Parish Council
Thursday 19-Nov-2020 @ 19:15
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies for absence
Cllr Hill

2: Introductions
New Parish Councillor Terri Banks, and new Parish Clerk Tilly Bartens, were welcomed. Tilly will bed in over the next 6 weeks

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

4: Public Question Time
No Members of the Public present

5: Minutes Approval
The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on the 15th October 2020 were agreed verbally, signed by the Chairman, and sent to the Clerk.

6: Chairman's Report
Cllr Symonds reported on the following:
- He had a meeting with Cloud wing re the initial proposal for 120 houses on the old Brickworks site.
- Cllr Banks asked for an update on demolition of the Brickworks chimneys. Cllr Symonds said it is still to be scheduled, but there is also a possible issue reported re structure of the kilns.
- As we are in lockdown again, to Dec 2nd at least, VH & Sports Field/Pavilion are closed, and there will be no Christmas Lights switch on event. Also, difficult to contact service providers.
- Cllr Symonds will be contacting John Shortland re the poor resurfacing of the Woburn/Bedford Road (old A421).
- A short outdoor Remembrance service was held at the Village Hall. Videoed by Cllr Melville, it was posted on Facebook. Many thanks to the accompanying live bagpipe player, Robbie Barrett.
- PAT testing has been completed.
- Re the fire on the Brickworks site, CCTV of people leaving the location has been located. The building concerned has been gutted, but it is hoped to retain the external walls.
- Cllr Hill has reported a need for Poplar trees leaning towards Broadmead Road to be felled as unsafe.

7: Boroughs Report
Cllr Hill was unable to attend, so emailed his Report. This will be circulated to PCllrs by Cllr Melville.

8: . Authorise BACS or cheques for payment
- A list of payments to be paid by BACS was previously circulated to Cllrs. Approval given.
- It was noted that staff Bacs payments should be processed on the Friday after PC meetings, and the Standing Order for
Brett's basic pay has not yet been put in place.
- Also noted, a data protection error was made in bank details being included on the circulated list. Cllrs were asked to ensure that the email was safely deleted. The Clerk will ensure this is checked going forward.
- Cllr Law kindly said she will update the financial spreadsheets until the new Clerk is fully integrated

9: Quotations for authorisation
- Ace £444 – alarm door sensors. Cllrs declined to proceed.
- DTM £180 or £540 - for 1 or 2 new heaters in VH Annex. Cllrs approved to upgrade both heaters, but wish to review spec before installation. Also, positioning or safety caging required, to prevent children or others from touching a hot surface.
- £93.47 - Tools for Sports Field use by Caretaker. Cllrs approved.
- Warners £65/each – Cherry Tree replacement and installation at Sports Field. TCL will replace 17 trees FOC that died before PC took over. The hot summer killed approximately another 20. Cllrs deferred decision until TCL have replaced the 17.
- Warners £380 – Dog Waste Bin supply and installation to Memorial Garden. Cllrs approved. To be positioned at church
end, in sight of CCTV camera. Warners to empty.

10: Planning Applications

A.) Planning Reference: 20/02681/FUL 29 Churchill Close – Chimney alteration – Cllrs object, chimney must be reinstated in full
due to being in a conservation area.
B.) FCC installation of gas tanks – Cllrs approved.
C.) Central Beds have advised of an application for a further 42 houses requested by Persimmon, behind Kitchener Place and
Wavell Close. Cllr Symonds to write an objection re insufficient infrastructure, and access concerns.
D.) Cllr Melville advised of an application to put 1600 houses on open land east of Kempston Hardwick, extending towards
Wixams and Houghton Conquest. He will write an objection on behalf of the PC.

11: Amenities

11.1) Highways/Lighting
Remainder of Christmas lights and tree are being installed and will be lit next week.

11.2) Recreation Area & Memorial Park
- Timber Play have advised that a German company will send items to repair play equipment direct to us, to save costs.
- Marston Tree Care will shortly begin felling and pollarding of trees as advised by BBC Tree Officer. Relates to parks and general areas.

11.3) Newsletter & Website
Cllr Melville appealed for more newsletter articles. Several suggestions and promises were made. May include village Advent Window Competition Map.

11.4) Sports Field
- Persimmons have currently paid £12k of repairs to the sports field pitches. There is another payment of £1010 to be made.
- Discussion re moving PC/VH meetings to the SP once face to face meetings are possible. Ease of accessibility, and more efficient heating.
- Severe issue with dogs off leads and fouling on the sports field or play area. Also fouling a problem in many areas of the village. Legislation is due soon to prohibit this. Cllr Symonds will contact BBC Dog Warden to request his attendance at a busy time for both the Sports Field and Memorial Garden
- Cllr Law to chase up signage.

11.5) Village Hall
- Skirtings and front of stage doors have been repainted in the main hall.
- Cllr Symonds reported that paving is collapsing by a manhole cover on right hand side of VH
- VH Office (Flat) is fitted out for rental. BBC Business Rates to apply from November 1st. The cost will be available next week, to forward to All4U Fostering asap.
- Draft lease should be ready early next week for PC approval and forwarding to All4U Fostering for assessment. Cllrs do not consider it necessary to restrict working hours.
- VH Office has had some water ingress via the chimney during heavy rain in recent high winds. DTM will be asked to fit an air vent to the chimney, and replaster/decorate as needed. Cllr Symonds given the go ahead to arrange this if the total cost does not exceed £250

11.6) Policing
- Cllr Melville reported that the Police are undertaking speeding checks when possible, but Covid-19 control remains the
priority.
- Burglary is a big issue in many local areas. And theft of courier delivered parcels from doorsteps is a new concern.

12: Items for next Agenda

Hearing loop systems for VH and SP

13: Date of next meeting

Thursday 17th December 2020 at 7.15pm

14: Meeting close

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm