

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held ONLINE on Thursday, 11th June 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs S. Bailey (in the Chair), H. Anderson, N. Brinner, R. Humphreys, L. Postawa. Ward Cllrs K. McLean and P. Geary. One member of the public.

Clerk J. Vischer

1. **Apologies** – Ward Cllr D. Hosking. These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – Cllr Anderson on Planning (item 9).
3. **Approval of March meeting Minutes, and any Matters Arising** – Approved. Proposer Cllr Humphreys, seconder Cllr Postawa Unanimous.
No Matters Arising.
4. **Village Appearance**
 - 4.1. Village Signs - completed [*finance note*: rather than pay RPC the grant, Milton Keynes Council (MKC) had deducted it from the final invoice - £1,323.43 paid]
 - 4.2. Inspection Action Plan 2019
 - 4.2.1. Noticeboards in need of refurbishment (stain application awaited) - Cllr Postawa reported that the matter was in hand.
 - 4.2.2. Old Schoolhouse verge, well-cover restoration and potential site for wildflower garden - Cllr Bailey reported that the wildflowers seeds had been purchased. It was agreed to sow in the Autumn and keep the site weed free in the meantime.
 - 4.2.3. Old Schoolhouse tree maintenance - completed.
 - 4.3. New Dog Bin - (installation delayed by lockdown) - the contractor had relayed last week that the delivery of stock was imminent and had promised to install straightaway.
 - 4.4. Litter picking kit (borrowed by Olney TC) - Cllr Bailey reported that he had not been successful in contacting anyone at Olney TC regarding these. Ward Cllrs suggested Andrea Vincent. SB to action. **SB**
 - 4.5. Big Spring Clean - noted that this had been postponed until the Autumn.
 - 4.6. North End bins - Cllr Bailey stated that the bins had not needed attention. To monitor. It was noted that the stickers on the bins need refurbishing. Cllrs agreed to assess the stickers on all the bins. Clerk to contact contractor with a view to supplying and installing new ones. **SB/ALL/CLK**
 - 4.7. Stile leading into Bay Lane (wooden gate requested) - Cllr Humphreys offered to check the stile. **RH**
 - 4.8. Verge by almshouses, another potential area for wildflower seeding - as above, seeds had been purchased. Ward Cllr Geary advised taking soil samples to assess the richness of the soil as the existing grass verge was good at suppressing vigorous weeds such as dock and thistle which would quickly invade the wildflowers. Ward Cllr Geary offered to help. Ward Cllr and Chair to meet on site. Almshouse Committee to be consulted. **PG/SB**
5. **Recreation Field**
 - 5.1. Cllr Anderson reported that new balls and a storage crate had been purchased. However these were removed at the start of coronavirus lockdown.
 - 5.2. It was noted that MKC had at no point required the area to be closed off during lockdown.
 - 5.3. A complaint had been made to Thames Valley Police (TVP) regarding the fetching of a football from the adjacent property without permission and the use of bad language by the children involved. Two PCSO's had visited the family in question. The family reported that the ball had gone into the neighbouring strip of land between the neighbours garden and the recreation field; this was rented by the property owner but not developed. These incidents had occurred over the years and it had been suggested to the complainant that they keep a log. No log has been presented. The children had returned to the park since. It was noted that there was no proper barrier fence between the areas of land in question. SB to contact Merchant Venturers to ascertain if the fence on that side of the plot is their responsibility and ask what they might be prepared to do. **SB**
6. **Allotments** - Cllr Postawa reported that the pump was not drawing water from the well efficiently, however it was unclear as to whether this was as a result of the long spell of dry weather. Cllr Anderson to contact installer. **HA**

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7. Finance

- 7.1. Cheques for approval & Balances - since the last meeting in March, payments had been being approved via email and cheques signed via the postal service. The following list of payments includes all payments since that March meeting to date:
Clerk's salary (01) £202.14; Clerk's admin & expenses - including SLCC subscription (01) £54.88; Browns Tree Solutions £456.00; Milton Keynes Council (RPC contribution to Village Signs) £1,323.43; Clerk's salary (02) £252.48; Clerk's admin & expenses (02) £27.29; Ravenstone Village Hall (room hire 2019-2020) £123.75; Clerk's salary (03) £202.14; Clerk's admin & expenses (03) £35.00; HMRC (PAYE 1st qtr) £164.00; Cllr expenses (balls/ crate) £39.49; Cllr expenses (wildflower seeds) £42.99.
Available balance at 27th May 2020: £8,484 (plus allocated Reserves).
- 7.2. Internal Audit report - not yet complete.
- 7.3. External Audit 'Governance' & 'Accounts' for approval and signing - as a result of the above (*item 7.2*) this was postponed to the next meeting.

8. **Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group** - It was noted that the Plan should be reviewed in approximately twelve months time to remain relevant and effective.

9. Planning Applications

- 9.1. 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. [to retain on the agenda for the next three months in order to track its implementation]. Some work on one barn has commenced and is steadily proceeding. Discussions on the other work continue. The Clerk had enquired as to the revised extension date for completion fortnight ago. Clerk to chase. CLK
20/00539/TCA Peartree Cottage 35 Common Street, Rowan tree - Remove to ground level following wind damage. Replace with new rowan tree. *Permitted*
- 9.2. **Applications since the last meeting –**
20/00743/FUL Change of use of existing land to residential curtilage in connection with Orchard Barn and Finch Barn, and erection of garden shed and log store in connection with Orchard Barn (retrospective). *Application withdrawn.*
20/01034/LBC Swallows Barn Stoke Goldington Road Ravenstone, Listed building consent for the installation of traditional style rooflights (dark grey to match roof). Having originally been told that the roof lights could be installed as part of 'permitted development' the applicant had been told recently to submit a fresh application, with the consequent fees. Ward Cllrs suggested a formal complaint is made to senior officers Palmer and Darke, as this mixed advice is an ongoing problem. HA

10. **Correspondence (other than email)** - SLCC Clerks' Quarterly; Merchant Venturers letter notifying RPC of the three-year rent review for the Allotment site. The rent increase (from £100 to £107.91), based on the Retail Price Index, is to be waived this year due to the pandemic.

11. Councillors/Residents New Items

- 11.1. Cllr Anderson reported on contact to the Clerk from an outsider regarding parents living in the village who had not been able to find the Ravenstone support group contact details. It was noted that Community Action coordinating support groups contact information had not listed Ravenstone as distinct from Olney even though details had been sent. Ward Cllr K. McLean agreed to follow-up as this had happened with other groups.
- 11.2. Cllr Anderson pointed out that the annual Village Inspection tour had not occurred this year, due to the pandemic; it was agreed that it would still go ahead later in the year.
- 11.3. Ward Cllr K. McLean updated members on MK recycling tips re-opening issues, Emberton Park re-opening, green bins emptying, and the discussions regarding new housing funding grant that MKC are considering.

12. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 9th July 2020 at 7.30pm online.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

signed

date