Parish Council

Thursday 20-Jun-2019 @ 19:15
Village Hall, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies for absence
Cllr Thornton, Clerk T Young

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
Mr P Crump asked if there was any progress on a choke point at Stewartby Way railway bridge. Cllr Hill has referred this on to BBC.

4: Minutes Approval
The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on the 16 th May 2019 were approved and signed. Cllr Plater added that the A421 safety fencing is in the hands of BBC. Cllr Melville wished it noted "in reply to Cllr Symonds comment in my absence, I did not believe it was my divine right to be chair, nor did I dismiss the clerk's guidance, but merely asked for it to be clarified"

5: Declaration of Acceptance
Letters of Acceptance for Cllr Plater were signed and witnessed

6: Chairman's Report
Cllr Symonds reported on the following:
- Another meeting with Cloudwing re Brickworks was positive, but progress slow as others involved. Cloudwing will contact O&H re using Brickworks entrance area for Fest parking.

- Re dispute with Crittall on Village Hall windows, nothing so far received from their Solicitors. Our Solicitor has given them a fortnight to reply.

7: Boroughs Report
Cllr Hill reported on the following:
- From 27/7 to 6/8 there will be lane closures at Marsh Leys roundabout for works.
- Parking issues at Interchange Retail Park will be addressed over the next year.
- Ward Boundaries Review due.
- Cllr Rogers asked about the Bricklayers Arms, and enforcement is to go ahead on fly tipping issues.
- After discussion with Cllrs on the permitted use of his Ward Fund, Cllr Hill kindly offered a further £1500 for painting the outside of the Village Hall clock.

8: Authorise cheques for payment
A list was presented to the meeting, all cheques were signed. Four Bank Transfer payments were also approved.

In the Clerk's absence, Cllr Symonds gave a review of finances, and reported that the Community Infrastructure Levy, £3,800, had been paid in.

9: Audit
The Chairman approved the Audit by Mazars, and the Annual Accounts Review was signed and witnessed.

10: Data Protection Fee
Cllrs agreed to pay the £40 by Bacs.

11: Planning Applications
19/01015/TPO 8 Stewartby Way – request to remove London Plane Tree as roots affecting footings. As no evidence was supplied of any damage, the PC refused permission.
19/01162/ADV Co-Operative Signage, Hansons Reach – No Objection
19/01025/FUL 159 Montgomery Close – PC formal Objection, not in keeping with Conservation Area, as per current guidelines.
18 Park Crescent – No Objection
19/01047/FUL 1d Rousbury Road – No Objection
19/01149/FUL 31 Pillinge Road – No Objection

12: Amenities

12.1) Highways/Lighting
Cllr Plater reported lighting failure in Wavell Cl has been fixed
Cllr Symonds detailed intermittent problems with lighting on parts of Green Lane. Investigation showed one area has not been correctly installed and may need rewiring. To be monitored.

12.2) Recreation Area & Memorial Park
Cllr Plater stated that the Recreation Ground will be cut by 3/7, to prepare for Stewartby Fest. In adddition, the bridge has been made safe, and quotes are being obtained.
There have been various requests for plaques to be placed in the Memorial Garden, process to be agreed.

12.3) Newsletter
Cllr Melville advised that the next Newsletter copy deadline is 26/7, and he would welcome some articles.
Bryn Rogers sent a letter explaining a large increase in the number of properties to which he delivered the last Newsletter, as newbuild areas are occupied. Cllrs agreed to increase his fee to £80, and review in next financial year.

12.4) Sports Field
Cllr Symonds reported there will be a full snagging assessment 28/7, inside and out of the Pavilion, plus Sports Field. He added that recent activity has included the soakaways being cleaned out again, soil spread, play area turfed, and rubber matting delivered. Main field needs work, and BMX track has sunk at one end.
Anglo Pump system, £30k, is on hold due to concerns, a temporary system is in place.
It was agreed by Cllrs that Cllr Symonds should speak with the Solicitor re issuing Persimmon with an ultimatum, that the PC will refuse to take over the Sports Field if all issues are not resolved promptly, and funds received direct to the PC bank account.

12.5) Village Hall
For the remainder of this financial year, Cllrs agreed up to £1200/mth could be transferred without issue to the Village Hall bank account if required, to prevent it becoming overdrawn. The Village Hall Clerk advised that the amount required was already reducing.
Some residents of Churchill Close wish to attend the next PC meeting, re their concerns on parking.

The PC/Village Hall Trustees, and staff will continue to work on alleviating any parking issues. Cllr Hill intends to use some of his Ward Fund to install white H Bars on the edge of some resident’s properties. Cllr Symonds expressed his concern that this wasn’t appropriate.

12.6) Policing
Cllr Melville reported on the following:
- A six-week Police operation ran after the spike in local crime. There was one arrest, and a number of ‘stop & search’ that took place.
- CSI Boyle has advised that 30 new Officers are being recruited for Bedford, and Stewartby will also be appointed a new Officer. There will also be a Mobile Resource Unit set up, to attend areas as needed when a crime spike occurs.
- Cllr Melville was disappointed at the poor turnout for the Police event in the village.

13: AOB

Allotments: Sir Malcolm Stewart Homes decline to rent spare allotments to the general public.
The PC would need to join the National Allotment Association.
Approaches to BBC and O&H underway.
Date of next meeting Thursday 18th July 2019.
Meeting closed at 9.30pm