

# RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held at the Village Hall on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs S. Bailey (in the Chair), H. Anderson, L. Postawa. Ward Cllr P. Geary. One member of the public.  
Clerk J. Vischer

1. **Apologies** – Cllrs N. Brinner, R. Humphreys; Ward Cllrs D. Hosking, K. McLean These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – None.
3. **Approval of July meeting Minutes, and any Matters Arising** – Approved. Proposer Cllr Postawa, seconder Cllr Anderson; Unanimous.  
No Matters Arising.
4. **Village Appearance**
  - 4.1. Inspection Action Plan 2019
    - 4.1.1. Old Schoolhouse verge, well-cover restoration and potential site for wildflower garden - awaiting Autumn sowing. Cllr Geary asked that the seed packet be photographed so he could ascertain the type of seed proposed. **SB**
  - 4.2. Stile leading into Bay Lane (wooden gate requested) - Cllr Anderson reported that the officer had pointed out that metal gates were more cost-effective due to their longevity and low maintenance. Cllrs agreed they were happy to go with metal swing-gates. It was suggested that the stile at the top of the recreation field would also qualify to be replaced with metal swing-gates. To be put to the officer. **HA**
  - 4.3. Verge by almshouses, another potential area for wildflower seeding - Almshouse Committee yet to be consulted. On hold. **PG/SB**
  - 4.4. Dog waste - a flyer had been circulated in the village. Cllrs Anderson and Bailey noted that both Bay Lane and North End did not seem so affected. **HA/SB**
  - 4.5. Dog bin stickers replacement - the address of a suitable website had been circulated. Ward Cllr P. Geary suggested asking MK Council as they used to have a free supply. **CLK**
  - 4.6. Village Clean-up - Set for 20th September 2020 at 11am. This has been advertised.
  - 4.7. Finger posts - Cllr Anderson reported that one is broken and lying on the ground. Local carpenter to be contacted. **HA**
5. **Recreation Field**
  - 5.1. Use of Field - It was agreed to renew signage for users to take precautions over the Coronavirus pandemic. It was also agreed that the box of balls be returned to the Field. **HA**
  - 5.2. Basketball noise (complaint) - Cllr Bailey had not heard back from the Playgrounds officer at MKC. Clerk to try and contact him. **CLK**
6. **Allotments**
  - 6.1. Faulty pump - Cllr Anderson reported that the installer could offer no help in solving the problem. The pump was still not working fully. **HA**
  - 6.2. Plot rent review - it was agreed to postpone the planned plot rental increase until next year due to the likely economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Plot-holders to be informed with renewal letters.
7. **Finance**
  - 7.1. Cheques for approval & Balances - since the last meeting in July. The following payment were approved  
August: Clerk's salary (05) £252.68; Clerk's admin & expenses (including annual Zoom subscription) £61.02;  
Contractor for bench and noticeboards refurbishment £855.00; September: Clerk's salary (06) £234.31; Clerk's admin & expenses £27.32; HMRC (PAYE) £172.20.  
Available balance at 27th August 2020: £3,337 (plus allocated Reserves).
  - 7.2. External Audit Exemption Certificate for approval and signing - Following submission of the full Governance & Accounts statements the auditors had offered an exemption (no fee). This had been accepted following email discussions (and the auditors informed). The Exemption Certificate was duly approved and signed. **CLK**

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## 8. Clerk's retirement

The Clerk explained that he should retire, for health reasons, by the end of the year to allow a reasonable period for the new Clerk to settle in. He was happy to work a handover period. It was agreed that he should circulate the vacancy amongst the MK parish Clerks. Notification to be placed on the website and in the Gate Group News. Parish councillors expressed regret at losing the Clerk and heartily thanked him for his service. **HA/CLK**

## 9. Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group

9.1. Review planned for 2021.

9.2. Cllrs Postawa and Anderson and the ex-Chair of the Steering Group Robin Cooper to meet one of the planning officers via Zoom, to aid in research into Neighbourhood Plan process. **LP**

## 10. Planning Applications

### 10.1. 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. [to retain on the agenda for the next three months in order to track its implementation]. MK Planning officers had written to state that as the hedgerow requirement could not be implemented until the planting season that the resolution of the door to be blocked-up should be left until November as well, for ease of joint enforcement. Councillors agreed unanimously that this was unacceptable as the two issues were not related and indeed should the door issue not be complied with this could postpone remedial action yet again. Chair to liaise with neighbouring resident to provide a common approach. Formal response to be submitted by Clerk. **SB/CLK**

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). *Permitted.*

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). *Permitted.*

### 10.2. Applications since the last meeting –

20/02005/TCA Brooklands 29A Common Street, Notification of intention for 1x Willow Tree - Fell tree and grind out the stump due to causing excessive shading. No objections.

## 11. Correspondence (other than email) - SLCC Clerks' Quarterly.

## 12. Councillors/Residents New Items

12.1. Cllr Anderson proposed replacing the play equipment for small children on the recreation field as the equipment was showing significant wear-and-tear. Use of Section 106 monies for this would be appropriate. It was agreed to investigate. Playgrounds officer to be contacted. **CLK**

12.2. Faulty streetlights - Cllr Anderson had reported intermittent lighting fault some time ago that had not been repaired. Ward Cllr P Geary suggested repairs may be awaiting installation of the new LED bulbs in the village.

## 13. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 8th October 2020 at 7.30pm probably online, as more strict pandemic rules are to be imposed shortly.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

*signed*

*date*