

**P A R I S H O F W E S T O N I N G**

**MINUTES of the Meeting of**

**Westoning Parish Council**

**held on Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall, Westoning**

**PRESENT:** Cllr A Rayment (Chairman), Cllr J Nethersole, Cllr P Ellis, Cllr B Rogerson,

Cllr E Bhasin, Cllr C Luff, Cllr N McLoughlin, Cllr E Russell, CBC Cllr J Jamieson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Barker (Clerk), no members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7799 Apologies for absence** – Cllr P Kelly

7799.1 Elections

The Clerk confirmed that seven Cllrs had reapplied for their positions on the Parish Council and all the nominations were uncontested. The Cllrs that will remain in office include

Cllr Rayment, Cllr Nethersole, Cllr Rogerson, Cllr Bhasin, Cllr Ellis, Cllr Kelly and Cllr Luff. This will leave three vacancies which can be filled by co-option at the May meeting.

**7800 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2023 were approved. Cllr Nethersole proposed, seconded by Cllr Ellis the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**7801 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Bhasin – finance Point 7806.2

Cllr Ellis – finance Point 7806.2

**7802 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7803 Chairman’s actions**

There were no Chairmans actions.

**7804 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson gave a report:

* Milestone Infrastructure – the new highways contractor for Central Bedfordshire is Milestone Infrastructure who began work on 1st April.

**7805 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**7806 Finance**

7806.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 37,442.22 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,995.64 |
| **TOTAL** | 104,437.86 |

7806.2 The Chairman proposed, seconded by Cllr Nethersole the approval of the following payments, agreed by all Cllrs present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000734 | Clerk – salary | 512.14 |
| 000734 | Clerk – expenses | 40.09 |
| 000735 | HMRC – Clerk tax | 4.00 |
| 000736 | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000737 | D J Granger – village etc Inv 023378 | 459.90 |
| 000737 | D J Granger – field Inv 023392 | 201.60 |
| 000737 | D J Granger – field Inv 023332 | 201.60 |
| 000737 | D J Granger – Village etc, field | 661.50 |
| 000738 | B Osborne - Payroll | 67.50 |
| 000739 | E Bhasin – coronation expenses | 54.90 |
| 000740 | Wicksteed – play inspec (unpaid since 2021) | 72.00 |
| 000740 | Wicksteed – play inspec March | 144.00 |
| 000741 | Westoning Recreation Club – bin usage | 58.43 |
| 000742 | P Ellis – gate locks | 177.52 |
| 000743 | Zurich Municipal – insurance renewal | 1,578.85 |
| 000744 | Npower – electricity bill Jan to March | 159.26 |
| 000745 | Westoning Village Hall – hall hire | 19.50 |
| 000745 | Westoning Village Hall – Kings Coronation hire | 45.50 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **4,733.29** |

7806.3 Other finance matters:

7806.3.1 Invoice for bin usage from Recreation Club

Cllr Nethersole proposed, seconded by Cllr McLoughlin to approve the invoice for £48.69 for January, February and March bin usage.

7806.3.2 Annual audit of accounts

The Clerk said that she will be completing the year end accounts over the coming weeks which will need to be approved by the Parish Council in May/June. The Internal Audit is booked for 15th May, remotely.

7806.3.3 Anesco Solar Farm payment £3,725.14 – payment received

Noted by the Parish Council.

**7807 Highways**

7807.1 Highways Issues

Low Bridge

The Clerk to send the information onto CBC Cllr Jamieson regarding the request for additional low bridge signs on the A5120. (**Action Clerk**)

7807.2 Footpath near School

The Clerk read out an email from a resident requesting that the footpath between the playground and the tennis courts be widened as it is extremely narrow and when the early years children are queuing, parents and children have to walk across the muddy field. The Parish Council agreed that this would not be possible for the Parish Council to carry out as it would be too cost prohibitive to do. They agreed to write to the School to ask them whether the children could queue in another area or whether they would be able to pay for the path to be widened. (**Action Clerk**)

7807.3 Parking on verges

The Parish Council noted an email from a resident concerned about parking on the verge where they live causing the area to become muddy and unsightly. Cllrs agreed that this was a village wide problem and the Chairman agreed to draft a parking notice to put on vehicles when problems occur. The notice to be agreed at the next meeting. (**Action Chairman**)

7807.4 Village Walk

The Village Walk to be held on Tuesday 25th April at 9.30am.

**7808 Recreation Ground**

7808.1 Recreation Club Licence

The Chairman said that the new licence is in the process of being drafted and he will share a copy of it prior to sending it to the Recreation Club. Cllr Nethersole said that she is happy to act as the Parish Council Representative on the Recreation Club Committee. This was noted.

7808.2 Bushes around football pitch

The Chairman said that he will ask Neil Gates for a quote again or seek a quote elsewhere.

(**Action Chairman**)

**7809 Village Matters**

7809.1 Rural Match Fund Scheme – kerb in Church Road

The Chairman noted the response from CBC at the last meeting. He agreed to write to CBC to inform them that the kerb is a problem and damage to vehicles could incur claims against CBC. He said he will send them photographs of the area. (**Action Chairman**)

7809.2 Burial Ground

CBC Cllr Jamieson spoke about the use of the land by the railway. He suggested that the Parish Council put in a request to use the land, as part of the planning process for West View Farm. He said that he will speak to the Planning Officer.

7809.3 Grass cutting – schedule/contract

Cllrs McLoughlin and Luff prepared some maps. It was agreed to look at the grass cutting areas on the Village Walk so that the maps can be finalised and the contract formalised.

The Chairman said that there have been complaints about the grass being cut in wet conditions on waterlogged areas of the Recreation Ground and a new arrangement will be put in place. The grass cutting contractor will be asked to cut the grass within 2 weeks of being requested to do so.

7809.4 Kings Coronation

Cllr Bhasin said that 71 residents have put their names forward for the afternoon tea. The event will start at 3pm on 8th May, finishing around 5pm and there will be food and a singer providing entertainment and a raffle. Volunteers are needed to help with the setting up.

7809.5 Flag Pole

Nothing to report. The Christmas Tree needs to be removed, the Chairman to ask Dycol for a quote. (**Action Chairman**)

7809.6 Planters

There are still 6 planters to be put together. Places to put them to be identified on the village walk.

7809.7 Community Benefit Group

Nothing to report.

7809.8 Ampthill and Flitwick Green Wheel event

Cllr McLoughlin said that she attended the event and it was very informative and provided information on a network of linked walking and cycling routes. Various routes were discussed. Plans will develop and proposals will be released in due course.

**7810 Play Area**

7810.1 Picnic Bench x 2

The Parish Council agreed to two picnic benches and the increase in cost to £900 plus VAT. This was proposed by Cllr Rogerson and seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed by all present. The Chairman said that he will order the benches to be delivered and assembled at the Chequers. (**Action Chairman**)

**7811 Planning**

7811.1 Planning applications:

No planning applications were received.

7811.2 Other Planning Matters:

7811.2.1 Solar Farm

Nothing to report.

7811.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road

Nothing to report.

7811.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

Nothing to report.

**7812 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

No reports were given.

**7813 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7814 Date of next meeting: Annual Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 10th May 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

**Annual Meeting of the Parish**

**Monday 15th May 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

Approved: ………………………………………………. Date: ……………………………………………………….