

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14th February 2019 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs S. Bailey (in the Chair), H. Anderson, R. Humphreys; Robin Cooper (Neighbourhood Plan). Ward Cllr K. McLean, Two members of the public. Clerk J Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – Cllrs L. Postawa and N. Brinner; Ward Cllrs P. Geary, D. Hosking. These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – None.
3. **Approval of January Minutes and any Matters Arising** - Approved. Proposer Cllr Anderson, seconder Cllr Humphreys, unanimous. No Matters Arising.
4. **Village Appearance**
 - 4.1. New Village Inspection (2018) Report –
 - 4.1.1. “Pop-up” garden at entrance to almshouses. To be followed up **SB**
 - 4.1.2. Crumbling wall by School House – no further update from Savills / Merchant Venturers in spite of several phonecalls. It was agreed to put the issue in a formal letter. **SB/CLK**
 - 4.1.3. Stream other side of the road (from new barns development) to be scraped and cleared – this had been completed but at the more expensive price. A neighbouring resident (present) thanked councillors for getting the job done and commented that the flow of water was greatly improved.
 - 4.2. Collapsed road sign (*on MKC repair schedule – carry forward*) and buried drain covers – No update on the buried drain covers.
 - 4.3. Rubbish & litter-picking –
 - 4.3.1. Even though the imminent delivery of kits had been promised they were still awaited. It was agreed to store them in the shed outside the Village Hall when they arrived, pending agreement from the Village Hall Committee. **SB**
 - 4.3.2. Cllr Anderson reminded members of the upcoming national ‘Great British Spring Clean’ and invited them to organise a village-wide event. Clerk to check on potential insurance issues. **CLK**
 - 4.4. Dog Fouling – Cllr Anderson reported that this was particularly bad on the grass verge by the almshouses. It was agreed to flag the issue in the next Gate Group News article. **HA**
 - 4.5. Website issues – the ‘Events’ page had been removed by the website developer as requested. The ‘Events’ tab on the Home page, now redundant, had not been removed as subsequently requested. Clerk to pursue. **CLK**
5. **Flood Mitigation**
 - 5.1. Flood Report collecting residents’ experiences in preparation (*carry forward*) **SB/HA**
 - 5.2. It had been noticed that the ditch running roadside in North End was congested and was not draining following rainfall.
 - 5.3. The landscaper’s quotation for two sweeps and weed-killing of the roadside gutter per year was accepted but it was agreed that some of the gullies needed emptying. Cllr Anderson to investigate and report to MKC. **HA**
6. **Recreation Field**
 - 6.1. Noise – the MKC Playgrounds officer had suggested the use of rubber washers to mitigate sound. The playground maintenance team would investigate this on their next routine visit. Councillors felt that this was unlikely to solve the issue. The Chair agreed to investigate further [*post-meeting note*: the maintenance team reported that rubber washers had been inserted but were ineffective and suggested the replacement of the metal backboard with a plastic one. They had also noted that the basket-ball post was not as secure as it had been and proposed that the installer be invited back to repair] **CLK/SB**
 - 6.2. Replace (fallen) sleepers on the playing fields/commemorative bench – the refurbishment works had been completed. Councillors agreed to meet on site to confirm the siting of the memorial bench. The Chair to research prices and installation costs. **CLLRS**
7. **Allotments** – One plot-holder (with two plots) had left. Four plots remain available to rent.

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

8. **Finance** - Cheques for approval & Balances – the following payments were approved.
Clerk's salary £233.14; Clerk's admin expenses £36.46; ditch & farm entrance clearance £599.99; dog bin emptying (annual) £624.00; allotment expenses refund £116.95; website hosting & domain name fees (annual) £264.00; plot deposit refund £50.00; sleepers refurbishment £780.00.
Available balance at 25th January 2019: £6,010 (plus allocated Reserves).
9. **Neighbourhood Plan (NP) - Steering Group report back** – Robin Cooper, Chair of the Steering Group, reported that:
- 9.1. There had been no meetings since the last RPC meeting.
 - 9.2. The six questions reply had been submitted on 11th January.
 - 9.3. The Examiner's confidential draft report, received on 15th January, had detailed 15 recommendations which were adopted. The duly amended Plan was re-submitted on 29th January.
 - 9.4. The Examiner's final report, with a list of minor modifications, was received on 12th February. This gave the go-ahead to hold the formal referendum.
 - 9.5. The Steering Group has requested a referendum date from MKC.
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. *Refused.*
 - 10.2. **NEW applications** –
18/02968/TCA 1 Meadow Court Common Street, Notification of intention to remove collapsing small tree. *Already permitted.*
19/00071/TCA 18 Common Street, Notification of intention to crown reduce a walnut tree (T1) by 3m and remove to ground level a Leyland Cypress (T2). *Already permitted.*
19/00204/LBC Alms Houses North End, Listed building consent for repairs and improvements to external elevations and associated drainage. No objections.
11. **Correspondence (other than email)** – None.
12. **Councillors/Residents New Items**
- 12.1. Parking on the Stoke Goldington road T-junction – Cllr Anderson reported two near-miss collisions with oncoming traffic taking the turn on the wrong side of the road due to parked vehicles. This persistent and intractable problem was discussed. It was agreed to monitor the situation and mention the issue once again in Gate Group News. HA
 - 12.2. Ward Cllr McLean reminded councillors about the offer of ward grant funding. It was agreed to submit a bid for the memorial bench and its installation. CLK
 - 12.3. Ward Cllr McLean updated councillors on the latest position with regard to both MKC 2019-20 budget and PlanMK.
13. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 14th March 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.40pm

signed

date