

# RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held ONLINE on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.30pm

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

Clerk J. Vischer

1. **Apologies** – Cllr L. Postawa; Ward Cllrs D. Hosking, P Geary. These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – Cllr Anderson on Planning (item 9.3).
3. **Approval of June meeting Minutes, and any Matters Arising** – Approved. Subject to noting that Cllr Bailey was responsible for noticeboard refurbishment not Cllr Postawa. Proposer Cllr Anderson, seconder Cllr Humphreys Unanimous.  
No Matters Arising.
4. **Village Appearance**
  - 4.1. Inspection Action Plan 2019
    - 4.1.1. Noticeboards in need of refurbishment (stain application awaited) - Completed (including lock repair).
    - 4.1.2. Old Schoolhouse verge, well-cover restoration and potential site for wildflower garden - *awaiting Autumn sowing*. A discussion ensued about the nature of the proposed well-cover and thus the quotation that was being obtained. Cllr Anderson made clear that she had expected an open iron grill type cover with a view down the well, and the concrete surrounds to be demolished. This was agreed. Cllr Bailey to liaise with contractor. **SB**
  - 4.2. New Dog Bin - (installation delayed by lockdown) - the new dog bin had finally been installed at the beginning of the week. [dog bin stickers replacement outstanding]
  - 4.3. Litter picking kit (borrowed by Olney TC) - Cllr Bailey reported that the full kit had been returned.
  - 4.4. North End bins - The bins had not needed attention. To monitor. It was agreed to remove from agenda. **CLK**
  - 4.5. Stile leading into Bay Lane (wooden gate requested) - still outstanding. Cllr Humphreys to check. **RH**
  - 4.6. Verge by almshouses, another potential area for wildflower seeding - Ward Cllr Geary and Chair to meet on site with a view to taking a soil sample. Almshouse Committee yet to be consulted. **PG/SB**
  - 4.7. Dog waste - councillors had noted an increase in frequency over the last few months. It was agreed to produce a flyer for circulation in the village. Cllrs Anderson and Bailey to draft. **HA/SB**
  - 4.8. Countryside Code - Cllr Anderson proposed adopting a recently produced poster to advertise the Code rules, including Covid-19 advice - e.g. social distancing - at suitable locations around the village. Ward Cllr McClean suggested contacting Rights of Way officers in MK Council for possible supplies. Clerk to liaise. **HA/CLK**
5. **Recreation Field**
  - 5.1. Use of Field - straying footballs - ongoing.
  - 5.2. Basketball noise - A complaint had been received about the repeated noise of the ball against the backboard. Cllrs Bailey and Brinner to inspect and evaluate; to liaise with MK Council Sports department. **SB/NB**
6. **Allotments** - faulty pump - Cllr Anderson reported that she had purchased a seal kit on the advice of the installer. As rain had now fallen pump to be tested to see if lack of groundwater was the cause. If not installer to be called-in. **HA**
7. **Finance**
  - 7.1. Cheques for approval & Balances - since the last meeting in June - Clerk's salary (01) £201.94; Clerk's admin & expenses £30.40; Interdirect (website hosting) £144.00; Landscape contractor (Tranche 1 annual + extras) £2,526.00; Cllr expenses (allotment pump parts) £27.18.  
Available balance at 27th June 2020: £7,470 (plus allocated Reserves).
  - 7.2. Internal Audit report - Councillors acknowledged a positive report. No recommendations had been made.
  - 7.3. External Audit 'Governance' & 'Accounts' for approval and signing -
    - 7.3.1. As a result of the above (item 7.2) councillors approved signing of the governance statement. There were no litigation events occurring during the year or issues raised from last year's audit. Proposer Cllr Anderson, seconder Cllr Brinner. Unanimous.
    - 7.3.2. The annual accounting statement was approved. Proposer Cllr Anderson, seconder Cllr Brinner. Unanimous.

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- 7.4. Pensions auto-enrolment - the Clerk confirmed he had renewed the auto-enrolment online following the advice of the Pensions Regulator (recurring every three years - since 2017 introduction)
8. **Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group** - Timetable for review postponed to the next meeting.
9. **Planning Applications**
- 9.1. Land Registry watch: Property address: Land At, Abbey Way, Ravenstone, Olney. Title number: BM20972  
There have been no alert notifications issued on this property.
- 9.2. 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. [to retain on the agenda for the next three months in order to track its implementation]
- 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. [Extended dates information requested by RPC end May]. 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) Permitted.
- 9.3. Applications since the last meeting –
- 20/01335/FUL Swallows Barn Stoke Goldington Road, Installation of two conservation roof lights in the sloping ceiling of an internal room. No objections.
- 20/01374/FUL Yew Tree Farm Stoke Goldington Road, 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) (re-submission of 20/00743/FUL). Councillors agreed to object on the same grounds as the earlier very similar application. **SB/CLK**
- 20/01527/LBC & 20/01527/LBC The Old Forge 17 Common Street, Addition of external doors to existing two-bay open garage (re-submission 20/00555/LBC). No comment - Cllr Humphreys to confirm. **RH**
10. **Correspondence (other than email)** - SLCC Clerks' Quarterly; the Pensions Regulator renewal confirmation letter.
11. **Councillors/Residents New Items**
- 11.1. September Village Litter-pick - Cllr Anderson suggested that as the Big Spring Clean had been postponed it would be wise to set date now. This was agreed. Sunday 20th September at 11am. Cllr Anderson to log with the local area register.
- 11.2. Allotments - weeds need strimming/spraying on vacant plots. Chair to liaise with contractor. **SB**
- 11.3. Fly-tipping - Cllr Anderson reported to MKC - since removed.
- 11.4. Choked drains ('gullies') - Cllr Bailey reported various blocked drains and was creating a survey of the village. Cllr Anderson agreed to assist in the survey. All to be reported to MKC and copied to Ward Cllrs. **SB/HA**
- 11.5. Parish Forum attendance - Cllr Bailey offered to attend in Cllr Anderson's' place. (online meeting) **SB**
- 11.6. Gate Group News - Cllr Anderson would prepare a report for the newsletter. **HA**
12. **Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 10th September 2020 at 7.30pm online.**

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

*signed*

*date*