Parish Council
Thursday 17-Sep-2020 @ 19:15
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 Symonds declared an interest in a quotation for the trees as it is from a family member

3: Public Question Time
2 members of public Jodie Hammond & Terri Banks

4: Minutes Approval
The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on the 16th July 2020 and the finance meeting held on the 20th August 2020
were agreed verbally and signed by the Chairman and posted to the Clerk.

5: Chairman's Report
Cllr Symonds will report under

6: Boroughs Report
Cllr Hill sent his report prior to the meeting.

Cllr Symonds commented regarding resurfacing along Churchill, 2 residents asked why Cllr Hill has mosaic outside his house but they have tarmac. Cllr Burnage advised that when she spoke to Cllr Hill regarding resurfacing footpaths previously she was
advised there was no funding, Cllrs Burnage commented that it was questionable why according to Cllr Hill there was no funding
yet he has been given favouritism as he lives in Churchill Close and no other footpath has been resurfaced.

Cllr Law added that outside her house they had red tarmac which is the worst job that was ever done and they were not able to
have mosaic either. Cllr Law added it was a bit "naughty", if it can be done for Cllr Hill it can be done for everyone.

Cllr Melville suggested Cllr Hill ask for feedback. Clerk to send minutes to Cllr Hill.

7: Authorise cheques for payment
A list of payments was sent to the Councillors to be paid by bank transfer. Cheques for HMRC were placed in the post to the Chairman.

Cllrs agreed for the bacs payment to be paid.

Cllr Symonds added that we have received the other part of the precept

8: Quotations for authorisation
21 trees need repairing, 3 quotes received, Kestrel £4200, Wildewood £3890 & Marston £3800. Cllr Melville is happier using
Marston as we have used them before, Cllrs agreed. Clerk to contact Wildewood and Kestrel to thank them for quoting but
were not successful, Clerk to contact Marston to ask when they can go ahead with the work.
Warners quoted £10 per tree for the tree supports, Brett counted 41 damaged supports. Cllr Law asked why they require doing,
Cllr Symonds advised that they were lose or broken. Cllr Burnage advised that was a lot of money for 41 trees stakes. Cllr
Symonds added we either get them repaired or the bad weather will break the trees. Cllr Rogers added that £10 per tree isn't
bad. Cllr Law expressed concern that if we do it this side of winter will we be doing them again next year and that there are no
trees on the floor. Cllr Symonds added that the stakes across the pillars are loose. Cllr Rogers added that we will lose the 41

trees. Cllr Law asked the trees to be checked to be certain that it is 41 trees. Cllr Symonds will advise.

It was agreed to review the number of trees and go ahead with Warners quotation of £10 per tree.

DTM quote for £30 to install 6 soap dispensers was agreed by all

9: Clerks Pension & Salary Increase

Cllr Symonds advised that there is a NALC guideline. Clerks hourly rate was agreed to £14.42 per hour. New hourly rate to be
back dated from April and to be paid in October .

Regarding pensions Cllr Symonds advised that the clerk could go through the Borough pension or private pension. Cllr Law
agreed to do it but Clerk and Cllr Symonds need to discuss. Cllr Burnage asked whether it requires back dating from when the
clerk started. Clerk added that she emailed Borough when she first joined the parish but did not receive a response.

10: Member Obligations

Cllr Symonds asked whether everyone was happy with the meeting on the 8th September and do we need to commit to the
Member Obligations sheet or carry on as we are currently going. Cllr Burnage added that more needs to be detailed with
regards to bullying. Cllr Rogers suggested that we see how we go as everyone aired their views last week. Cllr Melville, Cllr Law
& Cllr Birch agreed with carrying on with the status quo. Hopefully there will be no more problems but if there is then we will
discuss as and when. Cllr Symonds added that the Clerk made a good point that when she sends out an email, she does not
receive a response. Cllr Burnage added that everybody has a busy life and when someone comments then that should be
accepted.

Cllr Rogers asked whether there are emails that require an urgent response. Cllr Symonds added that if the Clerk is left waiting
all week then its not fair and a response in 48 hours is reasonable.

11: Planning Applications

Manor Road, Kempston Hardwick. Cllr Symonds advised that this application was turned down by the council due to it being a
commercial building. Cllr Melville added that Jodie requires our backing, Cllr Hill has showed support. Cllr Rogers was in s upport
and that Jodie had thought of everything regarding noise and parking. Cllr Birch added that the neighbours are v ery supportive.
Cllrs are in favour to support but would need to see the documents from Borough.

159 Montgomery Close – appeal sent beginning of August.Cllr Burnage advised that this is in the conservation area. Clerk to send
objection again.

12: Position of Caretaker

Cllr Burnage commented that minutes for the last 12 months have been checked and there ws no agreement in a PC meeting
that the position of caretaker (Brett McLean) was agreed and no discussions took place. Cllr Burnage and Cllr Rogers asked for
an advanced DBS was to be carried out on Brett. Clerk to contact DBS. Cllr Symonds to send me the address.

Cllr Rogers asked whether Brett does extra hours then he needs to wait for the next PC meeting. Cllr Rogers added that his
wages were not paid consistently, Cllr Melville added that this happened once.

Cllr Melville added that it had only happened once and a new procedure for submitting his timesheet is now in place to prevent
this.

