

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12th July 2018 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs S. Bailey (in the Chair), H. Anderson, N. Brinner; Robin Cooper (Neighbourhood Plan). Ward Cllrs D Hosking, K. McLean for part. No members of the public. Clerk J Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – Cllr R. Humphreys, and Ward Cllr P. Geary. These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – None
3. **Approval of previous Minutes and any Matters Arising**
 - 3.1. Annual Meeting minutes. These were approved as a true record. Proposer N Brinner, seconder H Anderson. Unanimous. No Matters Arising.
 - 3.2. June Meeting minutes. These were approved as a true record. Proposer N Brinner, seconder H Anderson. Unanimous. No Matters Arising.
4. **Village Appearance**
 - 4.1. New Village Inspection (2018) –
 - 4.1.1. “Pop-up” garden at entrance to Almshouses. Ongoing. **SB**
 - 4.1.2. Crumbling wall by School House – awaiting Savills’ response.
 - 4.1.3. Outside of allotments (area between road and allotments). Contractor to carry out various landscaping tasks during the next fortnight.
 - 4.1.4. Need to replace basketball net. Cllr Anderson has purchased a pair of nets. *Complete*.
 - 4.1.5. Replace (fallen) sleeper on the playing fields/ place Richard Rook bench in the gap and replace bench under tree with new bench. Sleeper could be replaced for a modest price but stone wall option to be looked into. Commemorative bench (approx £400) ready to be ordered following repair (SB). **HA**
 - 4.1.6. Report potholes again (especially on Common road entrance to village). MKC Highways declared potholes not deep enough for repair. **JV**
 - 4.1.7. Stream other side of the road (from new barns development) needs to be scraped and cleared. Chair to confirm with adjacent farmer. **SB**
 - 4.1.8. Phonebox removal – (*carry forward* - September 2018 deadline). Would the base of the box be removed and area made good? Chair to confirm. **SB**
 - 4.1.9. Parking on T junction between Common Street and Stoke Goldington Road. To be reported in Gate News article. **HA**
 - 4.2. Collapsed road sign at bend of Weston Road – still outstanding. **Wd Cllr PG**
 - 4.3. Dumped rubbish in field entrance – this was now so overgrown it was invisible. Chair to discuss with farmer.
5. **Flood Mitigation**
 - 5.1. The recent flooding had been reported to MKC as well as the need for the drains to be emptied, with photographic evidence. In his response the officer stated that the gullies were last routinely cleaned in December 2015 with the next routine clean scheduled for December 2018. This was the normal cycle in Milton Keynes. However as this was an area prone to flooding, the gullies are inspected annually in April. Any gullies requiring additional cleaning are scheduled and actioned. He explained the debris in the gullies as being washed in by the recent rains. Nevertheless he would send an inspector out.
 - 5.2. Cllr Anderson reported that she had by chance met said inspector (RPC not informed of time/date of visit). He told her that the gullies were not in too bad a condition compared with some other parts of MK but he had found two gullies over-tarred since the last road re-surfacing and he would arrange for them to be reinstated. He offered advice as to how residents could help by ensuring grass cuttings, leaves, pine needles etc., were not swept into the road, restrain gravel from drives spilling into the street and maintain with spade and shovel the several verge cut-through’s where water run-off was directed into the stream. It was agreed that it may be helpful to invite the Head of Environment to a meeting in the village to discuss the issue with councillors and residents. **SB**
6. **Recreation Field**

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

6.1. Land Deeds – (carry forward – expected September)

7. Allotments

7.1. Following a recent complaint from a plot holder regarding tall weed growth in six plots spreading seeds across his plot it was agreed to have the weeds cut down on the three vacant plots. Quotes to be obtained for weed suppressing matting. Clerk to contact plotholders of the three rented plots reminding them of the terms and conditions and keeping their plots clean and tidy. Cllr Anderson to supply plot numbers. **JV**

8. Finance

8.1. **Cheques for approval & Balances** – The following payments were approved:

Clerk's salary £180.95; Clerk's admin expenses £16.00; Landscaping (50%) £2,011.50; Neighbourhood Plan consultants (09) £1,200.00; Cllr Anderson (basketball nets) £22.08; Clerk's salary for August £180.95. Available balance at 25th May 2018: £11,221 (plus allocated Reserves).

8.2. The Clerk reported that for the first time a Rate Demand had been received for "Storage Land adjacent to 14 Common St." However this had been zero-rated.

9. Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

9.1. **Steering Group report back** – Robin Cooper, Chair of the Steering Group, reported that the Steering Group had met three times since the last RPC meeting.

9.1.1. The Consultation Statement incorporating comments was complete.

9.1.2. The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has been altered accordingly

9.1.3. The completed Consultation and Basic Conditions Statements, following review by Diane Webber at MKC, will be submitted on 20th July.

9.2. **Next steps** – Ms Webber had put forward a draft timetable which members believed was unnecessarily lengthy – allowing 8 weeks for MKC consultation on the Plan instead of the usual 6 week period due to the summer holidays, and suggesting the final referendum be held after Christmas to avoid the run-up to Christmas. These points to be made to the consultant and to Mrs Webber.

9.3. It was agreed to post the amended NP and associated documents on the website to coincide with the website's imminent launch. It was further agreed to create and deliver a flyer to residents to this effect. A small number of printed copies would also be issued for those residents not using the internet.

9.4. **New website** – The updated prototype site was gone through. Almost ready to launch the Clerk was asked to submit certain additional parish information and councillors invited to consider having their faces pictured on the site. It was agreed that once final adjustments had been made the site be launched without further ado. Changes could continue to be made at any time.

10. Planning Applications

10.1. **Previous applications**

17/03221/FUL Land Adjacent Small Farm Ravenstone Mill Road; new 2-bedroom dwelling. *Pending*

18/01163/TCA Addersey Cottage Common Street, Notification of works. Removal of 3x conifer trees located adjacent to the rear garden outbuilding (trees outgrowing their location) & reduce one Cedar in height by approx 2m as part of routine maintenance. *No MKC objections.*

10.2. **NEW applications** - None

11. **Correspondence (other than email)** –

MKC had posted a letter concerning the future of the SLA (Landscaping Agreement) for the 6 parishes involved asking whether those parishes would be continuing with the SLA following the renewal of the entire MKC landscaping contract (currently with SERCO) in 2020. The promised grant funding for RPC of £946 remained static until 2023. October deadline for responses.

12. **Councillors/Residents New Items** - Footpath 4 – Clerk to make enquiries from footpaths officer concerning new information about the Diversion Order issued in August 2016.

13. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 13th September 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.10pm

signed

date