

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 9th January 2020 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs S. Bailey (in the Chair), H. Anderson, N. Brinner, L. Postawa. Ward Cllrs. D. Hosking and P. Geary. Kirsten Johnston from Abbeymill Homes; Six members of the public.

Clerk J. Vischer

1. **Apologies** – Cllr R. Humphreys, Ward Cllr K. McLean. These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – Cllr H. Anderson for item 9 (Planning).
3. **Approval of December meeting Minutes, and any Matters Arising** – Approved subject to noting that Ward Cllr D Hosking was present at the meeting; proposer Cllr Postawa seconder Cllr Anderson. Unanimous.
One Matter Arising - item 11 the resident had since been informed of the costs of moving the road signs.

Item 9, Planning Applications - It was agreed to bring this item forwards -

Previous applications

19/02101/LBC Sunnyside Bay Lane, Listed building consent replace three windows on the first floor of Sunnyside Cottage. *Permitted*

19/02665/FUL Parkfield Farm Bay Lane, Erection to existing double garage (attached to farmhouse) to create additional garage space & an exercise room. *Permitted*

19/02974/TCA 36 Common Street, Tree works notification for A1 and A2 Lime trees to be reduced by 3m in height (Our own application) No objections.

19/03194/TCA Priory Lade North End, Notification of intention to crown reduce one Cherry Tree by 2.5m from height and 3m from sides. No objections.

Applications since the last meeting –

19/03348/LBC & 19/03347/FUL Yew Tree Farm Stoke Goldington Road, Retrospective applications for internal and external alterations (resubmission of 19/00699/LBC & 19/00698/FUL).

A full and frank discussion took place regarding this re-submission.

4. **Village Appearance** - Village Inspection Plan 2019
 - 4.1. North End, blocked gullies – Cllr Anderson reported that the gullies appeared to have been cleaned but they were of a shallower type than standard. To remove from the list.
 - 4.2. Cemetery gateposts – to be started next week pending the weather.
 - 4.3. Bench - complete.
 - 4.4. Benches and Noticeboards in need of refurbishment - to be started next week pending the weather.
 - 4.5. Merchant Venturers (MV) wall - complete.
 - 4.6. Old Schoolhouse verge, potential site for wildflower garden – it was agreed to go ahead and to make a feature of the old hidden well. **SB**
 - 4.7. Old Schoolhouse trees maintenance - planning application accepted, no objections. Work to go ahead. **SB**
 - 4.8. Stoke Goldington Road buried drains – complete.
5. **Flood Mitigation** – no update.
6. **Recreation Field** - crown-reducing 4 lime trees - the initial planning application had been rejected because “the land did not belong to the parish council” (even though it does). However the Clerk, an ex-landscape gardener, recommended that the trees be left untouched for the time being as they were in good health, not at maximum height and attractive. Councillors agreed to postpone any action until the trees were larger or causing a nuisance.
7. **Allotments** - one renewal was still outstanding.
8. **Finance**
 - 8.1. Cheques for approval & Balances - the following payments were approved: Clerk’s salary (Nov & Dec) £443.24; Clerk’s admin & expenses (Nov & Dec) £39.32; website hosting (Interdirect annual) £120.00; HMRC (PAYE 3rdQ) £160.00; Clerk’s salary (Jan) £196.84; Gate Group News (grant) £100.00; SRW Club (grant) £150.00; Stoke

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Goldington pre-school (grant) £100.00; bin emptying (annual) 698.88; bench and basketball pole work £580.00. Available balance at 27th December 2019: £6,535 (plus allocated Reserves).

- 8.2. MKC Service Level Agreement (landscaping) renewal - the Service Level Agreement - previously agreed to continue - was duly signed by the Chair. It was agreed that the current landscape contractor be offered the renewal. CLK
- 8.3. Budget approval - the proposed budget figures for 2020-21 were approved; proposer Cllr Postawa seconded Cllr Anderson. Unanimous. CLK
- 8.4. Precept approval - the 2020-21 precept was agreed at a 2% increase on last year at £9,292. CLK
9. **Neighbourhood Plan (NP) Implementation Group -**
Cllr Postawa had drawn up a selection of designs. One was chosen as the most fitting with slight modifications - black background with the village crest on top. These to be fitted to a stone base. It was agreed to post the example on noticeboards and the village Facebook page. Permission for use of the Finch's family crest to be confirmed. Clerk to check the deadline for the grant (CIF). LP/CLK
10. **Planning Applications** - (see above). Cllrs deferred discussion to an informal meeting - to be arranged. This will be reported at the next meeting.
11. **Correspondence (other than email)** - Clerks' Quarterly.
12. **Councillors/Residents New Items**
- 12.1. Cllr Anderson reported that she had complained to MKC via the portal of two streetlights that were not working. The reporting details would be mentioned in the next Gate Group News article.
- 12.2. The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint about the rubbish bin at North End being constantly full. Councillors recalled that a resident had previously emptied the bin every week to coincide with rubbish collection day. This had clearly stopped happening. Councillors agreed to rotate the task - Cllr Anderson to carry out the first week.
13. **Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 13th February 2020 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

signed

date