Parish Council

Thursday 15-Feb-2024 @ 18:30
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Fraser. It was noted that Cllr Fraser is now on maternity leave. The Council expressed thanks to her for all her hard work and sent their best wishes.

2: Declarations on Interest in items on the Agenda

Cllr Burnage expressed an interest in the quote from R Thornton as he is a relative.

3: To consider any applications for dispensation

4: Public Participation

None

5: Minutes of the previous meeting

6: Matters arising from previous minutes

Cllr Melville advised that there had been a misunderstanding on the quotes received about the line marking for the disabled bay.
The Clerk advised that the complaint with E-On was progressing and that weekly updates were being received. E-On have been advised that the Council will escalate this matter if there is not a resolution before the end of February 2024.
The Clerk advised that the insurance claim for the Sports Field gates had been submitted.
Cllr Melville advised that the works to the clock tower at the Village Hall had been completed and that the contractor had done an excellent job. The scaffolding will be taken down on Tuesday 20th February 2024.
Cllr Melville advised that the CCTV works had been delayed due to high winds and the contractor ordering the incorrect parts. These works are now scheduled for the first week or March 2024.

7: Chairman's Report

Cllr Melville advised that the Clerk had secured Small Business Relief on the nondomestic rates for the Sports Pavilion. An application has been submitted for the
£13k paid to be refunded. It was RESOLVED that the Council would no longer pursue charity status in light of the small business relief.
Cllr Melville referred to his recent e-mail regarding the safety concerns on Ampthill Road as there has recently been five accidents in the same location. There has been no response from Central Bedfordshire Council however the Police are open to a conversation.
He advised the meeting that HOP had withdrawn their application for a film studio at Quest Pit.
Cllr Melville raised concerns with Cllr Spice, who was present from Bedford Borough Council, about the recent flooding under the bridge which makes it impassable. Cllr Spice will discuss with Cllr Weir.
Cllr Melville advised Councillors when the caretakers would be taking annual leave and advised that some arrangements for cover had been made. He asked for someone to close the Village Hall on Saturday 24th February 2024 at 5.00 pm and Sunday 25th February 2024 at 11.00 pm.

8: Report from Bedford Borough Council

The Clerk advised Councillor Spice of the issues relating to emails from the Parish Council not getting through to officers at Bedford Borough Council. She agreed to speak to IT about this.
Cllr Spice advised the Council that lots of work/cross partnership working had been happening at the Travellers site. Five lorry loads of waste have been removed and 2 or 3 eviction notices have been issued.

She advised that the Bedford Borough Council's budget for 2024-25 has been approved by the Full Council. Ward Funds have been included however the amounts are not yet known.
Cllr Banks advised that the bungalow now has metal railings around it and asked what was happening. Cllr Spice advised that she would find out.
The recent school consultation was discussed and the concerns raised by parents.

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 January 2024, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:
£21,947.19
£64,570.78
£14,737.92
£431,495.11
9.3 Asset Register

10: Quotations for authorisation

10.1 Mulch/bark for Memorial Garden
10.2 Caretaker's Work Uniform
10.3 Bus Shelter Roof Works
10.4 Remedial Website Works
10.5 Hanging Baskets

11: Planning Applications & Decisions

11.1 24/00174/FUL Full Planning Application for reconfiguration of existing car park and associated works including the installation
of external lighting @ Asda Cdc Distribution Centre Marsh Leys Farm Woburn Road Kempston Bedford Bedfordshire
The Council RESOLVED that they had no objections provided that consideration is given to the nearby houses and the lighting.
11.2 24/00212/FUL Full Planning Application for demolition of existing single storey rear extension and erection of single storey rear orangery style extension and loft conversion with rear facing Velux rooflights @ 57 Stewartby Way Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9LJ
The Council RESOLVED that it had no objections to this application provided that the Section 4 Conservation Guidance was adhered to.
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12: Amenities

12.1 Highways/Lighting
None
12.2 Recreation Area
Cllr Banks raised concerns about work that needed to be carried out in the Memorial Garden, rubbish from a neighbouring property, the absence of a bin and also signage.
12.3 Newsletter
Cllr Melville advised that the newsletter is currently being printed and should be available for distribution next week.
12.4 Sports Field/Pavilion

Cllr Banks reminded Cllrs that help was needed on Sunday 18th February at 1.00 pm to setup for the football camp and again on Thursday 22nd February at 4.00 pm to set down.
12.5 Village Hall
12.6 Policing
Cllr Melville advised that he will personally be meeting the new Inspector in two weeks time.
It was encouraging to note that the crime statistics remained low.
12.7 Covanta
Cllr Law advised that meetings had now moved to six-monthly with a meeting about Millbrook Power in between.

13: Dave Law Pavilion Committee

The outstanding debt relating to football invoices has now been given to a Debt Collection Agency to pursue.
It was noted that some amendments need to be made on Scribe as there is no longer a separate junior pitch.

14: Community Events 2024

Cllr Melville advised that the Events Committee would meet again at the end of the month.
It was RESOLVED that the request for stallholders should be further promoted on Facebook.

15: Grants

Cllrs Haley and Law provided an update on the grants that they are applying for.
Cllr Spice advised that she would assist where possible and with the 100th Anniversary event.

16: Stewartby Bowls Club

Cllr Melville advised that the lease is awaiting the Bowls Club signatures. The Bowls Club have made a request for 15 keys to be issued and for the ongoing use of the kitchen.

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 8.27 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 21st March 2024 @ 6.30 pm.