

**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 13th January 2021 at 7.30pm**

**by Zoom video conferencing**

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

**7384 Apologies for absence** – Cllr E Leftly

7384.1 Councillor co-option

The Chairman said that Mr Philip Kelly has applied for the vacant position of Parish Cllr and he welcomed Mr Kelly to the meeting. Mr Kelly spoke about his reasons for applying for the position. Cllr Luff proposed that Philip Kelly be co-opted onto the Parish Council as a Parish Councillor. This was seconded by Cllr Ellis. The co-option was agreed. Cllr Kelly to sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office at the next meeting in person.

**7385 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2020 were approved. Cllr Rogerson proposed, seconded by Cllr Russell 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.

**7386 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Rayment - finance Point 7390.2

**7387 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7388 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson gave an update:

CBC Budget:

The increase in the budget is likely to be 1.9%. CBC are not planning to cut any services.

Covid-19:

It is likely that there will be no further restrictions but there will be an emphasis on obeying the current rules. CBC are looking at arranging transport for those people who are unable to get to the vaccination centres.

Schools:

Central Beds will be moving to a two tier school system in the future. There will be a consultation on school transport shortly.

Allocation sites in Westoning:

The Chairman said that a query has been received from a resident querying why surveyors were present on the two sites. This was thought to be the gas company undertaking investigations and CBC Cllr Jamieson said that he will find out.

**7389 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**7390 Finance**

7390.1 Bank balances and finance report:

The Clerk circulated the finance report prior to the meeting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 23,572.15 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,346.85 |
| **TOTAL** | 89,919.00 |

7390.2 Cllr Botterell proposed, seconded by Cllr Nethersole approval of the following payments, agreed by all:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque Number** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000425 | Clerk – salary | 481.45 |
| 000425 | Clerk – expenses | 46.64 |
| 000426 | HMRC – Clerks tax | 1.80 |
| 000427 | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000428 | Andy Muskett Ltd – 3rd quarter street lighting | 186.00 |
| 000429 | E.on – December invoice | 76.83 |
| 000430 | Royal British Legion – donation | 100.00 |
| 000431 | Barbara Osborne – payroll | 66.00 |
| 000432 | A Rayment – de-humidification pads | 16.00 |
| 000434 | E.on – January invoice | 79.39 |
| 000435 | Jacksons Fencing – fence and gates | 4,300.80 |
|  | **TOTAL** | 5,629.91 |

7390.3 Other finance matters:

7390.3.1 TSB - Mandate change/Online banking

The Clerk said that the mandate change has now been completed for both the Community Account and the Instant Access Account and she is now registered for online banking. The Clerk said that hopefully the Parish Council can now move forward to paying bills online. The Clerk to forward contact details to those other Cllrs on the mandate so that they can register for online banking. (**Action Clerk**)

7390.3.2 Mowing rebate £692.74 – received

Noted by the Parish Council.

7390.3.3 External Audit – completion

The Clerk said that the external audit has been completed. The completion notice has been put on the website.

**7391 Highways**

7391.1 Village Walk

The Chairman said that the next walk should be held late April/early May 2021.

7391.2 Zebra Crossing

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that CBC has agreed that following many objections from residents of Westoning, the Parish Council and himself, they will put in a new pelican crossing. There is no date for the work to be done but it is due to be some time during 2021. The crossing will be on the Traffic Management meeting agenda on 26th January for formal approval.

**7392 Recreation Ground**

7392.1 Registration of Westoning Recreation Ground with Land Registry

The Chairman said that the Solicitor has prepared the application to HMLR which will be sent off shortly. She has the original Deeds and has taken certified copies for her files and they are also scanned onto the computer system, she will hold onto the originals for now. HMLR are experiencing delays and an overwhelming amount of work so the application may take longer to process. Remove from the agenda until a response is received from Land Registry.

7392.2 Recreation Ground – grass cutting

The Chairman said that he has not yet spoken to the Chairman of the Recreation Club, Derek Geraghty to find out what they were charged for grass cutting but he will do so.

(**Action Chairman**)

**7393 Village Matters**

7393.1 Community Christmas Event

The Chairman thanked the Committee and all involved in the event which was a great success. Thanks were given to CBC Cllr Jamieson and Reverend Nigel Washington for judging the lights at Christmas.

It was proposed by Cllr Luff and seconded by Cllr Russell to turn off the lights on the clock tower, 5 for, 1 against, 3 abstentions, the motion was carried.

