

# RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

**Present:** Cllrs S. Bailey (in the Chair), H. Anderson, R. Humphreys, L. Postawa and N. Brinner; Robin Cooper (Neighbourhood Plan). Ward Cllr P. Geary, Ten members of the public. Clerk J Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – Ward Cllrs K. McLean, D. Hosking. These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – None.
3. **Approval of previous outstanding Minutes and any Matters Arising**
  - 3.1. October minutes. Approved. Proposer Cllr Anderson, seconder Cllr Humphreys; unanimous. No Matters Arising.
  - 3.2. November minutes – Approved. Proposer Cllr Humphreys, seconder Cllr Bailey; unanimous. No Matters Arising.
  - 3.3. December minutes - Approved. Proposer Cllr Anderson, seconder Cllr Bailey; unanimous. No Matters Arising.
4. **Village Appearance**
  - 4.1. New Village Inspection (2018) Report –
    - 4.1.1. “Pop-up” garden at entrance to almshouses. Although discussions have taken place, no action had been taken yet. Chair to liaise. **SB**
    - 4.1.2. Crumbling wall by School House – the Chair had been informed that Savills had contacted Merchant Venturers. It was ‘on their list’ but does not seem to be a priority.
    - 4.1.3. Stream other side of the road (from new barns development) to be scraped and cleared – a meeting had taken place but the farmer had proposed their own preferred contractor, who is considerably more expensive than the only other quote received. It was agreed that the Chair negotiate with this contractor as soon as possible. **SB**
  - 4.2. Collapsed road sign and buried drain covers – Ward Cllr Geary reported that the sign has been placed on the repair schedule and would be repaired when other signs were being done throughout Milton Keynes. The buried drains are still being investigated.
  - 4.3. Rubbish & litter-picking – still awaiting kits from the Clean-up Fund. Clerk to chase. It was pointed out that some residents were still collecting considerable quantities of rubbish on regular picks. [*post-meeting note*: following the clerk’s enquiries the MKC officer advised that the kits are “on order”]
  - 4.4. Website issues – the Clerk reported that the site was free from all previous problems except for the inadequacies of the ‘Events’ page. Discussions were ongoing with the provider.
5. **Flood Mitigation** - The flood report collecting residents’ experiences to inform Milton Keynes Council was still being prepared. **SB/HA**
6. **Recreation Field**
  - 6.1. Noise – a resident was concerned about the possibility of moving the goal to the opposite end of the recreation group as this resident already experienced noise when the basketball net was being used. Reassurance was given that, after investigation, the goal is not being moved. However, sound-baffling measures would be investigated to reduce noise levels. **CLK**
  - 6.2. Replace (fallen) sleepers on the playing fields/commemorative bench – a start date for the works was awaited. **CLK**
7. **Allotments** - Renewals were complete. Two plots remain available to rent.
8. **Finance**
  - 8.1. Cheques for approval & Balances – the following payments were approved.  
Clerk’s salary £180.95; Clerk’s admin expenses £16.00; Gate Group (grant) £100.00; SRW Club (grant) £150.00; Stoke Goldington Pre-school (grant) £100.00; Neighbourhood Plan consultants £600.00.  
Available balance at 27<sup>th</sup> December 2018: £8,077 (plus allocated Reserves).

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- 8.2. 2019-20 Budget – the budget was approved. Proposer Cllr Humphreys, seconder Cllr Bailey; unanimous. Clerk to draw up final sheet to circulate. **CLK**
- 8.3. 2019-20 Precept - the precept was approved at 2% (approx.) increase. Proposer Cllr Humphreys, seconder Cllr Bailey; unanimous. Clerk to submit to MKC. **CLK**
9. **Neighbourhood Plan (NP) - Steering Group report back** – Robin Cooper, Chair of the Steering Group, reported that:
- 9.1. One meeting had been held since the last RPC meeting, on 9<sup>th</sup> January. The purpose of the meeting was to prepare responses to the Examiner’s six questions via the new MK liaison link officer, David Blandamer.
- 9.2. The six questions related to: SEA and HRA screening reports; policy on countryside; protection of areas and views over open areas; conservation and heritage; housing allocation; windfall in-fill development.
- 9.3. The alterations to the Terms of Reference were approved. Proposer Cllr Humphreys, seconder Cllr Anderson; unanimous.
- 9.4. The NP grant funding was now used up. An increase in the contingency fund of £1,600 was approved; to be taken from reserves (plus a small contingency of £400 for next year’s budget).
- 9.5. No further meetings of the Steering Group were planned.
10. **Planning Applications**
- 10.1. **Previous applications** -
- 18/02645/FUL** Horseshoe Farm, North End; Demolition of existing stables and aviary and the erection of three dwellings. *Pending*. The proposal was re-considered in the light of the applicant’s response to RPC comments. Councillors agreed to make no changes to their comments.
- 18/02795/TCA** Bluebell Cottage Bay Lane, Notification of intention to crown reduce a willow (T1) overall by approximately 4.0 - 5.0 metres in height and laterally to balance pruning to suitable growth points. Crown clean removing all dead, diseased, dying, crossing, rubbing and duplicate branches. It was suggested that the tree officer be contacted to consider the health of the tree and the need for such extreme pruning. *Permitted*
- 10.2. **NEW applications** – None.
11. **Correspondence (other than email)** – Two Clerks’ circulars.
12. **Councillors/Residents New Items**
- 12.1. Street lighting – a resident present complained of the dud street light – 13 CS – which meant that schoolchildren were having to arrive and depart in almost complete darkness. Cllr Anderson had reported it to MKC previously. Ward Cllr Geary asked Cllr Anderson to forward the reference number to him so he could investigate. [*post meeting note: the streetlight was repaired on 11<sup>th</sup> January*]
- 12.2. Ward Cllr Geary reported that the current Delegated Powers consultation was proposing to reduce the planning consultation response period from 28 days to 21days. RPC to consider Chair’s delegated powers vvv planning comment.
- 12.3. Ward Cllr Geary reminded those present of the current MKC 2019-20 budget consultation and that both residents and parish councils were invited to respond.
- 12.4. Some residents had found it almost impossible to receive the new recycling sack rolls via the online ordering system. However others had found it very efficient.
13. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

*signed*

*date*