Cllr Burnage asked for a copy of Bretts contract. Clerk to check whether she has it.

13: Football Teams

There are teams allocated to the pitches, Cllr Symonds is concerned whether both pitches will be ready. Teams to be invoiced
monthly at £45 per pitch to go into the Sports Pavilion account.

14: VH flat rental & flooring

Cllr Law requires a decision on the flooring, Fostering 4 U requested vinyl flooring in the back room so they can do craft ac tivities
which will cost £2000. Cllrs agreed. The blinds will be installed soon as Clerk sent a PO. Valuation regarding rates still to be
done. Cllr Law asked whether the lease/contract could be put together asap through a solicitor. Cllrs Rogers, Burnage agree d to
solicitor, Cllr Burnage asked how much we would rent it for as there was an email from Niki saying £450 and £500. Cllrs agreed
to £500 per month.

Cllr Symonds advised that the new door lock was on and they have 2 keys.

Cllr Law asked who was going to do the list and was happy to use Palmers if they were quick. Cllr Burnage asked for a clause to
be added to review minimum lease. Cllr Law asked for a cost to be agreed for the solicitors fee, Cllr Law suggested £2500, C llr
Melville added it was too much and suggested £1500. Cllrs agreed to £1500. Cllr Law to contact Palmers. Cllr Law added the
bike rack will be delivered tomorrow and requires being bolted in the ground, DTM to be contacted, fee of £500 agreed by the
Cllrs.

15: Amenities

15.1) Highways/Lighting
Cllr Symonds reported that the B530 to start mid-October and should be completed by December. Manor Road is being risk
assessed by the police. Cllr Melville added that there will be a speed check in Kempston in October.

15.2) Recreation Area & Memorial Park
Cllr Symonds advised that the climbing frame has been made safe but waiting for new rope support and the zip wire to be fixed.
Cllrs gave permission to obtain quotes for 3 bins.

15.3) Newsletter & Website
Cllr Symonds commented that it was a job well done. Cllr Rogers added it was a shame to not put anything in regarding xmas.
Cllr Burnage asked for Xmas tree to be added to next months agenda. Action Clerk.

15.4) Sports Field
Cllr Symonds advised there is a major problem on one of the fields, somebody was walking across and fell down the gulley.
Phase 2 of the ground had not been completed by Kestrel as Max Plant took over the contract and kicked Kestrel off. The
drainage going across the field has not been completed, removal of weeds not done and the levelling of top soil and seeds were
also not done. Details sent to Persimmons, Ben responded that he was fed up with the constant vendetta by SPC regarding
Persimmons and their contractors, we had the opportunity to snag. Cllr Symonds asked whether we should go back to the
solicitor. Cllr Burnage asked whether Cllr Hill should write to them and add any weight behind our issues? Where do we stand
legally as the snag list was drawn up and if we got somebody to do the work Persimmon would have covered the costs? Cllr
Symonds added with regards to making good it was the Pavilion itself not the grounds. Regarding the pitch it is not in

the best
state and there is a guideline by the FA to group 4 & 5. According to Kestrel they may have a personal axe to grind. Cllr B urnage
reiterated her 2 questions. Cllr Symonds added that the pitches were not on the snagging list. Cllr Symonds suggested we send
a letter to the Chairman of Persimmons listing all the issues. Cllr Law added that if this is a fundamental problem then we should
be able to go back to Persimmons to put it right.
Cllr Law advised that the bowls green will be closed 3rd November due to maintenance work, re-open March/April.
Cllr Law has looked at chairs and tables, 18 chairs plus trolley is £1800, blue, white or red, Cllr Law suggested blue and 2 lots.
Tables need to be a metre wide and Cllr Law has a price of £284 for 10, they fold down. Cllr Melville does not think we need 10.
Cllr Law added that the piano teacher requires 8 or 10. Cllr Melville suggested 6 . Cllr Law added they would cost more for 6.
Cllr Burnage asked why we are catering for Ellie Jaggers, Cllr Law added that she requires tables that are a metre long for the
keyboards but we are not accommodating her. Cllr Law asked whether everyone was happy with blue, Cllrs agreed.

15.5) Village Hall
Cllrs Symonds added that the VH account needs funds. £2500 to be transferred 1stOctober
Tower has been started, most of the wood is rotten. Cheap option is to line the current wood and seal it or strip it right o ut but
this would mean removing the clock. Cllr Symonds to send pictures to Cllrs. Cllr Symonds asker whether we should make it
good and needs a figure to agree. Cllr Rogers, Melville and Law suggested seal and do properly. Cllr Symonds advised this
would cost approx £1000. Cllr Burnage suggested it might be best to pay out more money so it will last longer. Cllr Symonds
agreed but this would require a structural engineer.

15.6) Policing
Cllr Melville presented to crime stats for our area for the past 3 months and suggested that our next Policing priority is for
vehicle theft and interference. Cllrs Agreed.
Cllr Melville reported that the traveller's site has seen a lot of anti-social behaviour and Cllr Hill was chased by a man with a
metal pole. Borough have improved in managing the site. 2 more families are being moved onto the site and 2 new plots which
will go on the wasteland which should stop some of the anti-social behaviour as the wasteland is used for stolen cars

16: Date of next meeting
Thursday 15th October 2020 at 7.15pm

17: Meeting close
Meeting closed at 10.00pm