Parish Council

Thursday 18-Jan-2024 @ 18:30
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies
Apologies were received from Cllr Fraser

2: Declarations on Interest in items on the Agenda
None

3: To consider any applications for dispensation
None

4: CONFIDENTIAL ITEM – Exclusion of the Press & Public
Universal Studios

5: Public Participation
None

6: Minutes of the previous meeting

7: Matters arising from previous minutes
The Clerk advised that the power tools had been ordered and is awaiting delivery.
Cllr Melville advised that, having sought advice from Bedford Borough Council, it was the Parish Council's responsibility to reinstate the disabled parking bay at the Village Hall.
An update was provided on the Bowls Club Lease Agreement. This will hopefully be in place by the end of January 2024.
The Clerk provided an update on the situation with E-On. Some historic figures for the period from 2020 – 2022 have been provided (30p daily standing charge and 29.1p per khw). Further historic pricing is being sought for 2022 – 2024. An invoice will then be generated and reviewed to ensure that it complies with the current regulations and standards for the industry.
The Clerk is talking to E-on on a weekly basis.

8: Chairman's & Bedford Borough Council's Report
Cllr Melville said that there had been no decision yet on solar panels for the Village Hall.
Cllr Spice advised that it was not yet clear what the Ward Fund for next year would look like however it was likely that it would be open for more groups and organisations to submit applications.
Cllr Spice and Mayor Wootton said how much they had enjoyed the Christmas Fair and were looking forward to further events in the village. They asked the Council to keep them informed of dates.
The Council was advised that Greenwich Leisure will be taking over the contract from Fusion and will be responsible for all of the Council's leisure centres on the 31st January 2024.
An update was given on the developments planned for the town centre however the Debenhams site has not yet been secured.
The Bedford Borough Council budget will be voted on next week.
A decision on Wixams Station is awaited.
Cllr Melville advised that communication with the residents of the village had not really improved and that people did not know who Councillors are. Cllr Spice advised that she is currently working on a newsletter and it was suggested that joint surgeries should be held.
Cllr Law raised concerns about planning officers not being aware of the Section 4 agreement for the village.
The Council is aware of the current school consultation however if the site of the current Broadmead Lower School is made redundant then they feel that this should be used as a GP/Medical Centre and/or a nursery.
Concerns were again raised about the old Caretaker's bungalow. Cllr Spice is

aware and will raise this again with officers at the Council.
Cllr Law queried what was happening with the £1.5m Escrow monies for the Brickworks site that is being held by Bedford Borough Council.
Cllr Melville thanked Mayor Wootton and Cllr Spice for their help and support.

9: Clerk's Financial Report

9.1 Authorise payments for BACS Transfer
9.2 Balances of Accounts
Members were advised that as at the 31st December 2023, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:
£33,847.74
£64,570.78
£8,769.31
£446,495.11
9.3 Precept 2024-25

10: Quotations for authorisation

10.1 Repair/Replacement Gates for the Sports Pavilion
10.2 Replacement Signs
10.3 Bus Shelter Roof10.4 Village Hall Clock Tower Works
10.5 Mulch for Memorial Garden
10.6 Bollards
10.7 CCTV
10.8 Street Lights
10.9 Village Hall Floor/Memorial
10.10 Sports Field – Football Pitches

11: Planning Applications & Decisions

11.1 23/02673/MAF Major Full and Change of Use Application for proposed erection of 2 light industrial units @ Stewartby Business Park Broadmead Road Stewartby Bedfordshire MK43 9ND
11.2 24/00048/FUL Full Planning Application for proposed single storey front extension, first floor rear extension and garage conversion @ 9 Rousbury Road Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9NJ

12: Amenities

12.1 Highways/Lighting
Cllrs Law and Banks recently carried out an inspection and all lights not working and potholes have been reported.
12.2 Recreation Area
The meeting was advised that the swing repair will be carried out in February.
12.3 Newsletter
The next newsletter deadline is the end of January. Articles to include:
• Christmas Fair – Cllr Banks (include piece about main sponsor Ellievision)
• Events diary
• New Community Inspector – Cllr Melville
• Borough Councillors – Cllr Melville
• Chiltern Learning Trust – Cllr Melville/Clerk
• Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership – Clerk
• Forest of Marston Vale – Clerk
• What's On – Clerk
• Soccer School – Cllr Banks
• Sports Pavilion Hire
• Village Hall What's On – Village Hall Clerk
12.4 Sports Field/Pavilion
Cllr Banks advised that the Soccer Camp has booked for February half-term. Councillors were asked to help setup on Sunday 18th February. The caretaker will be offered overtime.
They have also booked two weeks at Easter, May half-term, three weeks during the Summer holidays and October half-term as follows:
2nd – 5th April
8th – 11th April
22nd – 25th July

5th – 8th August
10th – 22nd August
28th – 31st October
The camp will now run from 9.30 am – 3.30 pm.
12.5 Village Hall
Cllr Melville advised that the Parish Council may need to support the Village Hall financially to cover rising utility bills.
12.6 Policing
Cllr Melville advised that there had been lots of activity recently at the Travellers Site that had involved three Police operations. This work is being led by the New Community Inspector and Anna Robanni from Bedford Borough Council.
Cllr Melville raised his concerns about community policing and how it was difficult to build relationships as personnel keep changing.
12.7 Covanta
Cllr Law advised that Warners are dealing directly with Covanta now to ensure that rubbish is kept to a minimum on Green Lane.
There has been an agreement for the tonnage to be increased.
Cllr Banks raised concerns about a sofa in the road.

13: Dave Law Pavilion Committee
There was nothing to report at this stage.

14: Community Events 2024
The Council were advised that the Christmas Fair would be on Saturday 30th November 2024.
Work has started on arranging the main event in the Summer on the 6th July 2024.

15: Grants
Cllrs Haley and Lw to seek grants for the Village Hall floor and play equipment. Cllr Melville advised that funding is available from Bedford Borough Council.

16: Parking & Highways Management
The meeting was advised that double yellow lines have been agreed for Park Crescent

17: Items of an urgent nature or for inclusion on the next agenda
None

18: Close of Meeting and items for the next Agenda.
Meeting closed at 9.35 pm. Please see above for items for the next Agenda.

19: Date and Time of Next Meeting
The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 15th February 2024 @ 6.30 pm.