Parish Council
Thursday 16-May-2019 @ 19:15
Village Hall

MINUTES

1: Apologies for absence
Cllr Melville

2: To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda
Cllr Symonds commented that there was an interest for Cllr Rogers

3: Public Question Time
No members of public

4: Minutes Approval
The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on the 18th April 2019 were approved and signed

5: Chairmans Report
Cllr Symonds communicated that another member of the PC wanted to be Chair and questioned the Clerk when she advised the procedure for Voting and using Skype when a Cllr is not able to attend a meeting. Cllr Symonds added that nobody has a divine right to be Chairman or to dismiss the Clerks guidance.

6: Boroughs Report
Cllr Hill reported on the following:
- Felt very humbled by his election vote
- Elected speaker for the forthcoming year for Bedford Borough Council
- Cllr Symonds, Cllr Law and Cllr Plater helped hugely in the removal of the travellers. Section 61 powers were not informed. The bailiff was not advised along with the call handlers.

Cllr Thornton mentioned that the lines still had not been painted on Alexander Close, Cllr Hill will follow up.

7: Authorise cheques for payment
A list was presented to the meeting and all cheques were signed.

Clerk added that the internal auditor was in possession of the Annual Audit.

Cllr Symonds requested whether Bryn Rogers could be paid more. Cllr Law suggested an increase of 50 pence.

All Cllrs agreed to increase salary to £8.50. Clerk to send letter to Bryn regarding increase of salary.

8: Discuss Budget Amendment
Cllr Symonds suggested the following amendments to the budget –
Training remove £1000 put into Staff Costs
Fire & Safety remove £1000 and put into Staff Costs
Legal Fees remove £2500 and put into Staff Costs
Website and Printing remove £2000 and put into Staff Costs
Public Lighting remove £2500 and put into Staff Costs
Litter Picking budget goes into Staff Costs

Cllr Plater asked whether there would be any further repairs on the balcony for the VH, Cllr Symonds responded not this year.

Cllr Law asked what the community fund money should be spent on, Cllrs Symonds responded that this would be spent on the repair of the balcony. Cllr Law added whether Forest Centre would be interested in providing a new bridge. Cllr Symonds suggested contacting Forest Centre.

9: Planning Applications
Planning Applications

Regarding 19/00825/FUL the Clerk to contact borough and ask why the new windows were not in keeping with the original building, this is what they PC were advised.

Ref 19/00613/S734A Cllrs advised that parking should be on his own land. Cllr Plater is contacting the land registry office to see who owns the land. Cllr Plater added that he needs to fill our an OC1 form which costs £7 and Land

Registry requires a map of the area which will cost another £7. Cllrs agreed to spend £14.

Cllr Rogers mentioned that 51 Stewartby Way are dumping coal on land owned by the PC, Clerk to contact owner as grass cutters are unable to cut the grass.

19/00750 157 Montgomery Close, Cllr Symonds to check on this application.

10: Amenities

10.1) Highways/Lighting
Nothing to report

10.2) Recreation Area
Cllr Plater mentioned repairs to the table tops, Cllr Symonds to obtain quotes

10.3) Newsletter
Nothing to report

10.4) Sports Field
Cllr Symonds advised there was a meeting yesterday which the Parish were unaware of therefore did not attend. Cllr Law asked what was happening with the legals, Cllr Symonds advised we were still waiting on Persimmon. Cllr Symonds added that the contractors were there at 11am but left at 3pm and all they did was rake up the ground. Cllr Law advised that the cherry tree needs to be removed.

10.5) Village Hall
Cllr Symonds advised that the VH needs a transfer of funds, Cllrs agreed.
There was an enquiry from Fosters For You regarding use of the flat, Cllr Symonds advised a change of usage needs to go ahead and that Fosters advised they do not need the use of the balcony. Cllr Law asked whether anything else needed to be done to the flat. Cllr Symonds advised the bathroom requires painting, carpet, heaters and electrics. Cllr Plater added that the fire door needs to be made. Cllr Symonds asked for a figure to go back to Fosters as this is what they have requested. Cllr Thornton suggested £525 plus bills.

10.6) Policing
Nothing to report

11: AOB

Cllr Thornton mentioned that people have been requesting for allotments on Facebook, Cllr Symonds added this was O&H land and it was down to Beds Borough. Cllr Symonds asked Cllr Hill to find out some information.

Cllr Law added that there was a big pile of fly tipping in the layby. Cllr Thornton added that there was also rubbish by the Car Auction, Cllr Hill advised this was their land but he will contact them. Cllr Hill added the path that is right by the road and fenced in is not a right of way, this was confirmed 18 months ago.

Cllr Rogers commented that there were negative comments regarding the cost of the summer festival.
Insurance renewal is due 1 st June £1039.25, Cllrs agreed to pay.

Cllr Thornton asked that the fence panels be replaced on the A421 and C94 between Stewartby and Marston, Clerk to contact Highways England.

Date of next meeting Thursday 20th June 2019.

Meeting closed at 9pm