

**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 10th April 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

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

0 members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7973 Apologies for absence** – Cllr N McLoughlin, Cllr Y Omishore, Cllr A Rayment, CBC Cllr J Jamieson

**Absent** – no apologies given – None

**7974 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2024 to be re-circulated.

**7975 Declaration of interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**7976 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7977 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**7978 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson was not present.

**7979 Finance**

7979.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 58,292.01 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 67,768.08 |
| **TOTAL** | 126,060.09 |

7979.2 Cllr Luff proposed, seconded by Cllr Bhasin the approval of the following payments, agreed by all Cllrs present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
| Transfer | Clerk – salary April | 547.07 |
| Transfer | Clerk – expenses April | 56.90 |
| Chq | HMRC – Clerk tax | 7.60 |
| Transfer | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| Transfer | B Osborne – payroll/pension submission | 94.00 |
| Transfer | Andy Muskett – light maintenance Jan – March | 130.20 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – Invoice 024614 | 492.00 |
| Transfer | D J Granger – Invoice 024657 | 492.00 |
| Transfer | J Dennis Garden Maint - cut Rec Ground – Inv 1 | 390.00 |
| Transfer | Zurich – insurance | 1,642.09 |
| Transfer | NPower – electricity bill Jan to March | 373.62 |
| Transfer | S Hicks – cutting of brambles Rec Ground | 170.00 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **4,670.48** |

7979.3 Other finance matters:

7979.3.1 Grass cutting contribution from CBC – payment received £734.31

Noted by the Parish Council.

7979.3.2 Annual Audit of Accounts

The Clerk said that she will be completing the year end accounts over the coming weeks which will need to be approved by the Parish Council in May/June. The Internal Audit is booked for 13th May, remotely.

**7980 Highways**

7980.1 Footpaths/Highways Issues

The Chairman said that she and Cllr Bhasin met with Highways to discuss local issues. The meeting was brief. If additional yellow road lines are required, this will need to undergo public consultation.

* Layby on A5120 – nothing to report
* Post Office parking – the Chairman said that she spoke to the shop owner about options. It was suggested that bollards be put in parallel to the road to stop inappropriate parking. The Chairman to email CBC Cllr Jamieson. (**Action Chairman**)

**7981 Recreation Ground**

7981.1 Recreation Club Licence

Nothing to report.

7981.2 Youth Facility

Cllr Omishore to provide feedback at the next meeting.

7981.3 Cutting of the Recreation Ground grass and bushes around football pitch

The Chairman confirmed that she met with the Recreation Club and Football Club with Cllr Bhasin and the Clerk. The following was agreed:

* Julian Dennis will be the new Contractor to cut the Recreation Ground grass for 2024
* The Recreation Club/Football Club to take on responsibility for organising the grass cutting of the Recreation Ground
* The Parish Council will pay for the grass cutting of the Recreation Ground
* The grass cutting to be done from 1st March to 31st October
* A maximum of 20 cuts of the Recreation Ground grass from March to October dependant on ground conditions, ie; too dry or wet to cut.  Any additional cuts required either during the cutting season from March to October or outside of those months due to unexpected growth of the grass, to be notified to the Parish Council for approval
* The cutting schedule to consist of: March and April – 2 cuts each month, May, June, July and August  – 3 cuts each month, September and October – 2 cuts each month

The Clerk confirmed that it was agreed that the bushes around the football pitch be cut back at a cost of £170. The Parish Council resolved to accept this cost.

The Chairman confirmed that the Recreation Club did not advertise their AGM but will ensure that the Parish Council are invited in future.

7981.4 Recreation Club Accounts – circulated

The Parish Council noted receipt of the accounts. Cllrs raised some queries which the Chairman will raise with the Recreation Club. (**Action Chairman**)

**7982 Village Matters**

7982.1 Burial Ground

The Chairman agreed to make contact with the new Vicar to discuss whether the Church could reconsider how the current churchyard is used.

  7982.2 Grass Cutting/Contract

The Clerk said that she has informed Mr Granger, the grass cutting contractor, that he will continue to cut the village grass only. The Clerk to draw up two Contracts, one for the Village grass cutting and the other for the Recreation Ground. (**Action Clerk**)

* 1. Planters/Plaque

The Clerk confirmed that Cllr Bhasin has sponsored a planter and paid £200 to the Parish Council. The wording for the planter plaque to be forwarded to Cllr Ellis. (**Action Clerk**)

The Chairman said that Dycol filled the planters with soil free of charge. The Parish Council agreed to provide some biscuits/chocolates to Dycol as a thankyou as they have carried out numerous jobs for the village without charge and this is much appreciated. The Chairman said that she will ask them if they can remove the Christmas Tree. It was suggested that a plaque be placed on one of the planters as a thankyou to Dycol, wording to be agreed.

(**Action Chairman**)

* 1. Defibrillator training/new defibrillator

Nothing to report.

* 1. Noticeboard damage

The Clerk said that the claim has been logged by the Insurers and she is awaiting further feedback.

* 1. Clock Tower – doors repair

Cllr Ellis said that the repairs cannot be done until the nesting birds have left. Cllr Ellis said that he will check that the chime is working.

7982.7 Allotments

Cllr Ellis said that he has amended the allotment agreement and he is still trying to compile a list of allotment holders. The Clerk said that she will have a further look to see if there is an old list. (**Action Clerk**)

* 1. Litter Pick

The litter pick date to be held on Saturday 11th May at 9.30am starting from the Chequers.

* 1. Westoning Village Newsletter

Cllr Bhasin confirmed that the newsletter has been finalised and will be circulated for any final amendments. The final copy will then be printed and will need to be delivered around the village by the Cllrs as agreed.

**7983 Play Area**

Cllr Ellis said that the gate lock and ground prongs are missing and he will look at an alternative locking mechanism. There is also a problem with the other gate which will not shut properly.

The Parish Council agreed that the School should be made aware that the play area is a public area and as they are using the area during break time they are preventing members of the public from using it. Cllr Rogerson to speak with the Headteacher. (**Action Cllr Rogerson**)

**7984 Planning**

7984.1 Planning applications:

7984.1.1 Amendment to application: CB/23/02390/FULL - Sunnyside Farm, Toddington Road - demolition of existing storage, distribution and wholesale unit and construction of two storey office and workshop, parking and upgrades to existing road junctions. External areas to be retained for plant and materials storage. Erection of a new 3.5 metre acoustic fence. Revised Site Plan. Noted by the Parish Council.

7984.2 Other Planning Matters:

7984.2.1 Solar Farm

The Clerk read out an email received from Anesco. Several years ago, Sampshill Solar farm was withdrawn for planning at Clayhill Farm, Westoning. They are now preparing a new application for this Solar park later this year and would like to get feedback from the Parish Council. They are undergoing a detailed LVIA, which will show a re-design of the project and would like to illustrate the screening required to ensure local areas are least affected for views. They are also committed to maintaining the high Biodiversity gain forecasted last time to manage local habitat and ensure value for local nature. Finally, the community benefit payment of £375 per MW installed capacity will remain, along with the educational school visits.

The Parish Council agreed to comment that their previous comments still stand, particularly the scale of the development, and until they receive the details of a new planning application to consider, are unable to comment further. (**Action Clerk**)

7984.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road

Nothing to report.

7984.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

Nothing to report.

**7985 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

No reports were given.

**7986 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7987 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 8th May 2024**

**Annual PC Meeting 7pm/Annual Parish Meeting 8.15pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

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