

**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 10th February 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), no members of the public were present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7399 Apologies for absence** – No apologies were given

**7400 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2021 were approved. Cllr Luff proposed, seconded by Cllr Ellis 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.

**7401 Declaration of interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

**7402 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7403 Chairman’s actions**

The Chairman said that he met with Derek Geraghty and Steve Maker to advise them that the Parish Council are considering putting in an outdoor gym and jogging track. He also spoke to David Granger about the recreation ground grass cutting and met with Flitwick Town Council’s Deputy Clerk to discuss the footpath information board.

**7404 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson gave an update:

CBC Budget:

The Council are likely to approve a budget increase of general council tax by 1.95% and a 3% increase for social care.

Covid-19:

There has been a reduction in covid cases in the area but hospitals are still very busy.

Flooding:

CBC has identified 2 blocked drains in the area and these will be investigated further.

Railway line:

There have been issues with the grass bank at Harlington Station and this will be rectified shortly.

Tree planting fund:

CBC are running a tree planting fund again to encourage planting of trees/hedges.

Kerbing:

The Chairman asked if CBC could put in some kerbing at the boundary of the Grange to the entrance gate opposite the Church. CBC Cllr Jamieson said that he will make enquiries.

**7405 Public Participation**

There were no issues raised from members of the public.

**7406 Finance**

7406.1 Bank balances and finance report:

The Clerk circulated the finance report prior to the meeting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 21,587.54 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,374.91 |
| **TOTAL** | 87,962.45 |

7406.2 Cllr Nethersole proposed, seconded by Cllr Bhasin the approval of the following payments, agreed by all:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque Number** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000435 | Clerk – salary | 481.45 |
| 000435 | Clerk – expenses | 34.65 |
| 000436 | HMRC – Clerks tax | 1.80 |
| 000437 | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000438 | Wicksteed – play area inspection | 54.00 |
| 000439 | Anglian Water – water bill | 61.22 |
| 000440 | Mazars – external audit | 360.00 |
| 000441 | Idverde Limited – Rec Ground works | 3,888.00 |
| 000442 | Safetyshop – no dogs signs | 100.80 |
|  | **TOTAL** | 5,256.92 |

7406.3 Other finance matters:

7406.3.1 TSB - Online banking

The Clerk forwarded the online banking registration details to the Chairman, Cllr Rogerson and Cllr Ellis for them to register. (**Action Clerk**)

7406.3.2 Solar Farm – community benefit payment

The Clerk said that the annual invoice to Anesco is to be raised and she is waiting for confirmation of the amount.

7406.3.3 Idverde Recreation Ground works/receipt of £3,240 from Westoning FC

The Parish Council noted that the payment of £3,240 has been received from the football club and that the Idverde invoice of £3,888 (£3,240 plus VAT) has now been approved for payment, see Point 7406.2, by the Parish Council in accordance with the joint grant application between the Parish Council and the football club.

**7407 Highways**

7407.1 Pelican Crossing

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that CBC supported the recommendation for a new pelican crossing at their Traffic Management Meeting.

**7408 Recreation Ground**

7408.1 Recreation Ground – grass cutting

The Chairman said that he spoke with the grass cutting contractor David Granger regarding his quote to cut the grass on the recreation ground. He has agreed to follow the growing season and not be limited to cutting the recreation ground when he visits the village to cut the village grass. The Clerk to confirm this in writing. (**Action Clerk**)

**7409 Village Matters**

7409.1 Storage of Christmas equipment

It was reported that the Village Hall Committee has decided not to charge the Parish Council for storing the equipment. The Parish Council were pleased with this outcome.

* 1. Youth Facilities/Club

Review when circumstances permit.

7409.3 Noticeboard

Cllr Nethersole said that a local artist is considering a mosaic design for the back of the noticeboard.

7409.4 Flagpole

Cllr Bhasin said that it has been difficult for the school to come up with a design as there are so few children in school. It was agreed to ask the local artist to come up with a design.

7409.5 Flower Planters

Cllr Russell agreed to coordinate the responses from residents interested in adopting a planter.

7409.6 Rock Snake

Cllr Rogerson is awaiting a quote to re-cement the stones.

7409.7 London Luton Airport – consultation

Nothing to report. Remove from the agenda as the consultation has now ended.

7409.8 S106 funding opportunity – schemes for submission

7409.8.1 Outdoor gym equipment/running track

Cllrs Kelly and Bhasin met with a supplier of outdoor gym equipment. There are potentially 8 pieces of equipment that would be suitable for the area predominantly cardio vascular with some weight equipment as well. The equipment will have a 25 year guarantee and every piece of equipment comes with user instructions, this can also be provided using an app. The supplier will provide a quote. Cllr Kelly said that they will be meeting with another supplier shortly.

Cllr Botterell said that he will look into the possible provision of a running track and obtain a quote. (**Action Cllr Botterell**)

The Chairman agreed to provide a sketch/plan of the proposed area.

(**Action Chairman**)

7409.9 Covid-19 – updates

Cllr Nethersole said that Westoning Cares is still in operation undertaking shopping and pharmacy runs and the soup lunches are still being done regularly. The Parish Council thanked Cllrs Nethersole and Kelly for their hard work and dedication.

7409.10 Planting of trees

The Parish Council discussed the Woodland Trust’s free tree scheme and agreed that trees could be used to screen the railway bank. Further discussion required.

The Clerk was asked to write to the school to ask them to fulfil their agreement to re-plant the two trees that were taken down. (**Action Clerk**)

7409.11 Spensley Road verge

The Chairman and Cllr Nethersole said that they had looked at the area and felt that the damage is not as extensive as thought. Vehicles are parking on the verge on both sides of the road. The Clerk was asked to write to Grand Union Housing to request that they provide more parking areas/bays for their tenants to try to prevent the problem. (**Action Clerk**)

7409.12 Flit Valley walk – info panel update

The Chairman said that he met with Flitwick’s Deputy Town Clerk regarding the footpath marker board. It will be placed close to the street lamp on the grass triangle. The size is 3ft x 4ft.

7409.13 Website analytics

The Clerk provided some interesting analytical information from the website.

**7410 Play Area**

7410.1 Safety Surface repair

Cllr Ellis said that he is awaiting confirmation of the date for the work to be done.

**7411 Planning**

7411.1 Planning Applications:

No planning applications were received.

7411.2 Other Planning Matters:

7411.2.1 Anesco – EIA Screening request

The Chairman said that he had a zoom meeting with Mr Prewer from Anesco and he has circulated the drawings for the proposed solar PV project. He asked Cllrs to look at the proposal and send him their comments.

**7412 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives - Reports**

Allotments – Cllr Rogerson said that she was pleased to report that the allotments have been very well cultivated. Tony Fraser and Chris Rogers have taken over as the new joint Chairmen. The Clerk said that a number of rent payments have been received in the Parish Council’s bank account and she will pass these details to the Allotment Committee. (**Action Clerk**)

**7413 Parish Council Administration**

7413.1 Policies/documents review

The Clerk to circulate all adopted policies/documents for the annual review.

(**Action Clerk**)

**7414 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7415 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 7.30pm**

**Village Hall, Westoning or via Zoom**

The meeting closed at 9.01pm

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