

**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 8th February 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall, Westoning**

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

Cllr P Kelly, Cllr E Bhasin, Cllr C Luff, Cllr N McLoughlin, Cllr E Russell

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

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7766 Apologies for absence** – CBC Cllr J Jamieson

7766.1 Cllr Vacancy

Nothing to report.

**7767 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2023 were approved. Cllr Nethersole proposed, seconded by Cllr Bhasin the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes were signed by the Chairman.

**7768 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Nethersole Point 7773.2

Cllr Ellis Point 7773.2

**7769 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7770 Chairman’s actions**

The Chairman said that he and Cllr Nethersole met with The Recreation Club Chairman, Derek Geraghty and discussed the cost of the bin emptying, the Club licence/lease and the Firework Event.

**7771 Reports and representations**

CBC Cllr Jamieson was not present but sent a report which was read out:

* The condition of Greenfield Road has been raised, in particular opposite Number 1, highways are looking at this
* Questions have been raised regarding the fence between the High Street and the houses 41-53. It appears that while CBC own the path either side, Taylor Wimpey still own the fence and he will try to speak to them
* Road Closures by Utilities – As mentioned at the previous meeting, and now confirmed, officers will be looking at this
* A number of comments have been made in the village regarding speeding and this has been raised with the Police and Crime Commissioner who he will hopefully be meeting with

**7772 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**7773 Finance**

7773.1 Bank balances and finance report:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 37,739.07 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,898.67 |
| **TOTAL** | 104,637.74 |

7773.2 Cllr Rogerson proposed, seconded by Cllr Russell the approval of the following payments. There was one objection and one abstention to the payment to Jewson, the motion to pay the invoice was carried. All other payments were agreed by all Cllrs present:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000716 | Clerk – salary | 512.14 |
| 000716 | Clerk – expenses | 61.09 |
| 000717 | HMRC – Clerk tax | 4.00 |
| 000718 | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000719 | J Nethersole – expenses Christmas event | 63.42 |
| 000720 | Anglian Water – water bill | 16.56 |
| 000721 | D J Granger – hedge work inv 023249 | 297.60 |
| 000722 | Westoning Village Hall – hall hire | 19.50 |
| 000723 | Anglian Water – water bill | 12.16 |
| 000724 | P Ellis – engraving | 95.00 |
| 000725 | Jewson – scaffolding tower replacement | 2,986.14 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **4,342.61** |

7773.3 Other finance matters:

7773.3.1 D J Granger - increase in charges

The Clerk reported that the grass cutting contractor, Mr Granger, will be increasing his charges from £365 to £386 plus VAT for cutting the village, play area and cemetery and from £160 to £170 plus VAT for cutting the playing field. This was noted by the Parish Council.

7773.3.2 Anesco Solar Farm payment £3,725.14

The Clerk reported that she will shortly be invoicing Anesco for £3,725.14 for the annual solar farm generation community benefit.

**7774 Highways**

7774.1 Highways Issues

The Clerk said that she has not heard from CBC regarding the dog bin request by Flitvale Garden Centre and will chase this up. (**Action Clerk**)

The fire hydrant sign has been pushed over near to the sign in Bell Close. The Clerk to report it. (**Action Clerk**)

7774.2 Footpath Number 7

Nothing to report. Remove from the agenda.

**7775 Recreation Ground**

7775.1 Recreation Club Licence

The Recreation Club will consider whether they are happy to proceed with a licence instead of a lease.

7775.2 Recreation Club bin collections cost

The Chairman said that he has agreed with the Recreation Club, a contribution from the Parish Council towards the cost of the bin emptying of 25% of the annual cost which will amount to around £10 per month.

7775.3 Firework event report

The Chairman said that he discussed the event with the Recreation Club and was satisfied with the response. The Recreation Club said that they had many stewards at the event and the reports made regarding safety issues were not correct.

7775.4 Bushes around football pitch

The Chairman said that a quote is awaited from Neil Gates.

**7776 Village Matters**

7776.1 Scaffolding Tower

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council are not covered under their insurance policy for the theft of the scaffolding tower. The Parish Council agreed that the invoice from Jewsons for the replacement tower should therefore be paid. See Point 7773.2

7776.2 Rural Match Fund Scheme – kerb in Church Road

The Clerk said that CBC completed their initial review and asked the Parish Council to comment. The Chairman drew up the comments which were circulated to the Parish Council and the following was submitted:

The Parish Council accepts that Church Road is narrow at this point but vehicles parked outside the church mean that this section of road often has just one lane for traffic to use. The Parish Council has requested this improvement because they want to improve the appearance of the area and to prevent vehicles driving on the verge and creating a muddy mess. The Parish Council would be prepared for up to half of the verge width to be taken to increase the width of the road but would prefer bevelled concrete kerb stones to be used as they would cause less damage to alloy wheels on vehicles touching them and still provide good protection to the edge of the road and verge.

