MINUTES

1: Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllrs Barrett and Burnage. The meeting was advised that Cllr Rogers had resigned her position as a Parish Councillor.

2: Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda
Cllr Birch declared an interest in a request for Section 137 monies that he had made on behalf of Stewartby Football Club.

3: To Consider any applications for dispensation

4: Public Participation
One member of the public was in attendance.

5: Presentation by Jo Roberts from the Forest of Marston Vale
Jo advised the Parish Council about two tree planting initiatives as follows:

The Queen's Green Canopy – every Parish being encouraged to plant a tree for the Queen's Jubilee.

A tree and a plaque can be made available to the Parish free of charge and another scheme being offered by DEFRA.

DEFRA is looking for local Councils, organisations and private landowners to plant trees or hedgerows (must be 0.1 hectares). The trees are provided and a grant for maintenance.

The Parish Council will look at an area of the Sports Field and also discuss with other organisations, for example the Middle School.

6: Presentation by Tina Knibbs from Grantscape
Grantscape is responsible for the Community Trust Fund connected to Covanta. The Fund is for ten parishes in the area. The Parish Council is being asked to complete a brief survey which will help determine the criteria for the Fund.

The Fund is primarily for waste management projects, waste management education and the wellbeing of the community. It will be available for 25 years or until the closure of Rookery South. For the first year, £150k has been invested however this is likely to be worth £180k as it is indexlinked. Thereafter it will be £50k per annum (worth in the region of £60k).

The survey needs to be returned by the end of October and it is hoped that it will be launched by the end of the year. A Grant Panel needs to be established and it is hoped that the first decisions will be made in the first quarter of 2022. Initially, there will be two rounds a year, reducing to panel.

7: Minutes of the previous meeting

8: Matters arising from previous minutes
There were no matters arising from the previous minutes

9: Chairman's Report
Cllr Symonds advised that he has had meetings with Bedford Borough Council and Cloudwing. The chimneys will be coming down on Sunday 26th September 2021 and all of the Parish Councillor's should have received an invitation

10: Report from Bedford Borough Council
The report from Cllr Hill was circulated to members of the Parish Council.

Cllr Symonds advised that the Mayor would be visiting on Saturday 18th September 2021.

11: Clerk's Financial Report
11.1 Authorise payments for BACS transfer
The Clerk advised the meeting of the invoices that were due to be paid and talked them through the report.

11.2 Accounts
The balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields account were shared with members.

The Clerk advised that she had a call scheduled with an Auditor from Mazars on Friday 17th September 2021 regarding the 2020 – 2021 AGAR and would update Cllr Symonds following this.

12: Quotations for authorisation

12.1 Hot Water Dispenser for the Sports Pavilion

12.2 Finance Training

12.3 Village Hall Drains
Parish Council is still awaiting quotes.

12.4 Section 137 Funding Request
A Section 137 funding request was received from Cllr Birch in relation to Stewartby Football Club. Cllr Birch declared an interest in this matter.

12.5 Moving PIR Sensors in the Sports Pavilion

12.6 Village Hall Balcony
Cllr Symonds advised that the planning application has now been approved and a revised quote received rom Falcon. The quote is for £11,742 + VAT. This is lower than the original quote

12.7 Floor Buffing Machine for the Village Hall
No quotes were available for consideration and it was RESOLVED that this matter should be considered at the next meeting.

12.8 Water System for the Sports Field

12.9 Play Area Inspections
The Council considered a quote for quarterly and an annual inspection for the play area. It was felt that this was insufficient.

13: Planning Applications

Ref: 21/02204/FUL Full planning application for single storey rear extension at 41 Oxford Blue Way, Stewartby, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK43 9GF

Ref: 21/02450/FUL Full planning application for loft conversation comprising hip to gable, pitched roof dormers and increase to ridge height at 16 Angelica Grove, Kempston Hardwick, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK45 3FT

Ref: 21/02271/TELPN Telecommunication Prior Notification Application for Installation of fifth generation (5G) equipment, comprising an 18 metre high monopole and 4 no. equipment cabinets and developed works ancillary thereto at entrance to Units 1 to 10 Broadmead Business Park, Broadmead Road, Stewartby, Bedfordshire MK43 9NX

13.2 Planning Decisions
Ref: 21/00171/FUL Full planning application for removal of single storey side extension and conservatory and erection of one and two storey side and rear extensions; and retention of roof light in rear elevation at 7 Stewartby Way, Stewartby, Bedford, Bedfordshire MK43 9LJ Permission has been granted by the Bedford Borough Council.

15: Outdoor Gym Project

£4,000 has been allocated through the Ward Fund towards this project.

16: Brickworks Site

Cllr Law advised that she had met with the Architect for the site. The new, full size, chimney has to be built prior to any of the houses (it will have Stewartby on it). There will also be a museum on site and a garden.

The Parish Council will be involved in the Design Guide and the planning application for the chimney

17: The Local Government Boundary Commission – Final Recommendations for Bedford Borough Council

The Parish Council noted the recommendations.

18: Letter to Town and Parish Councils – Request from Budget and Corporate Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Parish Council noted the correspondence but had no comments.

19: Proposal to change the start time of future meetings

20: Parish Council Surgeries

21: Community Events

Cllr Melville advised that he would be sending an e-mail about the next community event

22: Close of Meeting and items for the next Agenda

- Co-opt New Councillor
- Thickthorn Farm Development
- Community Events
- Parish Council Surgeries

Meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

23: Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 21st October 2021 @ 6.30 pm (please note new start time)