Parish Council
Thursday 18-Mar-2021 @ 19:15
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies
None were received.

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
Two members of the public attended. One expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor.

The Council also heard from a member of the public who is interested in setting up a running club in Stewartby. Group leaders need to undertake a Leadership Running Fitness Course and funding is being sought from the Parish Council.

The Parish Council requested that a formal proposal be submitted to be considered at the next meeting on the 15thApril 2021

5: Co-op Grants Presentation
James O'Farrell-White, Manager of the Co-op, attended the meeting to talk to the Parish Council about the grants that it maybe eligible to apply for. A new grant funding round will open in September however the criteria has not yet been confirmed. The Co-op offers two £2500 grants a year and ad-hoc grants of £250.

James also mentioned that other support was available including sponsorship and volunteers to help with evenings.

Clllr Melville asked whether the Parish Council would be able to run Parish Council surgeries from outside the Co-op when Covid restrictions have been lifted. James did not see that this would be an issue.

Cllr Law asked whether the Co-op would consider sponsoring the Christmas Tree this year. James advised that this would be considered nearer the time.
Cllr Hill thanked James for his efforts in ensuring that all construction site workers wore masks in the store.

6: Minutes of the previous meeting

7: Matters arising from previous minutes
Miracle Design and Play:
The Clerk advised the meeting that the works in the play area would not be carried out until the middle of May.

8: Chairman's Report
Cllr Symonds advised that some of the key personnel from Persimmons were leaving at the end of the month. He is waiting to hear back about the utility companies for the Sports Pavilion.

Cllr Symonds also advised that Covanta has issued a new mandate about how meetings of the Community Liaison Panel will be run. In their opinion the Group should be about information sharing and not questioning how things are operating. Several members will raise their concerns about this at an emergency meeting that is being held on Wednesday 24th March 2021. Cllr Symonds will attend this meeting.

9: Report from Bedford Borough Council
Cllr Hill advised that the Construction Manager for Persimmon will be leaving at the end of March 2021. He advised that there had been four new cases of Coronavirus in the last seven days however the ward figures showed the highest number of cases per 1000. He also advised that there would be some issues with the supply of the vaccinations.

Cllr Hill advised that eleven vehicles had been caught speeding however none of these were doing over 42 miles per hour.

Cllr Hill asked about the ownership of a footpath between the bungalows and the railway as he had received complaints of it being muddy. This is a manmade footpath that has not been officially dedicated. He advised the meeting that a team would be clearing litter from the BCA footpath this week.

10: Clerk's Financial Report

10.1 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.

10.2 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.

11: Quotations for authorisation

11.1 Football pitch works

11.2 Bin for Kempston Hardwick

11.3 Additional CCTV camera for Sports Pavilion

11.4 New furniture for the Village Hall

11.5 Zip Wire Mulch

11.6 Fire Extinguisher inspection remedial works

11.7 Supply and installation of PIR sensor at Village Hall

11.8 Other

12: Planning Decision

Planning Reference 20/03049/FUL Demolition of existing single storey side extension and erection of a new single storey side extension with room in roof and rear dormer. 159 Montgomery Close, Stewartby MK43 9LP – refused.
11.2 Planning Application
Planning Reference 21/00697/FUL – Full planning application. Change of use from waste transfer facility to ready mix mortar and concrete plant including installation of related plant, machinery, buildings and boundary treatments at Hardwick Hill Works, Manor Road, Kempston Hardwick, Bedfordshire MK43 9NT.

13: Amenities

13.1 Highways/Lighting
Cllr Symonds advised that all the street lighting is now working.

Cllr Melville will follow up with Central Bedfordshire about the agreement for the works on the B530.
13.2 Recreation Area
None
13.3 Newsletter
Cllr Melville advised that the newsletter should be available this week.
13.4 Sports Field
13.5 Village Hall
Cllr Symonds advised that Innovation have agreed the repairs that need to be made to the Village Hall resulting from the subsidence. Cllr Symonds will also check whether the insurance covers loss of earnings.
13.6 Policing
Cllr Melville advised that he had met with the Community Chief Inspector. Residents are concerned about drug activity. He also advised that the Community Team will be available until midnight. The policing priority for the area is car crime and burglary.

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

None

15: Close of Meeting and items for the next Agenda

• Running Club

• Hanging Basket Quotes
• Events
• Memorial Gardens
• Sandbags for War Memorial
• Telephone Box/Book Swap
Meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

16: Date and Time of Next Meeting

Parish Council Meeting: Thursday 15th April 2021 @ 7.15 pm