Parish Council
Thursday 18-Feb-2021 @ 18:30
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hill.

2: Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda
No declarations of interest were declared.

3: To Consider any applications for dispensation
There were no applications for dispensation.

4: Public Participation
No members of the public were present

5: Minutes of the previous meeting

6: Matters arising from previous minutes
E-mail Accounts

White Line Painter
Cllr Symonds advised that he had spoken to Warner's and they use a vacuum line painter. For the Sports Field, a five-wheel roller would be needed. Waterproof paint would also need to be used.

7: Chairman's Report
Cllr Symonds advised that in late March/April, Covanta will be doing what is called a "blowout". They will also be building up steam pressure in the chimneys over a period of a week which will be released. This will create some noise in and around the Parish.
In April they will also be carrying out the first test of burning waste. Approximately thirty to forty loads. They expect to be burning waste by the end of the year and between one hundred to one hundred and fifty lorries can be expected in and out of the site each day, six days a week.
Covanta will be holding a meeting and will communicate this to the community.
Cllr Symonds attended a meeting with East west Rail. The parishes in the North of the Borough do not want the trains going through there due to the noise levels.
There are proposals for a new station at the Retail Park and also Bedford Parkway (Wixams).
Cllr Symonds advised Councillors that they can signup to receive updates on the rail developments.
Cllr Symonds raised concerns about the actions of Cllr Hill over the past few months. One related to the street lighting and the other was about the container that has been outside the Brickworks. Cloudwing gave their permission for this for a period of two weeks. Cllr Hill's actions resulted in officers from Bedford Borough Council and the Police visiting the site.

8: Report from Bedford Borough Council
The Council considered Cllr Hill's report in his absence.
It was noted that there had been no criminal activity in the past month on the Travellers Site.
Concern was raised about the state of Green Lane however Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils need to come to an agreement.

9: Clerk's Financial Report
8.1 Authorise payments for BACS transfer
The Clerk advised the meeting of the invoices that were due to be paid and talked them through the revised report. The balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields account were shared with members. It was RESOLVED to authorise all of the payments as per the BACS Report.
8.2 Accounts
The Clerk advised the meeting of the balances of the accounts held. It was RESOLVED that £5000 should be transferred into the Sports Fields account to cover the cost of the invoices until the end of the current financial year

10: Quotations for authorisation
10.1 Sports Pavilion Paths

10.2 Zip Wire Mulch

10.3 Finance Training

10.4 Churches Fire Security
Following a recent annual inspection of the fire extinguishers at the Village Hall, the Parish Council has received three quotes for remedial action.
The Council considered these quotes to be excessive and further quotes will be sought from ACE Fire & Security and ICP Hygiene
10.5 Miracle Design & Play
Following the annual inspection of the play equipment, a quote has been received for remedial action
10.6 Paving Slabs

11: Planning Applications

Planning reference 20/00322/M73 – Major S73 variation of Condition Application Land South of Fields Road, Wootton, Bedfordshire. The Council RESOLVED that it had no objections.
Planning Reference 21/00194/FUL – Full planning application120 Montgomery Close, Stewartby MK43 9LP
The Council RESOLVED that it had no objections to this planning application.
Planning Reference 21/00171/FUL - 7 Stewartby Way Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9LJ
Removal of single storey side extension and conservatory and erection of one and two storey side and rear extensions.
The Council RESOLVED that it objected to this application because the proposed development changes the look of the front of the house and this is not allowed in the Conservation Area.
Planning Reference CB/21/00148/OUT - Little Thickthorn Farm, Thickthorn Lane, Houghton Conquest, Bedford, MK45 3NQ
Cllr Melville advised that an application had been submitted for the development of land at Thickthorn Lane for:
• 1200 houses;
• School;
• Pub;
• Shop;
• Community Centre; and
• Nursing Home.
There are concerns about this development because of the lack of infrastructure, including a GP Surgery, and the development would be on Grade 2 farmland.
Cllr Melville has attended a meeting with the Planning Consultants and has also spoken to Houghton Conquest Parish Council.

12: Amenities

12.1 Highways/Lighting
Cllr Symonds advised that new drainage was needed in Green Lane however Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Councils would need to agree to the works and expenditure.
Andy Muskett has advised that the Parish Council will need to budget for some replacement street lights in 2022-23 as per his report.
12.2 Recreation Area
Cllr Symonds advised that Marston Tree Care had been unable to take down the two Willow Trees due to flooding. It is hoped that these works will be carried out soon.
12.3 Newsletter
Cllr Melville reminded Councillors that the copy deadline for the next newsletter is the 5th March 2021.
12.4 Sports Field
None
12.5 Village Hall
Cllr Symonds and Law to submit applications for replacement balconies at the Village Hall.
12.6 Policing
None

13: Website

Cllr Melville updated the Parish Council following a meeting with the Clerk, Cllr Birch and James Stirling.

The Council RESOLVED expenditure of £150 to make the necessary changes to the website and for the Clerk's training.

14: Traveller Site Update

Cllr Melville advised that there had been a meeting some weeks ago with Bedford Borough Council on how to improve the look of the area. This included new fencing however this has not been agreed to date and no changes have been made.

15: Art for Stewartby Park

The Parish Council should have received £70000 from Section 106 monies however this has not been received.

16: Parish Council Surgery

17: Covid-19 Pandemic

18: Hearing Loop

Cllr Law advised that the Hearing Loop had been installed in the Village Hall

Cllr Law will also be submitting a grant application for this.

19: Section 137 Funds

20: Sports Pavilion Opening

Cllr Law advised that the Sports Pavilion Opening is likely to take place on Friday 9th July 2021. Cllr Law will start to put some plans together for further discussion.

21: Items of an URGENT nature for inclusion on the next/future Agendas

None

22: Close of Meeting and items for the next Agenda

• Co-op Grants

Meeting closed at 10.00 pm

23: Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 18th March 2021 @ 7.15 pm