

# RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 11th July 2019 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs S. Bailey (in the Chair), N. Brinner, R. Humphreys, and L. Postawa. Ward Cllr D. Hosking. No members of the public. Clerk J Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – Cllr H. Anderson; Ward Cllrs P. Geary and K. McLean. These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – None.
3. **Approval of both Annual Meeting and June ordinary meeting Minutes, and any Matters Arising** – Approved; proposer Cllr Brinner, seconder Cllr Humphreys. Unanimous. No Matters Arising.
4. **Village Appearance** - Village Inspection Plan 2019
  - 4.1. Ditch opposite North End Farm – Cllr Anderson had contacted the landscaping contractor and had been supplied with a modest quotation of £100.00 including clearing out a strip of the ditch in front of the recreation ground/allotments. Agreed to instruct the contractor to go ahead. **HA**
  - 4.2. North End, blocked gullies – Cllr Anderson verified that the gullies had obviously not been cleared out at the time the rest of the village was done. Reporting the issue to MKC had drawn a standard response that it did not “fall within the Council’s immediate safety priority for repair”. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Head of Highways directly. **CLK**
  - 4.3. Cemetery gateposts – maintenance responsibility to be confirmed. Cllr Bailey had spoken with a representative of the PCC who insisted that the land had been bequeathed to RPC many years ago. Clerk to ascertain ownership via Land Registry and verify PCC grant payment history. A quotation for the works had been requested from a local contractor. [*post-meeting note* - the PCC clarified that the land had been bequeathed to the Church but that the maintenance liabilities would be shared 50/50 between the Church and RPC] **CLK/SB**
  - 4.4. Dog fouling by almshouses – the Chair confirmed that there had been no new reports. *Item to be removed.*
  - 4.5. Pop-up garden – no fresh concerns following a visit by a local resident. *Item to be removed.*
  - 4.6. Benches and Noticeboards in need of refurbishment – a quotation for the works had been requested by the Chair from a local contractor. **SB**
  - 4.7. Merchant Venturers (MV) wall - still outstanding. Chair to write formal letter to MV. **SB**
  - 4.8. Old Schoolhouse verge, potential site for wildflower garden – undergrowth clearance quotation awaited. **SB**
  - 4.9. Old Schoolhouse and Recreation ground lime trees maintenance - (*carry forward to December*).
  - 4.10. Recreation Ground refurbishment – it was agreed to accept MK Council’s playground maintenance team’s quotation of flat seats for £40, cradle seats for £90. Proposer Cllr Brinner, seconder Cllr Postawa. Unanimous. **CLK**
  - 4.11. Willow Barn damaged pavement - Cllr Anderson reported this on the MKC portal and drew the standard response that “it does not meet our criteria for repair”. Clerk to add concern to letter to Head of Highways (*above*). **CLK**
  - 4.12. Stoke Goldington Road buried drains (ongoing) – Clerk to add concern to letter to Head of Highways (*above*). **CLK**
  - 4.13. Weston Road collapsed road sign - (ongoing) – Clerk to add concern to letter to Head of Highways (*above*). **CLK**
5. **Flood Mitigation** – Village Flood Log 2018 – Cllr Postawa volunteered to coordinate this work. Cllr Brinner to post on village Facebook page. Cllr Anderson to comment in next article for Gate News. **LP/HA/NB**
6. **Recreation Field**
  - 6.1. Commemorative bench – still no date from contractor for base. Chair to chase. **SB**  
The Clerk confirmed the price with delivery for the Bristol 5’ bench, FSC Hardwood, would be £240 + VAT or £270 for the 6’ bench. Commemorative plaque wording had been circulated. It was agreed to accept the

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family's suggested words, at a total cost for the plaque £63. It was agreed to await confirmation of base installation date before ordering.

- 6.2. Basketball (wobbly) pole – the installation contractor had not responded to emails. Clerk to chase. [*post meeting note* – the contractor responded to the Clerk's post-meeting email request; he promised to inspect the pole on this next visit to the area (no date given) CLK

7. **Finance** – Cheques for approval & Balances – the following payments were approved.

7.1. Clerk's salary £197.04; clerk's admin & expenses £23.32; website host (annual) £144.00; landscape maintenance (50%) £2,065.00; clerk's salary for August £197.04.

Available balance at 27<sup>th</sup> June 2019: £5,909 (plus allocated Reserves).

7.2. In the light of the landscape contractor's invoice, above, members agreed that the he was carrying out his duties to a high standard.

8. **Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**, proposed Implementation Group - Cllr Postawa volunteered to coordinate this work. LP

9. **Planning Applications**

9.1. **Previous applications** -

Horseshoe Farm Appeal [*post-meeting note* - July 16<sup>th</sup>: the appeal was dismissed. RPC's Neighbourhood Plan featured prominently in the appeal decision document and had a major influence on the decision.]

9.2. **Applications since the last meeting** –

19/01438/FUL Burnside Common Street, Increase height of existing stone wall (approximately 23.5m long), from approximately 1 meter to 2 meters, along garden frontage only of house facing onto Common Street in Ravenstone. It was agreed to contact MKC stating that although RPC's position was neutral, RPC expected the conservation officer to express a view as, currently, no other walls were this height in the village. [*post meeting note* – quick reply from MKC Planning: "Following consultation with the conservation officer the scheme has been amended by a minor reduction to 1.8 metres resulting in an acceptable scheme as assessed by myself and the conservation officer."]

19/01699/TCA 18 Common Street, Notification of intention to crown reduce a walnut (T1) by 2.5m and remove a cypress to ground level (T2). No objections.

10. **Correspondence (other than email)** – SLCC Clerks quarterly and Clerks and Councils Direct.

11. **Councillors/Residents New Items** – Councillors could not offer any 'litter hotspots' to add to Ward Cllr McLean's compilation.

12. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Meeting closed 8.15pm

*signed*

*date*