

**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 14th April 2021 at 7.30pm**

**by Zoom video conferencing**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A Rayment (Chairman), E Bhasin, R Botterell, P Ellis, P Kelly, E Leftly, C Luff,

J Nethersole, B Rogerson, E Russell, CBC Cllr J Jamieson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Barker (Clerk), 4 members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7433 Apologies for absence** – No apologies were given

**7434 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2021 were approved. Cllr Nethersole proposed, seconded by Cllr Luff the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and to be signed by the Chairman at the next meeting in person.

**7435 Declaration of interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**7436 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7437 Chairman’s actions**

The Chairman said that the Football Club have the opportunity to apply for a grant to resurface the access road to the Recreation Ground, should the Parish Council not be successful with their grant application. If both grants applications are successful, most of the funding for it in excess of the CBC grant will be from the Football Club grant.

The Chairman said that a village resident recently celebrated her 80th birthday. She had a wonderful day with a card and flowers from Westoning Cares and a card from Lord Brockett which the chairman had facilitated.

**7438 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson gave an update:

M1/A6 link road:

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that he attended an executive meeting which was very positive and the work could be done within 5 years.

Highways:

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that he met with highways and raised various issues in the village. He said that it is unlikely that kerbing could be put in opposite the Church.

**7439 Public Participation**

A member of the public spoke about high speed vehicles on the road to Tingrith. He asked if the Parish Council could provide any support or guidance to stop this happening as there could be a serious accident. The occurrences are not regular and can happen at any time of the day. The Chairman said that the problem is that the road speed limit is 60 mph and it would be more appropriate for it to be a 40 mph limit It was suggested that the Speedwatch Group undertake a speedwatch on that road. Cllr Nethersole said that she will make enquiries with the Police whether this is allowed to be done in a 60 mph zone.

The Clerk said that she has had received some emails about litter around the village with some reports of residents going to great lengths to keep the village tidy by undertaking litter picking. This was greatly appreciated by the Parish Council.

The Clerk said that a member of the public has queried why an open gardens event had been held and was very surprised that the event was allowed to go ahead at a time when people were not allowed to meet in gardens. The Parish Council said that they were aware of an event and understand it was compliant with Government guidance and tickets were limited and had to be purchased online.

**7440 Finance**

7440.1 Bank balances and finance report:

The Clerk circulated the finance report prior to the meeting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 18,834.98 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,417.94 |
| **TOTAL** | 85,252.92 |

7440.2 Cllr Rogerson proposed, seconded by Cllr Nethersole the approval of the following payments, agreed by all:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque Number** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000450 | Clerk – salary | 481.45 |
| 000450 | Clerk – expenses | 86.72 |
| 000451 | B Osborne – payroll | 66.00 |
| 000452 | D J Granger – Inv 021268 village grass | 604.54 |
| 000452 | D J Granger – Inv 021227 village grass | 604.54 |
| 000452 | D J Granger – Inv 021214 playing field | 189.60 |
| 000452 | D J Granger – Inv 021321 playing field | 189.60 |
| 000452 | D J Granger – Inv 021328 | 414.94 |
| 000453 | Stonebridges – printing of April WoS | 295.00 |
| 000454 | E.on – electricity bill | 71.70 |
| 000455 | Andy Muskett – 4th quarter maintenance | 186.00 |
| 000456 | BATPC – membership | 447.00 |
| 000457 | Parish Warden – Village Warden | 275.00 |
|  | **TOTAL** | 3,912.09 |

7440.3 Other finance matters:

7440.3.1 TSB - Online banking

The Chairman and Cllr Ellis are now registered for online banking. Remove from the agenda

7440.3.2 VAT

The Clerk said that the VAT refund was not received before the financial year end and she will have to call HMRC to check that they received the form. (**Action Clerk**)

7440.3.3 Annual Audit of Accounts

The Clerk said that she will now be working on the year end accounts and the Governance Statement and Accounting Statement will need to be approved at either the May or June meeting. The internal audit will be held remotely on 24th May.

7440.3.4 E.on charges post LED upgrade

The Clerk said that the new schedule of lights has been sent to UK Power Networks and they have forwarded this to Westoning’s supplier for registering so the Parish Council can expect a reduction in lighting costs.

7440.3.5 Review of 2021/22 budget

For review at the next meeting.

7440.3.6 Annual Maintenance

The Clerk reported that the annual maintenance charge quoted by the lighting contractor, Andy Muskett, has reduced from £620 plus VAT to £434 plus VAT due to the upgrade to LED’s, an annual saving of £186. Noted by the Parish Council.

**7441 Highways**

7441.1 Potholes and other faults/problems.

It was reported that some faults have now been rectified during the last month.

