

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held ONLINE on Thursday, 12th November 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs S. Bailey (in the Chair), H. Anderson, N. Brinner, R. Humphreys, L. Postawa. Ward Cllrs P. Geary, D. Hosking. Clerk J. Vischer

1. **Apologies** – Ward Cllr K. McLean .These were accepted.
 2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – None.
 3. **Approval of October meeting Minutes and any Matters Arising** – Approved. Proposer Cllr Postawa, seconder Cllr Anderson; Unanimous.
 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 seeded with a wildflower mix. Well-cover: Cllr Bailey relayed that two new stone courses would be required and an iron grate had been agreed with the contractor. It was noted that last year’s ward grant of £225 was allocated to part fund this project.
 - 4.2. Stile leading into Bay Lane & the stile at the top of the recreation field - New kissing-gates had been installed in both locations.
 - 4.3. Verge by almshouses, another potential area for wildflower seeding - *On hold*.
 - 4.4. Dog bin stickers replacement - update awaited. RH
 - 4.5. Finger posts - Cllr Anderson reported that repairs had been carried out.
 - 4.6. Defibrillator - Replacement battery/maintenance - A member of the Village Hall Committee had checked the device and established that the battery was in good working order but the life of the pads had expired. Two new pads had been ordered. [RPC had previously agreed to cover these costs].
 - 4.7. Faulty Streetlights (Mannings Farm entrance) - It had been noted that the streetlights had ceased functioning altogether. Cllr Anderson reported that she had spoken to a member of staff in the street-lighting department over the phone but any notion of a timeframe for repairs was rejected. Ward Cllr Hosking asked that Cllr Anderson email details of the exchange over for further investigation.
- WARD CLLR**
5. **Recreation Field**
 - 5.1. Basketball noise (complaint) - Cllr Anderson had reminded the MKC Playgrounds officer’s promise to carry out alterations to the way the hoop was fixed to the backboard. No repairs done to date.
 - 5.2. New play equipment - Cllr Anderson had been successful with a grant application to the Community Foundation for £1,500. Three quotations had been received. One contractor had been very approachable and helpful as well as well-priced. It was agreed to set up an onsite meeting with them. Discussions still unresolved about moving/re-arranging some of the existing equipment. It was also agreed to set up a temporary noticeboard on the Field for consultation purposes as door-to-door conversations would not be appropriate at this time. **CLLRS**
 6. **Allotments - Annual Renewals** - All plot-holders had renewed except one. There are three vacant plots.
 7. **Finance**
 - 7.1. Cheques for approval & Balances - since the October meeting. The following payments were approved
August: Clerk’s salary (08) £259.65; Clerk’s admin & expenses £16.00; Chair’s refund (wildflowers seed) £20.99;
Landscape maintenance (2nd tranche) £2,126.00; Parish insurance (annual) £451.25.
Available balance at 27th October 2020: £7,497 (plus allocated Reserves).
 - 7.2. Insurance renewal - The Clerk reported that renewal documents had not been received to date. It was agreed in principle to remain with the current insurer - renewal due early December. CLK
 - 7.3. Annual Grants - it was agreed to pay two of the usual three grants. SRW Club grant to be paid subject to confirmation that it was still functioning.
 8. **Clerk’s replacement**

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No further candidates had put themselves forward. It was agreed that councillors would all be present at the virtual interviews of the two candidates. To be arranged immediately. **SB**

9. **Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group** - Item 4.1.1 above, is an action point within the Neighbourhood Plan.

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. Following forwarding a copy of RPC's submission to Ward Councillors the planning officer had replied on 4th November that an enforcement case had been opened under the supervision of MKC officer Gary Dunne. No further update had been received. Clerk to follow-up. **CLK**
20/02198/TCA Lower Farm House Common Street, Notification of intention to fell 1 x Holly tree to ground level. No objections. *Permitted.*

10.2. **Applications since the last meeting –** None.

11. **Correspondence (other than email)** - A copy of the Clerks and Councils Direct Quarterly.

12. **Councillors/Residents New Items**

12.1. Gullies - it was noted that RPC's landscape contractor had cleared a large amount of silt and stones from gullies by the allotments and disposed of it in spite of recent clearing-out by MKC. These gullies had already shown a marked improvement in draining storm-water away.

12.2. Community support - Western Power grant for community support over the Christmas period and Scrapstore 'goodie-bags' for children's activities over the holidays were both discussed but councillors could not identify needy target groups in the area.

12.3. Co-option - The Clerk to inform MKC of Cllr Nick Brinner's resignation. Formal acknowledgement by way of a Notice of Co-option would be received in due course, to be posted up. Cllr Humphreys agreed to forward details of a possible candidate to the Chair to be invited to the December meeting. **RH**

12.4. Cllr Nick Brinner's final meeting - He was again thanked for his valuable contribution to RPC since May 2016, and his contribution to the neighbourhood.

13. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 10th December 2020 at 7.30pm online.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

signed

date