Parish Council

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

MINUTES

1: Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Law. 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

One member of the public attended to discuss the ongoing concerns regarding Montgomery Close/Rousbury Road. There are issues with anti-social driving, speeding and there does not seem to be a firm plan in place to resolve the issues. The residents are also concerned about the lack of parking when double yellow lines are implemented on the bus route.
Cllr Melville has been in contact with Bedford Borough Council about this matter for nearly a year. Andrew Prigmore was invited to attend the meeting this evening however he had other commitments. Cllr Melville has arranged to meet Andrew onsite on the 25th April 2024 at 6.00 pm to discuss the concerns and look at the options.

5: Minutes of the previous meeting

6: Matters arising from previous minutes

Solar Panels – the Clerk advised that E-ON Next have initially advised that the solar panels on the Sports Pavilion have not been registered. Further information has been sent to verify this.
Mayor Wootton/Cllr Spice advised that they would look into the possibility of fitting solar panels to the Village Hall.
Bus Shelter Roof – a quote has been received to use slate tiles however this is more expensive. The Council RESOLVED that Cllr Serino would obtain alternative quotes for repair and replacement.
Website – Cllr Haley and the Clerk had some training on the website on Monday 15th April 2024. The Summer event has now been added however there are other issues that need to be considered.
Memorial Garden Bin – the Clerk advised that this had not yet been ordered but would be as a priority.
Park Crescent – complaints are still being received about Park Crescent and some form of traffic calming is required. Cllr Melville will discuss the matter when he meets with Andrew Prigmore next week.
IT issues – the Clerk is still unable to send emails to Bedford Borough Council as they do not get through to officers. Cllr Spice will continue to try and resolve this with the IT Department.
30 mph Signs – the signs had been replaced but have since been removed. This matter needs to be resolved by Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough Councils.

7: Chairman's Report

Cllr Melville advised that the two consultation meetings held by Universal Studios were well attended and were a huge success. The Parish Council remains supportive however the infrastructure will be critical.
Representatives from Bedford Borough Council and Universal Studios will hold a closed meeting with Parish Councillors on Monday 29th April 2024 at Dave Law Sports Pavilion commencing at 6.30 pm.
Cllr Melville made Councillors aware that the new Stewartby sign that had

recently been installed as splitting and will only last approximately 12 months before needing to be replaced.
He advised that he had meet with two potential new Councillors. They will attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

8: Report from Bedford Borough Council

Cllr Spice advised that the Chief Officer for Property at Bedford Borough Council was looking into making a case for what should happen with the bungalow. Cllr Banks advised that this had become more hazardous since it had been broken in to. Cllr Spice will ask for an update.
Cllr Spice advised that brown tourist destination signs do not require approval from Bedford Borough Council however it was felt that this would not be appropriate for the Memorial Garden.
Mayor Wootton outlined his proposals for street signs across the Borough. Cllr Melville will send the Council's logo to Andrew Prigmore. He also advised that glass recycling trials were taking place in the Borough, one rural and one urban area had been chosen.
The Council was informed that the 4 hours free parking in Bedford would be extended to other car parks in the run up to Christmas.
The Council confirmed that they had ordered King Charles' portrait. Many Parish Councils have not taken up this offer.
The Council asked for support from the Borough to promote the Summer event on the 6th July 2024. Cllr Melville will send the poster to Cllr Spice.
Cllr Melville asked that he would like to restart Parish Council surgeries in May/June 2024. It is hoped that Cllrs from Bedford Borough Council and the Police will take part in these.
Cllr Spice asked what progress had been made with Speedwatch. It was RESOLVED that Cllr Serino would restart work on this as there were sufficient volunteers.
Cllr Burnage raised concerns about recent activity at the Bricklayers Arms site. Cllr Spice will liaise with John Shortland in the Planning Department.

