

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14th September 2017 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

1. **Present:** Cllrs H. Anderson (in the Chair), N. Brinner and R. Humphreys (*from 20.15hrs*). Robin Cooper; Ward Cllrs P. Geary, K. McLean, D Hosking.
Clerk J Vischer
2. **Apologies** - Cllr S. Bailey. These were accepted.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the July Meeting and any Matters Arising** – previously circulated for comment
The minutes were accepted as an accurate record. Proposer Cllr Anderson, Seconder Cllr Brinner. Unanimous.
 - 3.1. **Quote for re-painting/varnishing two finger posts and two noticeboards:** Cllr Anderson had obtained two more quotes. These had been circulated via email. It was agreed to approve the most detailed quote even though it was also the most expensive as it revealed specific refurbishment requirements suggested by observations about the condition of the items. Proposer Cllr Anderson, Seconder Cllr Humphreys. Unanimous.
Cllr Anderson to inform the winning contractor. **CLLR ANDERSON**
4. **Village Appearance**
 - 4.1. Annual Inspection Action Plan –
 - 4.1.1. Crumbling wall by School House – Cllr Bailey had been told as the Merchant Venturers Society was re-structuring its relationship with Savills, with whom the Parish Council has to liaise, there was no member of staff directly in the know about the likelihood of repair. It had been noted that ownership of the wall itself – MVS owned the land behind – had not been ascertained. **CLLR BAILEY**
 - 4.1.2. Crumbling wall by Old Dovecote – In this case ownership was assured. The works were planned to be carried out ‘before Christmas’.
 - 4.1.3. Village drains – it was agreed to report drains on a case by case basis as initial inspection by Cllr Anderson of the top end of the village revealed all drains relatively clear. It had been noted that under the new Gully Cleaning Schedule released by Milton Keynes Council (MKC) the village and environs were next due to be served in December 2018 (on a 3year rota).
 - 4.1.4. Phonebox removal – Cllr Bailey had established through BT that the phonebox should be removed ‘before Christmas’.
5. **Flood Mitigation**

Ward Cllr P Geary reported that MKC had still not appointed a new Flood Prevention officer. He and other Ward Councillors would bring up the subject with Tom Blackburne-Maze, Director of Public Realm, on the scheduled ‘walkabout’.
6. **Recreation Field**

Land Deeds - the Clerk had circulated a quotation from the solicitors for approximately £300 to do the necessary registration work depending on what might be the outcome of searches. This had been unanimously approved. The Clerk had therefore instructed the solicitors to go ahead.
7. **Allotments**
 - 7.1. Rabbit-proof fence timber warranty still outstanding - Cllr Anderson proposed that the contractor’s written guarantee to cover any repair work due to faulty installation or materials for 15 years was sufficient. This was agreed.
 - 7.2. Cllr Anderson relayed that she had imported a small amount of free horse manure to her plot, along with some other plot-holders. It was agreed that this small-scale activity was acceptable and did not pose a threat of run-off pollution.
 - 7.3. Cllr Anderson commented that the contractor had been maintaining the site well with more frequent visits than required by contract.

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7.4. Remaining planting of the hedgerow whips in the autumn (*carry forward*)

8. **Finance - Cheques for approval & Balances** – The following payments were approved:

Clerk's August salary - £140.70; Mazars, external audit - £120.00; Clerk's September salary - £175.87; 2nd Qtr. PAYE - £123.20; Clerk's expenses £38.72; Neighbourhood Plan consultancy - £1,299.00; Ravenstone Village Hall Association - £161.25.

Proposer Cllr Anderson, Seconder Cllr Brinner. Unanimous.

Available balance at 25 August 2017: £13,312 (plus Section 106 fund). The first tranche of the grant funding for the Neighbourhood Plan had been received - £6,410.

9. **Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**

9.1. **Subcommittee report back** – Robin Cooper Chair of the Steering Group reported that the Terms of Reference had been duly amended to incorporate a greater number of Steering Group members and how decisions were to be arrived at. This was approved.

9.1.1. The neighbourhood area consultation, now closed, had not yielded any comments or objections although formal confirmation of this had not been received.

9.1.2. Questionnaires had been hand-delivered to each household in early August. Collection of replies had taken place at the end of August.

9.1.3. Of 202 distributed 170 had been completed - 84% return rate.

9.1.4. Next steps – Questionnaire analysis, meetings with major landowners and interested parties e.g. PCC, leading to planning vision.

9.2. **New website** – Cllr Brinner reported that the Parish Partnership Fund (PPF) awards had yet to be announced. In the meantime a certain amount of space was being utilised on the current village website but this was not sufficient for example to offer a detailed analysis of the questionnaires/consultation. Cllr Brinner to make enquiries regarding PPF results. **CLLR BRINNER**

10. **Planning Applications**

10.1. **Previous applications** - None

10.2. **NEW applications** - None

10.3. **OTHER - to monitor** – *Bluebell cottage* – alterations to conditions: no changes; *Northend* - Building activity. None at present.

10.4. Yew Tree Farm possible unauthorised development – the Clerk had reported the concerns via the new enforcement portal: no response as yet. Given ref FS56682279.

10.5. Village Settlement Boundaries revision – in-between meetings members had not expressed any concerns at this email consultation as no changes were apparent on the revised map. However members agreed that the red-line marker seemed arbitrary, merely overlaid on Google Earth maps and cutting properties in half. The thickness of the line once transferred to ground level would cover several metres. Clerk to write about this and to relay that future changes may be advised following NP developments. **CLK**

11. **Correspondence (other than email)** – Get Cycling flyers.

12. **Councillors/Residents Items**

12.1. Councillor Vacancy – RPC had been free to co-opt since late July following procedure. One candidate had come forward via the NP Steering Group. To be invited to contact the Clerk. **CLLR ANDERSON**

12.2. Outstanding highways matters – collapsed road sign at bend of Weston Road – Re-reported but still unrepaired - ref FS56006543 Ward Cllr D Hosking to follow-up; better warning signage at junction Mill Road/Gayhurst Road – no change; Tom Blackburne-Maze walkabout date yet to be set.

12.3. New – intermittent streetlight at lower end of village. Cllr Brinner to report. **CLLR BRINNER**

13. **Date of Next Meeting** - Thursday 12th October 2017 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Meeting closed 8.35pm

signed

date