Parish Council
Thursday 18-May-2023 @ 19:00
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllr Burnage.

2: Declarations on Interest in items on the Agenda
None

3: To consider any applications for dispensation
None

4: Public Participation
None

5: 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 20th April 2023 as a true and accurate record.

6: Matters arising from previous minutes
The Clerk advised that the benches had not yet been ordered as the caretaker is absent and there is no one on site to accept the delivery.

The meeting with ACE Fire & Security has not yet been arranged. It was RESOLVED that the Clerk would try and arrange this on either a Monday or Friday morning at 9.00 am.

Cllr Fraser advised that the Firelec contracts had been terminated. It was RESOLVED that the Contracts Register would be considered at the next meeting.

The Clerk is awaiting further information from E-on and Ofgem regarding the Sports Pavilion electricity supply.

Monies are still owed to the Parish Council from Stewartby Bowls Club for water and sewage costs.

Cllr Serino advised that the Village Hall floor machine was not fit for purpose. It was RESOLVED that this should be advertised for sale at £850 – Collection only The Parish Council RESOLVED to accept £750. Cllr Serino will arrange for a demo for a machine that he has identified. The Village Hall Clerk will be asked to provide quotes for an external contractor to maintain the floor as a comparison.

There has been no update on the Council Tax bill for the Village Hall.

Cllr Banks advised that there had been no update from Bedford Borough Council about an EV Charger. She is awaiting a response from a local company.

7: Chairman's Report
Cllr Melville advised that following the local elections there were now three Conservative Councillors for the local area. He is feels confident that the Parish Council will be able to work with them (G Coombes, M Frost and A Spice).
Cllr Melville informed the meeting that the Caretaker was currently absent from work. Once he is able to return to work, a Return to Work interview will establish what duties he is able to undertake.
He also advised that works on the BMX Track would commence on Monday 22nd May 2023 at 8.00 am. It is anticipated that the Contractor will work longer days and at weekends to ensure it is ready for the official opening on the 3rd June 2023.
The Hanging Baskets will be put up at the end of May 2023. The Memorial Garden is currently waterlogged.
Cllr Melville advised that he will be away from tomorrow for a week.
A Public Meeting has been arranged with Encore and Persimmon Homes on the 22nd

June 2023 at the Village Hall commencing at 7.00 pm. This meeting has been organised by the Parish Council so that residents can be provided with an update about who is responsible for what on the site. The issues raised should relate to the community and not personal issues.

8: Report from Bedford Borough Council

None received.

9: Clerk's Financial Report

9.1 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 with the exception of the following:

- Query invoice from Warners relating to the Memorial Garden
- Query invoice from Wave as the Council considers it to be excessive
- Village Hall should pay £80 for the Pest Control

9.2 Balances of Accounts

Members were advised that as at the 30th April 2023, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:

£61,536.59
£31,490.64
£15,435.22
£525,364.64

9.3 Internal Auditor's Report

The Clerk advised that the Internal Auditor's Report regarding the quarter 4 bank reconciliation had not yet been received.

10: Quotations for authorisation

10.3 Village Hall Floor & Buffing Machine

No quotes received.

11: Planning Applications & Decisions

Ref: 23/00845/FUL Full Planning Application for the Erection of a single-storey garden room for use as a workout space, home office/study and recreation area at the rear boundary of the property. Permission is sought as permitted development allows for a 2.5m external height, which creates a ceiling height too low for most fitness equipment. Proposal to take the height to 3m externally to allow a regular 2.4m internal ceiling height. The proposed will have no plumbing and will not be used as a separate dwelling @ 9 Magpie Avenue Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43
9NP

12: Amenities

12.1 Highways/Lighting

The Council was informed that two new lamp posts had appeared. It was reported that some of the potholes had been repaired and others had been painted around, indicating that they would be repaired soon.

12.2 Recreation Area

There have been issues with dogs not being kept on a lead on the Sports Field.

12.3 Newsletter

Cllr Nelsey advised that the first draft had been received. A draft will be sent out tomorrow to all Councillors which can hopefully be signed off and sent to print.

12.4 Sports Field/Pavilion

The meeting was advised that the Risk Assessment for the Sports Pavilion and Sports Field will be carried out on Monday 22nd May 2023.

12.5 Village Hall

None

12.6 Policing

Cllr Melville advised that there was vehicle anti-social behaviour in the village. A complaint has also been received from a resident that is concerned about this as the

Brickworks site. Police patrols will be increased in response to this issue.
There was one domestic burglary in the village last month.
Cllr Melville advised that there were still issues on the that Traveller Site.
12.7 Covanta
None

13: Sports Pavilion Committee

14: Community Events 2023

The Family Fun Day and the official opening of the BMX Track will take place on the 3
rd June.
There are still opportunities for stallholders. Stallholders will need to be bring their own tables and weighted gazebos.

15: Replacement Bridge

16: Fountain

17: Kempston Hardwick

18: Holiday & Sickness Tracker

This was circulated prior to the meeting by the Clerk for information

19: Local Plan Hearing

Cllr Melville advised that he and Cllr Banks would need to attend the Local Plan Hearing on the 11th September 2023 from 9.00 am – 1.00 pm.

20: Items of an urgent nature or for inclusion on the next agenda

None

21: Close of Meeting and items for the next Agenda

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

22: Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 15th June 2023 @ 6.30 pm