7393.1.1 Storage of equipment in the Village Hall

Nothing to report.

* 1. Youth Facilities/Club

Review when circumstances permit.

7393.3 Noticeboard

Nothing to report.

7393.4 Flagpole

The Chairman circulated a picture of a demountable flagpole prior to the meeting. To be considered further.

7393.5 Flower Planters

The Chairman said that he will include a piece in WOS about adopting a planter. Cllr Kelly suggested setting up a Whatsapp group to help with ongoing care of the planters when they are in place. Cllrs Rogerson and Nethersole agreed to look into commemorative plaques.

(**Action Cllrs Rogerson/Nethersole**)

7393.6 Rock Snake

The stones to be cemented in place in March or early April. Cllr Rogerson agreed to obtain a quote for the work. (**Action Cllr Rogerson**)

7393.7 London Luton Airport – consultation

Nothing to report.

7393.8 Active Travel Charter

Cllr Ellis said that he received a response from Flitwick for the Future and they are happy that the Parish Council are looking at making some changes in the village.

7393.9 S106 funding opportunity – schemes for submission

Cllrs discussed project suggestions for the funding opportunity including improving/widening the footpath between Flitwick and Westoning and improving youth and young people’s recreation facilities. The Clerk was asked to ascertain further information as to how much detail is required to be submitted in the application. Cllrs Botterell, Kelly and Bhasin to look into equipment for youth facilities. The Clerk reminded Cllrs that the closing date for applications is 5th March 2021. (**Action Cllrs Botterell/Kelly/Bhasin**)

7393.10 Covid-19 – updates

Cllr Nethersole said that Westoning Cares is still in operation. Cllr Kelly and his wife Vicky will be operating a soup run again. The recipients have been delighted. Thanks were expressed by the Parish Council.

7393.11 Grass verge outside Church - vehicles parking on verge

The Chairman said that vehicles are continually parking on the verge. The Parish Council agreed that rocks be placed on the verge to prevent parking.

**7394 Play Area**

7394.1 Safety Surface repair

Cllr Ellis said that he has received a quote for £430 to repair the safety surface. The Parish Council resolved to accept the cost. Cllr Ellis to arrange for the work to be done.

(**Action Cllr Ellis**)

7394.2 Play Area inspection report

The report was noted.

**7395 Planning**

7395.1 Planning Applications:

7395.1.1 CB/20/04368/FULL – 44B Church Road – erection of a detached garage

The application has now been withdrawn. The Parish Council expressed their concern regarding the application and agreed to submit some comments. (**Action Chairman**)

7395.1.2 CB/TRE/20/00699 – 1 Westoning Manor – works to trees

The Parish Council has no objection to the application subject to the Arboricultural Officer being happy with the works.

7395.1.3 CB/20/03662/FULL – 4 Manor Gardens – re-submission of planning application CB/20/01384/FULL (two storey side extension)

The Parish Council submitted no objection to a previous application and have no objection to the current application.

7395.2 Other Planning Matters:

7395.2.1 Anesco – EIA Screening request

The Clerk read out a letter from Anesco. They have submitted an EIA screening request to CBC in relation to a proposed solar PV project on land to the South of Clayhill Farm, Sampshill Road, Westoning. Although they are only in the preliminary stages of the development process, they are committed to including the Parish Council and the community in all aspects of its development, from the earliest planning phases and are seeking guidance on how they can best achieve this for the parish. Prior to arranging any public consultations, they would like to meet with members of the Parish Council to discuss their proposals and to hear the Parish Councils thoughts on the project. Normally, they would seek to meet the members of the Parish Council in person. Unfortunately, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has added an additional layer of complexity to parish council discussions and community engagement more broadly, so they are evaluating the efficacy of utilising video-conferencing as an alternative to the conventional, in-person discussions/consultations.

The Chairman to contact Anesco and report back at the February meeting. Cllrs Ellis, Botterell and Nethersole agreed to be involved.

(**Action Chairman**)

**7396 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives - Reports**

No reports were given.

**7397 General correspondence:**

The Clerk reported that a verge in Spensley Road has been reported as being driven over repeatedly and the verge is being destroyed. The Clerk to ascertain the ownership of the verge.

(**Action Clerk**)

**7398 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

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

**Village Hall, Westoning or via Zoom**

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

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