

# RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the meeting held ONLINE on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30pm

**Present:** Cllrs S. Bailey (in the Chair), H. Anderson, N. Brinner, R. Humphreys, L. Postawa. Ward Cllr P. Geary. Robin Cooper, ex-Chair of Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group..

Clerk J. Vischer

1. **Apologies** – Ward Cllrs D. Hosking, K. McLean These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – None.
3. **Approval of September meeting Minutes, and any Matters Arising** – Approved. Proposer Cllr Postawa, seconder Cllr Anderson; Unanimous.  
Matters Arising - item 12.2 Faulty streetlights - Cllr Anderson had re-reported the faulty streetlights. She had been told that they would be taken in hand over the next three months.
4. **Village Appearance**
  - 4.1. Inspection Action Plan 2019
    - 4.1.1. Old Schoolhouse verge & well-cover restoration - Cllr Bailey reported the site had been weeded by the local contractor and was ready for seeding. Well-cover: Cllrs Bailey and Anderson to arrange installation with one of the local contractors. **SB/HA**
  - 4.2. Stile leading into Bay Lane & the stile at the top of the recreation field - Cllr Anderson reported that both had been given the go-ahead. Cllr Humphreys reported that the Bay Lane one had just been installed.
  - 4.3. Verge by almshouses, another potential area for wildflower seeding - *On hold*.
  - 4.4. Dog bin stickers replacement - the Clerk confirmed that MK Council no longer offered a free supply. As the stickers offered online were relatively costly councillors agreed to check, on their normal rounds, that each bin warranted a new sticker. **CLLRS**
  - 4.5. Village Clean-up - this had been held on 20th September 2020. More than 5 bags had been collected. Some fly-tipped builders' rubbish had also been cleared. More of the latter had recently appeared. Cllr Bailey to report.
  - 4.6. Finger posts - Cllr Anderson had obtained a quotation for repairs from a local carpenter. It was formally agreed to instruct the contractor to go ahead. **HA**
  - 4.7. Defibrillator - Replacement batteries/maintenance - an email had been received from the original suppliers warning of the requirements to keep the batteries and pads in a fit state as the defibrillator was approaching 4 years old. RPC had previously agreed to cover these costs. A member of the Village Hall Committee would research alternative prices to those quoted by the supplier.
5. **Recreation Field**
  - 5.1. Use of Field - nothing to report.
  - 5.2. Basketball noise (complaint) - Cllrs Anderson and Bailey had met the MKC Playgrounds officer on site and discussed both the basketball noise and possible new play equipment. The officer had offered MKC's services to carry out alterations to the way the hoop was fixed to the backboard. Clerk to report back to residents. **CLK**
  - 5.3. New play equipment - the Playgrounds officer had offered to remove old unwanted equipment free of charge. Possible new equipment had been discussed but the choice was left with RPC. It was agreed to look at replacing equipment especially for the younger age groups and a possible re-design of the layout of the Field, up to a budget of £10,000. Proposer Cllr Postawa, seconder Cllr Anderson; Unanimous.
6. **Allotments**
  - 6.1. Annual Renewals - Plot-holders had recently been sent renewal emails and forms. This included notice of postponement for the planned plot rental increase until next year due to the economic impact of the Coronavirus pandemic.
  - 6.2. Request from a new plot holder for a shed was approved.
  - 6.3. Request for a falconry mews requires more detail - dimensions; how many birds etc. Cllr Anderson to follow-up. Clerk to check with insurers regarding public liability. **HA/CLK**

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## 7. **Finance**

7.1. Cheques for approval & Balances - since the September meeting. The following payments were approved  
August: Clerk's salary (07) £207.56; Clerk's admin & expenses £16.00; Finger-posts repair £98.00.  
Available balance at 25th September 2020 (following receipt of 2nd tranche precept): £7,549 (plus allocated Reserves).

## 8. **Clerk's replacement**

The vacancy had been advertised locally, two candidates had put themselves forward. Details are being sought and interviews arranged. Clerk to research foundation-training opportunities. **CLK**

## 9. **Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group**

9.1. Cllrs Postawa and Anderson and the ex-Chair of the Steering Group Robin Cooper had met with one of the MKC planning officers via Zoom, to aid in research into the Neighbourhood Plan process. The RPC Neighbourhood Plan was praised for its scope and thoroughness. Robin Cooper reported how discussions highlighted the fact that the proposed new planning legislation had the potential to undermine the whole basis of neighbourhood planning. He kindly agreed to draft a submission to this effect for RPC to consider and submit. **RC/CLK**

## 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]. An email explaining that this was unacceptable to RPC had been submitted by the Clerk on 28th September 2020. No reply received to date.

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. *Permitted.*

### 10.2. **Applications since the last meeting –**

20/02198/TCA Lower Farm House Common Street, Notification of intention to fell 1 x Holly tree to ground level. No objections.

## 11. **Correspondence (other than email) - None.**

## 12. **Councillors/Residents New Items**

12.1. Covid Champion - Cllr Anderson was congratulated for being appointed a local 'Covid Champion'.

12.2. Drains clearing - it was noted that some of the congested drains (gullies) had been cleared out.

12.3. Cllr Nick Brinner announced that he would be resigning at the next meeting as he would be moving out of the area. He was thanked for his consistent support and helpful comment, and his managing of the recent website renewal. With elections approaching within six months from then it was not a requirement to appoint a successor but nevertheless councillors agreed to consider possible candidates for co-option.

12.4. It was noted that the annual parish insurance was due for renewal shortly. The three-year agreement would also expire. New rates had been offered. Agenda item for next meeting.

## 13. **Date of Next Meeting – Thursday 12th November 2020 at 7.30pm online.**

Meeting closed at 8.50pm

*signed*

*date*