Parish Council

Thursday 21-Dec-2023 @ 18:30
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllrs Banks and Fraser

2: Declarations on Interest in items on the Agenda
None

3: To consider any applications for dispensation
None

4: Public Participation
None

5: Minutes of the previous meeting

6: Matters arising from previous minutes
Cllr Melville highlighted that the minutes of the meeting held on the 7th December 2023 did not include the decision that he felt the Council had made with regards to the Caretakers hours. The Clerk advised that whilst this matter was discussed, given the financial implication, this was to be considered at the meeting in January 2024 when the budget and precept will be discussed prior to formal ratification on the 18th January 2024.

7: Chairman's Report
Cllr Melville advised that quotes had just been received for the repair or replacement of the Sports Pavilion gates that were rammed recently which are in the region of £3,000. A decision will need to be made about whether this should be claimed on the Parish Council's insurance.
Cllr Melville also raised the recent news regarding Universal Studios potentially building a theme park in the Parish. He advised that he would be arranging a meeting between the Parish Council, a representative from Universal Studios,
the Mayor and Ward Councillors in the New Year.
He also advised that the Council's application for Ward Fund monies had been approved. These monies will be for the lights at the Sports Field. The Clerk has already asked Andy Muskett to carry out the works in the New Year.
Cllr Melville raised concerns about the state of the Clock Tower at the Village Hall and advised that quotes would need to be considered in the New Year for the repair/replacement.
The Bus Shelter roof (opposite the Village Hall) is also in need of replacement/repair. Quotes will be obtained and considered at the next meeting. Concern was raised about disturbing the bats.
Cllr Melville advised that the consultation period for the double yellow lines in Park Crescent was now open. This needs to be considered along with other traffic calming measures in the village.

8: Clerk's Financial Report
8.1 Authorise payments for BACS Transfer
The Clerk presented the new format for the BACS Report that are generated from Scribe accounts. These were considered favourably by the Councillors.
8.2 Balances of Accounts
Members were advised that as at the 30th November 2023, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:
£66,432.71
£31,117.31
£9,723.23
£444,945.72
8.3 Budget Monitoring
The Clerk confirmed that this information had been sent to all Councillors with

the meeting papers.
8.4 Scribe Update
The Clerk advised that further progress had been made on Scribe and further training undertaken. In January 2024 the Clerk will book onto the training to prepare for the end of the financial year.
The Clerk still has to reconcile the Sports Pavilion account on Scribe and will continue to use the manual system for the December reconciliation.

9: Quotations for authorisation

9.1 Tools for Caretaker's Use
The meeting was advised that the Caretaker is having to use his own tools to undertake work.
9.2 Caretaker Van Lease & Insurance
Cllr Haley presented further van lease and insurance quotes.
9.3 Swing Repair
9.4 Disabled Bay Lining
9.5 Internet for the Sports Pavilion

10: Planning Applications & Decisions

10.1 Ref: 23/02566/MAR Major Reserved Matters Application PROPOSAL: All reserved matters for the erection of a Regional Distribution Centre (Use Class B8) with ancillary office accommodation (Use Class E(g)(i)), gatehouse and access arrangements, vehicle maintenance unit, recycling area, car parking, landscaping and other associated works, pursuant to outline permission ref. 15/00466/EIA @ Aldi Zander Way Wixams Bedford Bedfordshire
10.2 Ref: 23/02136/M73 Major S73 Variation of Condition Application PROPOSAL: Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for the construction of a new railway station building, car parking facilities associated with the station, EV charging units and other associated works and infrastructure pursuant to outline planning permission 11/01380/M73 (99/01645/OUT as amended), including variation of approved plans condition 1 attached to 22/01933/MAR to enable the construction of a second footbridge, increase to the height of the approved clock tower and relocation of station building 3 metres to the west @ Land For Railway Station
Meadow Road Wixams Bedfordshire
10.3 Ref: 23/02629/MDC3 Major District Council Reg 3 Application PROPOSAL: Construction of two railway platforms, footbridges and pedestrian lifts associated with a new railway station. Construction of facilities ancillary to the station including lighting, drainage, utilities and other services, boundary treatment and other associated works @ land For Railway Station Meadow Road Wixams Bedfordshire

11: Draft Lease Agreement between the Parish Council and the Bowls Club

The draft lease agreement was discussed. Cllr Haley queried postcode and 4.3, 7.1c and 22.1.

12: Items of an urgent nature or for inclusion on the next agenda

None

13: Close of Meeting and items for the next Agenda.

Meeting closed at 7.45 pm. Please see above for items for the next Agenda.

14: Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 18th January 2024 @ 6.30 pm.