9: Clerk's Financial Report

9.1 Authorise payments for BACS Transfer
Cllr Melville advised that the Clerk had been unable to seek reimbursement from Encyclis for the Cherry Trees that had been planted in the Memorial Garden as the details had not been provided by Cllr Law.
9.2 Balances of Accounts
Members were advised that as at the 31st March 2024, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:
£2,161.79
£36,981.62
£4,205.43
£433,136.52

10: Quotations for authorisation

10.1 Purchase of an Angle Grinder
10.2 Bus Shelter Roof Works
10.3 Works at Kempston Hardwick – Proposal from Warners
10.4 Wonka Bars
10.5 Signs for Memorial Gardens

11: Planning Applications & Decisions

Planning Applications & Decisions
11.1 Ref: 24/00470/FUL Full Planning Application for proposed Removal of an existing steel frame structure and erection of a new car port with associated access from private driveway @ Silverdale Manor Road Kempston Hardwick Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9NT
11.2 Ref: 24/00669/FUL Full Planning Application for proposed loft conversion including change of hipped roof to gable ends to match house opposite, and front dormers @ 10 Halley View Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9GJ
The following planning application was received after the despatch of the Agenda however the deadline is before the next meeting of the Parish Council.

11.3 Ref: 24/00809/FUL Full Planning Application for proposed single storey side and rear extension @ 7 Windsor Grove Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9SN

12: Amenities

12.1 Highways/Lighting
The potholes at the railway line were noted however Bedford Borough Council are already aware.
12.2 Recreation Area
Cllr Banks advised that the new swing is too high. Cllr Melville will ask the Caretaker to take a look and advise.
12.3 Newsletter
The next newsletter will be at the end of July/beginning of August.
12.4 Sports Field/Pavilion
It was noted that it was boggy and puddles were forming under some of the play equipment. The Caretaker will be asked to review this and obtain any relevant quotes.
12.5 Village Hall
Cllr Melville advised that the Village Hall would not need additional financial support for utilities as previously thought.
12.6 Policing
Crime statistics remain low for the area.
12.7 Encyclis
None

13: Dave Law Pavilion Committee

Cllr Banks advised that the following revenue had been generated from the football pitches:
January 2024 - £300
February 2024 - £390
March 2024 - £560
April - £1,500 - £800 was as a result of the soccer camp during the Easter Holidays. The soccer school have indicated that they would like to book for the whole of the Summer. A meeting needs to be arranged with them. OB City and Stewartby FC are using the pitches regularly and to looking to increase this.
Cllr Burnage suggested that consideration should be given to the Sports Pavilion being extended to increase the opportunities to generate income from hire of the facilities.

14: Community Events 2024

Cllr Melville advised that 270 tickets have been sold to date.
More advertising is necessary and it is hoped that the banners will be up in the next few weeks. Chiltern Learning Trust has also agreed to distribute the poster through their schools.
The proposed date for the Events Committee to meet is the 2nd May 2024.

15: Grants

The outcome of the grant for the Village Hall floor should be known at the end of April 2024.
Cllr Haley advised that some grants wanted guarantees of the contributions that other parties would be making to projects.
The Mayor will look into whether solar panels can be installed at the Village Hall and therefore benefit from the grant that is available.
Cllr Haley will approach the Co-op for a grant for the Christmas Tree this year.

16: Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation

Cllr Melville will meet with Andrew Prigmore about this. The information was circulated to all Councillors as part of the Agenda however this will be resent for their comments.

17: Council Surgery / Community Engagement

Cllr Melville advised that he would like to restart the Council Surgeries and involve the Borough Council and the Police. Cllr Haley suggested that EWR also be invited to take part. The 8th June 2024 has been set as a provisional date.

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

None

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

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm. Cllr Melville asked for all nominations for Chair or Vice

Chair to be sent to the Clerk a week before the Annual Parish Meeting

20: Date and Time of Next Meeting

Annual General Meeting on Thursday 16th May 2024 @ 6.30 pm followed by the monthly Parish Council meeting afterwards.