been damaged again and one of the doors has been deliberately ripped off. Cllrs discussed possible action to be taken. The Clerk was asked to confirm the original manufacturer so that the Chairman could make contact to see if they can repair it. (**Action Chairman/Clerk**)

**7906 Play Area**

Wicksteed will be carrying out an inspection on 21st December.

**7907 Planning**

7907.1 Planning applications:

7907.1.1 CB/23/03453/FULL - 9 Lovett Green, Westoning - new Orangery replacing existing Conservatory. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7907.2 Other Planning Matters:

7907.2.1 Solar Farm

Nothing to report.

7907.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road

Cllr Bhasin said that the gates to the land were left open and this was an oversight by the developer and they have now been closed.

7907.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

Nothing to report.

7907.2.4 CB/23/02184/FULL – Park Farm, Park Road – change of use of land and

formation of a menage with surrounding fence and gate.

No further action, remove from the agenda.

7907.2.5 Chestnuts Caravan Park – siting of 4 additional caravan plots. Appeal dismissed. Noted by the Parish Council.

**7908 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

Charity - Cllr Ellis said that £50 vouchers were given out to the residents over 75 years of age.

**7909 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7910 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

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