

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

<http://www.ravenstone-pc.gov.uk>

ravenstoneclerk@gmail.com

Minutes of the meeting held ONLINE on Thursday, 10th December 2020 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs R. Humphreys (in the Chair), H. Anderson, L. Postawa. Ward Cllrs P. Geary, D. Hosking. Prospective Clerk: Mrs Charmane MacGregor; prospective parish councillor: Ms Finola Godber.
Clerk J. Vischer

1. **Apologies** – Cllr S. Bailey; Ward Cllr K. McLean. These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – None.
3. **Approval of November meeting Minutes and any Matters Arising** – Approved. Proposer Cllr Anderson, seconder Cllr Postawa ; Unanimous.
4. **Village Appearance**
 - 4.1. Inspection Action Plan 2019
 - 4.1.1. Old Schoolhouse verge & well-cover restoration - Cllr Bailey had informed the Clerk that the well-cover restoration would be done in the new year.
 - 4.2. Verge by almshouses, another potential area for wildflower seeding - *On hold*.
 - 4.3. Dog bins and stickers replacement
 - 4.3.1. Bins - The contractor had sent an email informing councillors of the need for repairs to two dog bins - RAV03 new post ; RAV 01 broken lid; at a cost of approx £282+VAT. This was approved. Proposer Cllr Anderson, seconder Cllr Postawa ; Unanimous.
 - 4.3.2. Stickers - This morning (10th December) MKC offered to supply new anti-dog-fouling bin stickers. The offer was hastily accepted by the Clerk. Councillors confirmed the Clerk's decision.
 - 4.4. Defibrillator - Replacement battery/maintenance - no update on the two new pads. [RPC had previously agreed to cover these costs]. Cllr Anderson volunteered to chase. **HA**
 - 4.5. Faulty Streetlights (Mannings Farm entrance) - Cllr Anderson reported that the streetlights were fully operational. [*post meeting note*: The street light on Weston Road has not been repaired although the case is reported as closed. HA will report fault again]. **HA**
5. **Recreation Field**
 - 5.1. Basketball noise (complaint) - Cllr Anderson reported that although apparently inspected no repairs had been carried out to date. However the proposed playground equipment installation contractor had offered to replace the backboard which appeared to be of the wrong type.
 - 5.2. New play equipment - the on-site meeting had taken place. Cllr Anderson had established that a planning application was indeed necessary and had duly filed one. The planning application was made via the Planning Portal but it could not be completed as RPC is unable to make electronic payments. The process was repeated manually to MKC in order to use a cheque payment. It was agreed that the Clerk submit a letter of intent for the purchase and installation of the equipment to the contractor whilst the planning process took its course. Discussions also ensued about the availability of funds to cover the full payment, including VAT, before year end (March 31st). The Clerk confirmed that funds would be available, based on present estimates. A temporary noticeboard displaying the planned development and inviting comments had been installed on the Field. Initial discussions with residents had been generally positive. **CLLRS**
6. **Allotments** - Annual Renewals - All plot-holders had renewed.. There are three vacant plots.
7. **Finance**
 - 7.1. Cheques for approval & Balances - since the November meeting. The following payments were approved: Clerk's salary (09) £207.56; Clerk's admin & expenses £16.00; HMRC (PAYE 3rd qtr) £168.80; Pest control (retainer:2019-20) £204.00; MK Council (planning fee) £117.00; Gate Group (annual grant) £100.00; SRW Club (annual grant) £150.00; Stoke Goldington pre-school (annual grant) £100.00.
Available balance at 27th October 2020: £7,497 (plus allocated Reserves).
 - 7.2. Annual Grants approval - SRW Club grant to be paid as the Club was still functioning.

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- 7.3. Preliminary budget considerations - the Clerk proposed that the budget be increased by the usual 2%. Certain items needed review but most budget lines would qualify. Members were invited to review the budget spreadsheet and pass all comments to the Clerk by early January at the latest.
- 7.4. Chequebook - it was agreed that during the transition period between clerks that the chequebook be retained in the village for ease of signing. Cllr Anderson agreed to act as chequebook holder.
8. **Clerk's replacement** - the virtual interviews had not taken place due to the indisposition of the Chair. The Clerk confirmed that he would continue in post for the next meeting.
9. **Co-option** - Mrs Finola Godber was invited to be co-opted; she accepted the post. Clerk to email relevant form and documents. **CLK**
10. **Neighbourhood Plan Implementation Group** - Nothing to report.
11. **Planning Applications**
- 11.1. **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 email details to Ward Cllr Dave Hosking. **CLK**
- 11.2. **Applications since the last meeting** – None.
12. **Correspondence (other than email)** - None.
13. **Councillors/Residents New Items**
- 13.1. New PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) - an email had been circulated noting the new appointment of PCSO David Huckle.
- 13.2. Changes to local bus service - Ward Cllr P Geary notified members that as from next April the rural bus service to Ravenstone would become 'by request' only. Details were available on the MK Council website. Further notifications from the Council would be forthcoming.
14. **Date of Next Meeting** – Thursday 14th January 2021 at 7.30pm online.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

signed

date