Parish Council

Thursday 21-Mar-2024 @ 18:30
Dave Law Sports Pavilion, Park Crescent, Stewartby

MINUTES

1: Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Burnage. It was noted that Cllr Fraser is now on maternity leave

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

The Clerk advised that the monies had now been received to repair/replace the Sports Field gates from the insurers and that JWR Groundworks had been instructed to complete the works.
The Clerk also advised that a final invoice had now been received from E-ON. They are unable to invoice for the full amount (from 2020 – 2024) and have therefore applied the Billing Standards and applied a credit of over £5,000.
The Council is now in contract for 12 months with E-ON and will need to obtain other quotes nearer the time.
The Clerk will now work on trying to establish how we are benefitting from the solar panels.
Cllr Melville advised that the new CCTV system had been installed however there were issues with being able to determine vehicle registration numbers. ACE Fire & Security has provided an alternative quote to upgrade the cameras however it was felt that this expenditure could not be justified as it was disproportionate to the level of crime in the village.
He also advised that that meeting that was organised to discuss concerns about the B536 was cancelled. Cllr Melville has written to all parties and will pursue this matter.
Cllr Melville advised that the Clerk had received a response from the Conservation Area about the bus shelter. Builders will be asked to re-quote based on using alternative products. The Council will then need to submit a pre-planning application to determine whether permission will be given, as advised by the Conservation Officer.
The Clerk advised that the website works/training did not go ahead today as planned therefore an alternative date will need to be found.
Cllr Melville advised that the Bowls Club has signed the lease and booked the kitchen when needed.
The meeting was advised that Richard Thornton has not carried out the works in the Memorial Garden as it has been too wet.

7: Chairman’s Report

Cllr Melville that there was still no outcome to the traffic calming measures for Montgomery Close. He hopes to hear back from Bedford Borough Council next week.

Cllr Melville is also looking at speed calming measures for Park Crescent and Stewartby Way.
The Chair advised that he has also written to Bedford Borough Council about them future use of Broadmead Lower School once it closes in 2027.

Cllr Melville reminded Councillors about the need to respond to emails within 48 hours of receipt

8: Report from Bedford Borough Council

Cllr Spice advised that there had not been any progress with the issues relating to the Parish Councils emails not getting through to Bedford Borough Council. She will continue to work on this.
Cllr Spice advised that with regards to the flooding, the Council has now started a proactive gulley maintenance programme across the Borough. This has started in Sharnbrook and is unlikely to reach Stewartby for 12 – 18 months. They are also offering a reactive service therefore she will report the issue in Stewartby.
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 Spice advised that a response regarding Montgomery Close should be received next week when the Officer returns from annual leave.
She also confirmed that the Escrow monies for the rebuilding of a chimney and heritage centre on the Brickworks site was still ringfenced for this purpose
Cllr Spice has spoken to Chris Morris (Education Lead) and he has advised that Broadmead Mead School will be considered under the Capital Asset Programme at some point.
There were no further updates regarding Universal Studios.
Cllr Spice advised that the In Touch leaflet had been distributed about a month ago. Some Councillors had not received it.
Cllr Spice will seek further updates about the derelict bungalow for the next meeting.

9: Clerk's Financial Report

9.1 Authorise payments for BACS Transfer
9.2 Balances of Accounts
Members were advised that as at the 29th February 2024, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:
£12,074.57
£64,570.78
£12,103.89
£431,495.11
9.3 Asset Register
The Clerk advised that the Asset Register had been updated as agreed and had been circulated with the meeting papers.
9.4 VAT Reclaim

10: Quotations for authorisation

10.1 Water Boiler for the Village Hall
10.2 Bus Shelter Roof Works
10.3 Sports Pavilion water tank service & valve repairs
10.4 Health & Safety Proposal & invoice
10.5 First Aid provision for Summer Event
10.6 Highway Signs for the Summer Event
10.7 Paint for Changing Rooms

11: Planning Applications & Decisions

None

12: Amenities

12.1 Highways/Lighting
Cllr Banks advised the meeting that on the C94, two of the 30 mph signs were missing.
12.2 Recreation Area
The Clerk advised that the swing would be repaired at the weekend.
12.3 Newsletter
None
12.4 Sports Field/Pavilion
The football pitches have been remarked however Warners are struggling to cut the grass as it is too wet.
Cllr Melville advised that Andy Muskett would be starting works on fitting the lights that will be paid for from Ward Fund monies.
The Clerk advised that the Insurers had made a payment for the gates and that

JWR Groundworks had been instructed to carry out these works.
It has been noted that the water pressure is too high in the taps in the toilets and that the valves need to be changed.
12.5 Village Hall
Cllr Law advised that an invoice for Non-domestic rates had been received. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Law should contact the Borough Council to ensure that full relief is applied. It was also RESOLVED that the address should be changed from Cllr Law's private address to the Village Hall or Sports Pavilion.
12.6 Policing
None
12.7 Covanta
Cllr Law will attend a meeting in July. It is hoped that the Environment Agency will also attend.

13: Dave Law Pavilion Committee

Cllr Banks advised the meeting that the Soccer Camp would run on the following dates during Easter:
• 2
nd – 5
th April
• 8
th – 11th April
Take up is currently very low due to lack of advertising. Help to setup will be needed on the 1st April 2024.
Cllr Banks also advised that she was positive about the teams that would be playing at Stewartby, OB City 1st & 2nd looking to play/train in the evenings. Stewartby FC are looking to expand into the higher ages. Hatters Veterans also use the pitches occasionally.
The next meeting of the DLP Committee needs to be arranged.
The Clerk advised that the monies from the Punjab Lions had been recovered.

14: Community Events 2024

Cllr Melville advised that the advert went live today and 95 tickets have been sold so far.
The Events Committee is meeting on the 28th March 2024 and will focus on PR. Quotes for banners should be obtained for this meeting.

15: Grants

Cllr Law advised that a grant application had been submitted for the Village Hall.
Cllr Haley is looking into grants for the fountain and it was advised that he should also contact the Co-op about local grants.
Cllrs Law and Burnage are looking into grants for the play area.

16: Stewartby Bowls Club

Cllr Melville advised that the lease had been signed by all parties.

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 8.16 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 18th April 2024 @ 6.30 pm.