7776.3 Burial Ground

The Chairman said that he has not written to the diocese as there is currently no vicar in place in Westoning and he would prefer to have a conversation with the Church in the first instance. A consultation will need to be carried out whichever option is chosen for the burial site. The Chairman said that he is still looking into suitable options.

7776.4 Grass cutting – schedule for next season

The Cllrs discussed the areas cut by the Contractor and the Clerk confirmed that she does not have a map of the areas that he cuts. The Clerk said that she will ask the Contractor if he has a map or list of the areas he cuts. (**Action Clerk**)

7776.5 Kings Coronation

Cllr Bhasin said that the sub-group has agreed on the date for the event as Monday 8th May. There will be afternoon tea and entertainment and a leaflet drop will go out shortly. It was agreed not to purchase union jack flags for the lamp posts as they are too expensive at over £1,000.

7776.6 Flag Pole

Nothing to report.

7776.7 Planters

Cllr Ellis arranged for the plaque and engraving and Cllr Russell agreed to contact the sponsor. The Parish Council agreed to a Coronation planting theme and Cllr Ellis said that he would pass this information to Mr Frith. Areas for the remaining planters to be decided and the planters to be constructed. (**Action Cllr Russell/Cllr Ellis**)

7776.8 Community Benefit Group

Nothing to report.

7776.9 Land to the rear of Westoning Lower School – registration

The Chairman reported that the land is now in the Parish Council’s name. This was noted by the Parish Council.

**7777 Play Area**

The Chairman said that he will order the picnic tables in March.

**7778 Planning**

7778.1 Planning applications:

7778.1.1 CB/23/00088/FULL – Land North of Clayhill Farm, Greenfield Road – construction of a one bedroom chalet bungalow

The Parish Council object to this application. The address for the application is incorrect and should read Land at Bryson Close, Westoning MK45 5JD. The previous application for this address was refused. The Parish Council comments for the previous application and which remain their view are:

-the proposed development is an overdevelopment of the site  
-the proposed car parking requires a new egress point onto Greenfield Road at a point where the road bends. This is especially of concern as vehicles are likely to drive onto the parking area in a forward direction and  
then reverse out with no visibility of oncoming traffic on Greenfield Road  
-the site plan accompanying the application suggests that there is open space behind the dwelling whereas there is an access path to the disused chapel. The plan also suggests that the path to the chapel gives  
access to Bryson Close but there is a boarded fence around the curtilage of the chapel  
-the proposed development would necessitate the removal of a landscaped area that was a significant supportive consideration when the Bryson Close development was permitted some years ago. The loss of this landscaped area would be detrimental to the visual character of this part of a rural village

Should officers be minded to recommend this application for approval, the Parish Council strongly requests that members of the DMC should visit the site before determining the application

7778.1.2 CB/TRE/23/00026 – 7 Manor Gardens – works to a tree protected by Tree Preservation Order MB/67/0005: removal of Pine Tree to front garden to protect the foundation and roof structure of the garage

The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7778.1.3 CB/23/00149/FULL – 5 and 6 Manor Close – two storey rear extension to no 5 and single storey lean-to extension across no 5 and no 6

The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7778.1.4 CB/22/03113/OUT – Land at Westview Farm, Park Road, outline application: erection of up to 99 dwellings with 30% being affordable and 10% self build and custom housing. All matters reserved except access

The Parish Council object to the application and re-interate their comments made in October 2022. The Chairman to check the previous comments to see if any amendments need to be made. (**Action Clerk/Chairman**)

7778.1.5 CB/23/00062/FULL – 1 Church Close – rear single storey extension

The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7778.2 Other Planning Matters:

7778.2.1 Solar Farm

Nothing to report.

7778.2.2 Land Off Flitwick Road

Nothing to report.

7778.2.3 West View Farm, Park Road

Nothing to report.

**7779 Parish Council Administration**

7779.1 Policies for review (Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Asset Register, Risk Assessment)

The Parish Council reviewed the Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Risk Assessment and Asset Register and agreed there were no changes to the documents.

**7780 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

No reports were given

**7781 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence.

**7782 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.00pm

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