

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12th March 2020 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs R. Humphreys (in the Chair), H. Anderson, N. Brinner, L. Postawa. Ward Cllrs K. McLean and P. Geary. No members of the public.

Clerk J. Vischer

1. **Apologies** – Cllr S. Bailey, Ward Cllr D. Hosking. These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – None.
3. **Approval of February meeting Minutes, and any Matters Arising** – Approved. Proposer Cllr Postawa seconder Cllr Brinner. Unanimous.
No Matters Arising.
4. **Village Appearance**
 - 4.1. Village Signs - Cllr Postawa reported that the matter was in hand as per the various emails that had circulated since the last meeting. Clerk to request grant monies from MKC urgently. **CLK**
 - 4.2. Inspection Action Plan 2019
 - 4.2.1. Noticeboards in need of refurbishment - stain application awaited (weather dependent). **SB**
 - 4.2.2. Old Schoolhouse verge, potential site for wildflower garden / well-cover restoration - ongoing. **SB**
 - 4.2.3. Old Schoolhouse tree maintenance - new date agreed: Wednesday 25th March.
 - 4.3. New Dog Bin - the Clerk had instructed the contractor to install the new bin on March 2nd - map supplied.
 - 4.4. Big Spring Clean - Cllr Anderson confirmed the date 5th April but had been unsuccessful in registering the event. It was not known if Olney Town Council had borrowed RPC litter-pickers. HA to confirm with SB.
 - 4.5. North End bins - not known if SB had completed the emptying cycle this month. **SB**
 - 4.6. Stile leading into Bay Lane - Cllr Anderson had reported this. The footpaths officer had warned that it would be replaced with a metal kissing gate as this was now standard practice. HA to ask for a wooden gate to be fitted in keeping with conservation area status. **HA**
5. **Recreation Field** - Cllr Anderson proposed purchasing new balls as the old ones were worn out and waterlogged. Cllr Humphreys added that a storage crate would be a useful innovation. These were agreed. **HA**
6. **Allotments** - the remaining renewal had been paid.
7. **Finance**
 - 7.1. Cheques for approval & Balances, including February - the following payments were approved: Clerk's salary (Jan/Feb) £252.68; Clerk's admin & expenses (Jan/Feb) £32.00; D Haycock (gates & noticeboard) £470.00; Merchant Venturers (annual allotment site rent) £100.00; HMRC (PAYE 4th Qtr) £163.00; Clerk's salary (Feb/Mar) £201.94; Clerk's admin & expenses (Feb/Mar) £30.31
Available balance at 27th February 2020: £4,145 (plus allocated Reserves).
 - 7.2. Parochial Church Council invoice - the Clerk had prepared an invoice for last year's mowing subsidy. This included match-funding for the cemetery gatepost work. This was approved.
 - 7.3. The Clerk pointed out that the Village Hall invoice for the year's hall hire had yet to be received. **SB**
8. **Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group** - verge by almshouses - Cllr Anderson proposed that the verge be turned into a wildflower area. This was agreed. Although in keeping with MKC's latest bio-diversity strategy it was not clear if this was appropriate *vis a vis* road safety. Clerk to make enquiries. **CLK**
9. **Planning Applications**
 - 9.1. *Previous applications*
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). *Permitted*. It was agreed to retain this application on the agenda for the next three months in order to track its implementation.

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9.2. *Applications since the last meeting*

20/00539/TCA Peartree Cottage 35 Common Street, Rowan tree- Remove to ground level following wind damage. Replace with new rowan tree. No objections.

10. **Correspondence (other than email)** - SLCC Clerks' Quarterly; Litter bin catalogue.

11. **Councillors/Residents New Items**

- 11.1. Water running down village - Cllr Anderson questioned whether there was anything to be done about the blocked/broken drain that has caused a stream of water to gush down Common St. in wet weather, for several years. Ward Cllrs promised to investigate.
- 11.2. Ward Cllr McClean reported that contrary to expectations the proposed development, dubbed MK East, had been approved by the Housing Minister.
- 11.3. The Clerk briefly ran through the election timetable and nomination paper requirements. [*post meeting note: the elections were postponed nationally until next year due to the Coronavirus outbreak.*]

12. **Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 9th April 2020 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.**

Meeting closed at 8.25pm

signed

date