Parish Council
Thursday 21-Oct-2021 @ 18:30
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllrs Symonds and Birch.

2: Declarations of Interest in items on the Agenda
Cllr Barrett declared an interest in the Tree Preservation Order.

3: To Consider any applications for dispensation

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

5: Consider application to co-opt a member to the Parish Council

6: Minutes of the previous meeting

7: Matters arising from previous minutes
There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

8: Chairman's Report
Cllr Symonds' report informed the Parish Council that the planning application for the Village Hall drains had now been submitted. Works on the balcony will commence in February 2022.

A battery for the defibrillator has been supplied by the Fire Brigade, free of charge.

9: Report from Bedford Borough Council
Cllr Hill advised the meeting that a number of bus services have been cancelled without any consultation. A temporary timetable will be reinstated whilst further information is sought.

He also advised that vehicle speeding is the Police's priority for the area.

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 report

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

10.3 Budget Monitoring Reports
The Clerk presented budget monitoring reports to the Parish Council for the period April to September 2021 highlighting potential areas of concern.

Cllr Melville raised concerns about the level of income from the Sports Pavilion and football pitches.

10.4 Outcome of the External Audit
The Clerk advised the meeting that the external auditors, Mazars, were satisfied with the AGAR for the 2020-21 financial year and the measures that the Council had introduced, including, more frequent internal audits and budget monitoring reports.

Cllr Melville congratulated the Clerk on this outcome.

Cllrs Melville and Law raised concerns about the segregation of details when invoices are being paid

11: Quotations for authorisation
11.1 Swing Scales Replacement

11.2 Village Hall Insurance

11.3 Bus Shelter Cleaning

11.4 Defibrillator for Sports Field
The quotes for a defibrillator for the Sports Field were considered.

11.5 Christmas Lights for The Crescent
The quote for the Christmas lights for The Crescent was considered.

11.6 Solar Light for the Youth Shelter

11.7 Floor Buffing Machine for the Village Hall

11.8 PAT Testing

11.9 Village Hall Piano
The Council received a request from the Stewartby Operatics Society for a financial contribution towards a new pian

11.10 Christmas Tree
The Clerk advised that a quote had been received for the Parish Christmas Tree. The quote was for £550 + VAT plus delivery (TBA).

11.11 Hanging Baskets
Cllr Melville presented an alternative quote for the hanging baskets in 2022. This quote will present a saving as the baskets are slightly more expensive at £75 each however this includes watering three times a week.

11.12 Flower Bulbs
Cllr Banks will speak to the Lower School about organising a bulb planting event to involve the pupils.

12: Planning Applications

12.1 Planning Applications
Ref: 21/02624/FUL Full planning application for loft conversion with rear dormer at 16 Rousbury Road, Stewartby, Bedford, MK43 9NJ

Ref: 21/01307/FUL Full planning application for single storey side extension following the demolition of existing alterations to external wall at 107 Alexander Close, Stewartby, Bedford, MK43 9LT It was RESOLVED that Cllr Law should look into this application and advise the Clerk how to respond to the Borough Council.

Ref: 21/02705/FUL Full planning application for loft conversion of existing detached garage with front dormers and conversion of garage to create additional living/working space at 72 Brick Crescent, Stewartby, Bedford MK43 9GH

12.2 Planning Decisions
The Clerk advised the meeting that confirmation of a Tree Preservation Order at land at the rear of 63 Stewartby Way had been received.

13: Amenities

13.1 Highways/Lighting
None

13.2 Recreation Area
None

13.3 Newsletter
Councillors were reminded that articles for the newsletter should be send to Cllr Birch by the 5th November 2021.

13.4 Sports Field/Pavilion

13.5 Village Hall

13.7 Covanta
Cllr Law advised that she had attended a meeting on behalf of Cllr Symonds. She advised that the facility was now at capacity. A report on omissions will be published to the community.

Cllr Law advised that there were concerns about the lorries using Broadmead Road. She has asked to be informed of the registration number, name of company and time of any lorries so that they can be reported.

The electricity allowance will be paid to those that signed up for it in quarter 2. This will be £100 next year and £66 in subsequent years.
Cllr Law advised that she will be submitting a grant application for the water system for the Sports Field to the Community Trust Fund.

14: Parish Council Christmas Meal

15: Outdoor Gym Project
Cllr Burnage updated the meeting however grant funding is still being sought.

16: Parish Council Surgeries

17: Close of Meeting and items for the next Agenda
• Community Events
Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

18: Date and Time of Next Meeting
Thursday 18th November 2021 @ 6.30 pm