MINUTES

1: Apologies for absence
Cllr Rogers & Cllr Hill

2: To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda
None

3: Public Question Time
Cllr Symonds welcomed Lee Phanco and Insp Nick Masters.
Cllr Melville welcomed and thanked everyone for their support. Cllr Melville reported on the traveller's site as follows: Questioned management of the site over the last 4 months, people are on the site that should not be there and contradicts the Borough policy dated October 2014 where they state they have responsibility of the site. A site manager should manage the site 3 hours a day to collect fees, visit site, manage repairs and ensure registered people only are on site according to the policy. Bourough have been neglecting the site and have no regard for the residents.
Cllr Melville added that there have been many serious incidences and residents do not feel safe in their homes.
Mr Phanco added that the Borough are aware of the concerns and what they have seen over the past few weeks is anti-social behaviour that they have been working with the police to eradicate. They have applied to the court for a partial closure order and this order will make it an offence for people that should not be on the site. It has taken the council 3 days to clear rubbish due to fly tipping and repairs due to vandalism. A lot of the residents on site are concerned and the majority do not want to be involved. Closure order is in place for 3 months and should not impact on the residents there. Borough and police have been given additional powers to restore order on the site.
Cllr Thornton asked why there was no site manager, Mr Phanco responded that most of the issues are not happening when somebody would be on site anyway. Cllr Law added that the site manager should be checking
that the people that are there are meant to be there. Mr Phanco added in terms of people visiting residents on the site that they do not have the power to remove them without a court order.
Cllr Symonds mentioned that the Borough should have taken action a lot sooner as it has all got out of hand.
Cllr Melville asked Insp Masters whether the travellers committing crimes had been removed? PC Masters responded that a lot of tactics are in such a way that you wouldn't know what was happening due to intelligence, the operation was already under way before the more recent activity and arrests had been made due to theft of council property. There are public order officers that are on site and will remain for a period of time, there are also unmarked vehicles. Investigations are ongoing.

A member of the public added that he offered CCTV data, Insp Masters asked that he would like to be sent the footage. The gentleman's van had been broken into and nobody has contacted him even though he has spoken to 3 different police officers.
Cllr Melville added that the officers that attended that evening were extremely unprofessional.
All residents were understandably angry as to how the police responded. Insp Masters apologised.
A resident of Stewartby asked for police presence at Halloween as people do not feel safe opening their doors.
Another resident added that people and children were being spat at. Cllr Melville added that many residents did not want to attend the PC meeting as they were scared of what would happen to them.
Mr Phanco added that there are 4 security men on site every day and this will be reviewed weekly.
Residents expressed concerns after the 3 month court order would be over. Mr Phanco explained the court order can be extended by the court and can last up to 6 months. Mr Phanco added that there are 22 pitches on the site
and that each plot can have 2 caravans. Lee added that it is very difficult to close the site as that would be 20 families the Borough would have to find accommodation for.
Another member of public asked that the question regarding the daily site manager managing on site for 3 hours a day has not been answered. Lee added that this will happen.
Cllr Melville added that an urgent meeting is required with the Mayor and that the Parish should now seek legal advice as the Borough are in breach of their "Gypsy and Traveller Management Policy October 2014".
Insp Masters added that the control will continue and that he would be happy for residents to contact him directly or Via Cllr Melville

4: Minutes Approval
The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on the 19th September 2019

5: Chairman's Report
Cllr Symonds reported on the following:

Attended a meeting with the Wootton Church and Poors Land Charities yesterday and that people living in the area can apply for funding.
Covanta – still being built and there have been complaints regarding the traffic

6: Boroughs Report
Cllr Hill sent the Boroughs Report prior to the meeting

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

8: Memorial Garden
Cllr Law has received quotes for the plaque but is still waiting for more information from Mark. The plaques will be the size of a brick as they need to be small. Cllr Law added that more plants need to be added. TY to place on agenda for November.
Cllr Symonds added Ace were there today and CCTV cameras would be fitted on the church wall.

9: Police/Borough – Travellers Site
As above.

10: Planning Applications
Cllr Symonds has received a request from Borough for us to trial a scheme to stop cars parking 40 metres away from a school. Cllrs do not want to be involved in the scheme.
Cllr Symonds has received the final draft for the Brickworks – School has been relocated and has increased in size.

11: Amenities
11.1) Highways/Lighting
Cllr Symonds asked whether we have agreed for additional lighting, Cllrs advised that additional lighting had not been agreed.
11.2) Recreation Area & Memorial Park
Swing is now functional. Cllrs agreed for Fenland Leisure to carry out an inspection on the play area.
11.3) Newsletter
Deadline for content is next Friday. Cllr Symonds to write an article on David Plater.
Cllr Melville asked Cllr Birch to take responsibility of the website.
11.4) Sports Field
Cllr Symonds is hoping our solicitor will be attending the meeting on the 21st October. Max Plant have put in the new fire shutter in the kitchen. There is also a new power box outside which was installed by the electricians.
11.5) Village Hall
Ace to quote for smoke detectors in the roof.
PAT test is due. Cllrs agreed.
Cllrs Symonds has received 2 quotes for the replacement of the electric cables and requires 1 further quotation, Cllr Law suggested David Cooper to be contacted. Cllr Symonds to action.
Cllr Symonds has received quotes for external painting. TY to send the quotes to Borough for funding contribution.
Cllrs agreed on the quotation for the blinds.
Cllr Law has received the insurance renewal for the VH, cost is £1924.66 and insured for £1.8 million. Cllrs agreed.
TY to contact Norris and Fisher to go ahead.
11.6) Policing
Cllr Melville attended the annual PCC meeting and the issue of the travellers was bought up also there would be a new proactive policing team that can target various issues.
11.7) Festival
Cllr Melville is meeting Nicky and Lizzie on Monday. There are quite a few stalls for the Xmas Fayre.
Charles Wells have offered some free beer for the Festival.

12: AOB
Cllrs Symonds asked that Cllrs please arrive on time to meetings.

Cllr Law received information from Cllr Symonds regarding Palmers; a copy needs to be signed and returned to them and a copy to keep for ourselves. Memorable word to be Stewartby123. JS to action. Code of Conduct training to be added to next month's agenda (Cllr Law).

Cllr Melville has booked Xmas Dinner and has asked that it be cancelled as very few people are going and it feels pointless as the whole council are not going. Cllr Melville suggested doing something in the new year. Cllrs agreed.

Date of next meeting Thursday 21st November 2019.

Meeting closed at 9.35pm