Parish Council

Thursday 21-May-2020 @ 19:30
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies for absence

Cllr Hill

2: To receive declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Cllr Burnage declared an interest. Cllr Symonds read out the letter from Cllr Burnage; Cllr Burnage requested support from the
Parish regarding an issue with neighbours, Bedford Police suggested that support be asked from the Parish for a Neighbourhood
Agreement. Cllr Burnage has endured verbal abuse along with intimidation from the neighbour. Cllr Burnage has asked that the
Green be closed off for 6 months to reduce abuse. Cllr Law asked what the Neighbourhood agreement is and what would it
change? Cllr Birch asked whether Cllr Burnage could stay off the Green. Cllr Law asked why do we have to stop everyone else
enjoying the Green and Cllr Rogers added that if the police can't "police" it then how are the Parish able too? Cllr Law asked
whether Cllr Melville can speak to PC Masters.

3: Public Question Time

N/A as meeting was held via Zoom due to the Covid 19 outbreak and lockdown.

4: Minutes Approval

The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on the 16th April 2020 were agreed verbally and signed by the Chairman and
posted to the Clerk.

5: Chairman's Report

Cllr Symonds reported on the following:
Certain items have been concerning such as responses to email when a decision is required. At the Trustees meeting, monies
were asked by the Village Hall Clerk and she has had to wait 3 weeks for her salary to be approved.
Cllr Melville agreed and suggested to make the situation easier to deal with such as requesting authorisation, we should agree a
return time for a response. Cllr Symonds suggested 24 hours. Cllr Law commented that we are not all attached to our laptops.
Cllrs Symonds asked that a few times a day everyone looks at their emails. Cllr Melville suggested 48 hours for a response and if
you haven't responded within 48 hours then the decision to go ahead. Clerk to send email to Cllr Law regarding email from BBC
for email correspondence for decisions.

6: Boroughs Report

Cllr Hill sent his report prior to the meeting.
Cllr Law commented that Cllr Hill takes credit for things the Parish have done.
Cllr Symonds explained to the councillors that the Clerk sends the invoice to Borough once Borough have informed the Clerk
that the bottle bank has been emptied.
Seats will be placed in the bus shelter which will be paid for from the Ward Fund. Cllr Symonds asked Cllr Rogers about the
crossing, Cllr Rogers advised that the residents will only use the crossing if it is in the place they want to cross, every resident
wants the crossing in a different place. Cllr Rogers commented that residents suggested if the roundabout was lowered then
traffic would be able to see them. Cllr Burnage asked whether we own the roundabout, Cllr Symonds advised it belonged to
O&H. Cllr Symonds to speak to O&H.

7: Authorise cheques for payment

A list of payments was sent prior to the Councillors to be paid by bank transfer. Cheques for HMRC were placed in the post to
the Chairman.
Cllr Burnage asked why we were invoiced for the lantern that was broken by the builders. Cllr Symonds replied that it is because
it is our lantern. Cllrs all agreed for the invoices to be paid. Clerk asked whether she should raise an invoice. Cllr Symonds to
send builders details to the Clerk
Insurance renewal needs to be double checked, Cllr Law to get in touch with Olivia to get values of new equipment. Cllr Law
commented that the BMX track needs to be added. Fencing and gates need to be added to the insurance.
7.1 Audit approved and signed
Cllr Symonds signed the audit. Copies of accounts £5. AGAR to be send to Cllr Birch and placed on the website and notice board.
7.2 Transfer of £1200 to the Village Hall
Cllr Symonds received £10k grant money from the Borough. Nicky has asked for £1200 for the VH. Cllr Law suggested half of the
amount to go into the VH account, Cllrs agreed for £5k to go into the VH account

8: Planning Applications

Cllr Symonds commented regarding Coronation Pit, comments on facebook said it would be landfill. Cllr Symonds contacted Roy
Romans of Central Beds, they confirmed they are waiting on FFC to make the site good, once approved work will start. Cllr Law
asked what it would be, Cllrs Symonds advised a nature reservation. Cllr Symonds and Mr Romans to meet after lockdown has
been lifted.
Cllr Law commented that the sidings are owned by Shanks and as far as she is concerned they have not been sold to FCC, Cllr
Law added that we can write to FCC and advise that we are not happy with regards to the amount of lorries going up and down
Green Lane. Cllr Law to speak to the MD's PA.
Cllr Law added that there will be an application for 19 Rousbury Road next month and 17 Stewartby Way .
Cllr Melville added Chimney Corner believed it would be a gastro pub and not an Indian wedding venue, licensing has not been
approved and to keep an eye out for it.

9: Community Events Coordinator

Cllr Melville commented that Lizzie has approached him and asked whether she could become an employee of the Parish on a
zero contract. Lizzie does not wish to be self employed anymore. Cllr Birch asked if there were any benefits for us. Cllr Law said
she wasn't happy about it. Cllr Melville added that no one knows what the future holds even whether their will be a Xmas light
switch on and does not think now is the right time. Cllr Rogers asked to discuss again at the end of lockdown. Cllrs agreed.

10: Amenities

10.1) Highways/Lighting
Nothing to report
10.2) Recreation Area & Memorial Park
Nothing to report
10.3) Newsletter
Nothing to report.
10.4) Sports Field
Cllr Law reported that some members are using the green and furniture is in the pavilion. Cllr Law to speak to supplier regarding
signage.
Cllr Symonds advised that persimmons are going to put in a French drain and relay the tiles. Cllr Symonds asked for the valuation for insurance such as fences, gates, furniture etc Items not covered are office contents and CCTV equipment, Cllr Law suggested £14k. Cllr Law added there was a provision for insurance year on year, Cllr Melville

agreed. If we do it as a whole we could pay the PC out of 1 policy and still have as Parish assets. Cllr Symonds suggested £22k for CCTV equipment, Cllrs agreed. £75k for the sports field equipment. Outside equipment £115k. Cllr Symonds to send the Clerk a list.
Cllr Law advised that there was an issue with no water going into the memorial garden, has the tap gone in and where is it? Cllr
Symonds responded that there was a tap which was locked and Richard has the key. Richard is going in tomorrow and will be
putting sprinklers on. Cllr Melville asked whether the tap was on a meter, Cllr Symonds advised it was. Cllr Melville added it was
a public space and it was not budgeted. Cllr Law commented that the plants need watering as they will die. Cllr Melville added
that sprinklers use a lot of water, Cllr Symonds responded that it was 3 small areas.
10.5) Village Hall
Cllrs Symonds advised that the stage has been painted and pipework has been tested, level check to be done next Friday. Cllr
Law is still waiting for the application for change of use for the flat
10.6) Policing
Cllr Melville reported they had a meeting with the police regarding the traveller's site and some of criminality has been dealt
with. Car crime is a big issue at the moment and we have new Senior police officers.
Clerk to put a list of the Cllrs together to go into the notice boards.

11: Date of next meeting

Thursday 18th June 2020 at 7.15pm.

12: Meeting close

Meeting closed at 9.00pm