**7442 Recreation Ground**

7442.1 Litter and rubbish on recreation ground - possible mitigation measures

The Parish Council agreed to ask the Recreation Club if they would be willing to share the cost of their commercial waste bin so that the Village Warden can put the rubbish collected in there. The Clerk was asked to obtain the cost of another litter bin, the location to be confirmed by the Chairman. (**Action Chairman/Clerk**)

7442.2 Storage compound for Westoning Football Club

A proposal is awaited from the football club.

7442.3 Cutting back edges and weed killing under new fence/spraying and improving planting area adjacent to the School fence

The Chairman to ask Neil Gates to quote for the above work.

**7443 Village Matters**

7443.1 Flower Planters

The Chairman said that he has found another company who can supply the planters required at a cheaper price which is under £130 per planter but delivery will take up to 77 days. He said that he has ordered 10. There are a number of plants that will be suitable for the planters and he has circulated a list. A number of residents have come forward who are interested in adopting a planter.

7443.2 Rock Snake

Cllr Rogerson to estimate how many rocks she has as there may be too many to put the design on the wall as previously agreed. The Parish Council may need to re-consider the design.

7443.3 COVID-19 updates from Westoning Cares

Westoning Cares is still in operation but shopping requests have reduced. The final soup run will be done this week. All recipients have been very appreciative of the hard work of Phil and Vicky at the Chequers.

7443.4 Village Fete

The Chairman said that he is looking into the holding of a village fete. (**Action Chairman**)

7443.5 Planting of trees

Cllr Bhasin said that there is a School Governors meeting next week and she will speak to them about re-planting the trees.

7443.6 Litter Pick

Cllr Botterell said that the litter pick banner will be displayed mid May. The Chequers will be providing refreshments.

7443.7 Littercam

Cllr Botterell said that he has contacted a company that develops the system but they have not yet replied.

7443.8 Litter and dog bin

Cllr Nethersole to confirm to the Clerk the locations of the additional litter bin and dog bin required for the Clerk to obtain some costs. (**Action Cllr Nethersole**)

7443.9 Environmental

Cllrs were concerned to hear about problems at the bus stop with young people allegedly smoking drugs in the bus shelter. People waiting for the bus are not happy to go in there. The Police have been informed. There is also a problem on Sampshill Road with alleged drug dealing and the Police have been patrolling the area. Cllr Nethersole said that she will ask the Police if they can visit to investigate and whether they can attend Parish Council meetings. (**Action Cllr Nethersole**)

**7444 Play Area**

7444.1 Safety Surface repair

Cllr Ellis said that the repair has been done.

**7445 Planning**

7445.1 Planning Applications:

7445.1.1 CB/21/01434/LDCE – 23A Highfields – lawful development certificate existing: single storey side extension. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7445.1.2 CB/21/00805/FULL – FLITWICK CRICKET CLUB, Cricket Field, Flitwick Road – proposed 2 no single storey extensions to existing clubhouse building. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7445.2 Other Planning Matters:

The Parish Council Meeting was closed

7445.2.1 Anesco – presentation

Antony Prewer and Jez McHale from Anesco were welcomed to the meeting. Mr Prewer spoke about the proposed Sampshill Road solar project. Anesco are involved in the consultation, design, construction, operation, maintenance and optimization of solar pv and energy storage sites. They possess a portfolio of over 100 solar farms. The Sampshill solar park project could power approximately 11,300 average UK homes. They are currently at the pre-application stage. Contruction and access to the site would be via Greenfield Road into Clayhill Farm. There would be an average of 3 or 4 HGV deliveries per day initially. The Company strive to improve biodiversity and adopt sensitive methods to minimize disruption.

Some questions were asked regarding the location, fencing and consideration for those residents heavily affected by the panels and the view from their properties. A member of the public invited Representatives from Anesco to visit them to see how badly affected they would be.

Mr Prewer said that the Company are looking to put in screening around Hillcrest so nearby properties are not too adversely affected.

The Chairman thanked Antony Prewer and Jez McHale for attending. He said that the plans were at an early stage and when the planning application is submitted, residents will be invited to make their views known before the Parish Council submits their RESPONSE.

The Parish Council Meeting was opened

**7446 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives - Reports**

No reports were given.

**7447 Parish Council Administration**

Due to the Governments decision not to extend the right for Parish Council’s to hold remote meetings after 7th May, the Parish Council agreed to hold their May meetings a week early.

Annual Meeting of the Parish – Thursday 6th May at 7pm via Zoom

Annual Parish Council Meeting (May PC Meeting) – Thursday 6th May at 8pm via Zoom

**7448 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7449 Date of next meeting: Annual Meeting of the Parish and Annual Parish Council Meeting**

**Thursday 6th May 2021 at 7.00pm and 8.00pm**

**via Zoom**

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

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