MINUTES

1: Meeting Header
Meeting Name: Parish Council
Date: Thursday 16th March 2023
Time:6:30pm - 8:52pm
Venue: Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby
Chair: Cllr Banks

2: Attendance
Present:
Cllr Melville (Chair), Cllrs Law, Banks Serino, Nelsey, Haley, Burnage and Tilly Bartens (Clerk). Cllr Hill also attended for part of the meeting.

Apologies:
Apologies were received from Cllr Fraser

3: Declarations on Interest in items on the Agenda
None

4: Applications
To consider any applications for dispensation
None

5: Public Participation
Lloyd attended the meeting and has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council.

6: Co-Opt New Councillor
The Council RESOLVED to co-opt Lloyd Haley as a member of the Parish Council.

7: Minutes of the Previous Meeting
The Council RESOLVED that Cllr Melville should sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 16th February 2023 as a true and accurate record.

8: Matters arising from Previous Minutes
The Clerk advised that the increase in the cost for Warner's emptying the bins was due to the rise in the cost for them to dispose of the waste. They have also provided and schedule of works.
The Clerk advised that the invoice from ACE Fire & Security for the fire maintenance and monitoring remained outstanding as a decision had yet to be made on this matter.

It was RESOLVED that ACE should continue to do the monitoring however Firelec would continue with the maintenance. The Parish Council will need to pay a proportion of the invoice in full to include the three month notice period. The Clerk will ask for a revised invoice and a quote for just the monitoring going forward.

It was RESOLVED that ACE Fire & Security will continue with the CCTV and Intruder Alarm services.

9: Chairman's Report
Cllr Melville thanked Cllr Hill for all his work over the years.

Cllr Melville also advised that the Parish Council would need to speak to the Inspectorate following the petition that it raised to the Local Plan 2040.

10: Report from Bedford Borough Council
The report from Cllr Hill was noted.

11: Clerk's Financial Report
10.1 Authorise payments for BACS Transfer
The Clerk advised the meeting of the invoices that were due to be paid and talked them through the report. It was RESOLVED to authorise all of the payments as per the BACS Report.

It was further RESOLVED that the Stewartby Bowls Club should not be charged for water usage in the Winter.

10.2 Accounts
Members were advised that as at the 28th February 2023, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:
£7,758.22
£36,453.80
£21,013.83
£524,713.42

10.3 Budget Monitoring
The Budget Monitoring Reports were noted.

10.4 Transfer of Funds
It was RESOLVED that the following bank transfers would be made:
• £906.88 from the Sports Field Account to the main Parish Council Account for outdoor cinema ticket sales.
• £5,000 from the Parish Council Savings Account to the main Parish Council Account to cover expenditure until the first precept payment is received.

12: Quotations for authorisation

11.1 Muddy Boots Sign Quote
It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from Source Graphics for the signs for the Sports Pavilion. It was also agreed that there should be an additional sign on the external door.

11.2 Increase Mailbox Size
It was RESOLVED to accept the quote to increase the mailbox size.

11.3 Additional Benches
It was RESOLVED that the Council would purchase an addition four benches from Glasdon for the Baseball area. The benches are £433.37 each.

11.4 Replacement Bin Liner
It was RESOLVED to purchase a new bin liner up to a value of £100.

11.5 Replacement Bridge
The Clerk advised that quotes had been received for a replacement bridge. The cost is in the region of £20,000 which the Council cannot afford at the present time.

It was RESOLVED that the quotes should be sent to Cllr Law to investigate potential grants.

11.6 Repairs to Village Hall Clock
It was RESOLVED to accept the quote from Smith of Derby for £998.

It was further RESOLVED that there should be a review of expenditure relating the Village Hall.

13: Planning Applications

12.1 Ref: 23/00362/FUL Full Planning Application PROPOSAL: Single storey front extension two storey side extension Single storey rear extension (granny annexe) at 1 School Lane Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9NG.

It was RESOLVED that the Council did not have any objections to this application provided that it does not cover the boundary area up to 90% or equivalent.

12.2 Ref: 23/00582/S73 Variation of Condition Application Proposal: One and two storey side and rear extensions, including variation of approved plans condition 1 attached to 21/01239/FUL to allow for changes to the orientation of the single storey rear extension and retention of most of existing side extension with chimney over rather than demolish and replace this @ 6 Stewartby Way Stewartby
Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9LJ.

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Law would advise the Clerk of the Council's response once the plans have been reviewed

14: Amenities

13.1 Highways/Lighting

It was RESOLVED that Cllr Law should undertake a review of the roads and street lighting and report any defects to Bedford Borough Council and report back to the next meeting.

13.2 Recreation Area
It was noted that the Deep Water signs are now in place and the play bark has been installed.

13.3 Newsletter
Draft newsletter has been received for review.

13.4 Sports Field/Pavilion
It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should contact Bedford Borough Council about signage relating to dogs being kept on a lead.

13.5 Village Hall
It was RESOLVED that no teen parties would be held in the Village Hall. The Council also needs to obtain quotes for a floor buffing machine.

13.6 Policing
Cllr Melville advised the meeting that the Police were aware of the issues with car thefts in the village.

13.7 Covanta
Cllr Law advised that she will be attending a meeting at Covanta next week. It was RESOLVED that a grant application should be submitted for a junior football pitch.

15: Village Hall Premises & Fire Risk Assessment
It was RESOLVED that this matter had been dealt with by the Village Hall Committee.

16: Sports Pavilion Committee
The Sports Pavilion Committee presented their business plan looking at the vision for the sports Field.

It is evident that there is potential to generate an income from both hire of the football pitches and the Sports Pavilion.

It was RESOLVED to accept the Committee's recommendations and move forward with their plans. It was further RESOLVED to allocate £20,000 from the Sports Pavilion Capital Fund for an irrigation system to maintain the pitches so that they can be used to their full potential.

17: Community Events 2023
The Council was given an update on the events planned for this year:
• Family Fun Day and BMX Opening – 3rd June 2023
• Remembrance
• Christmas Fair

It was RESOLVED that the Council would not look to arrange Car Boot sales at the Sports Field due to concerns about parking issues and the poor state of the car park after heavy rain.

Cllr Melville advised that the Premises Licence Application was currently being prepared by the solicitors.

18: Village Hall Flat Lease Review
The Clerk advised that she had been in contact with the current tenants and was waiting to hear back from them about the proposed increase in rent.

19: Fountain in Churchill
It was RESOLVED that the Council would look into reinstating the fountain for 2026.

20: Close of Meeting and items for the next Agenda.
Meeting closed at 8.52 pm.

21: Date and Time of Next Meeting
Thursday 20th April 2023 @ 6.30 pm