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

MINUTES

1: Apologies
Meeting Name: [Committee Name]
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: Public Participation
None

5: Minutes of the previous meeting
The Council RESOLVED that Cllr Melville should sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 16th October 2024 and the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on the 7th November 2024 as true and accurate records.

6: Matters arising from previous minutes
The Clerk advised that data needed to be cleaned on Scribe to complete the VAT Returns for 2023-24. This claim will be submitted before the next meeting.

A further claim will be made on January 2025 for the period from April – December 2024.

The Clerk advised that there had unfortunately been no progress on retrieving the Council's belongings from her former home however there was a further Court Hearing on the 19th December 2024.

The Clerk advised that a response was still awaited from E-On with regard to the solar panels however they had previously advised that this process can take a few months. This has been followed up via email however the Clerk will call to chase this next week.

The Clerk advised that the signatories form had been sent to the bank and that this would be followed up next week with a telephone call.

Cllr Law was asked for an update by the Chair about the lorries using the brickworks site. She advised that she had sent an email but had not received a response. Cllr Law will follow this up.

The Clerk advised that Marston Vale Tree Care Services had not yet given a date for the tree works to be carried out. The Clerk will chase.

The Clerk is trying to arrange a date for Smith of Derby to come and look at the Village Hall clock as it has stopped chiming.

7: Chairman's Report
Cllr Melville thanked Councillors for decorating the village for Remembrance and Cllr Banks for taking the service. He expressed his disappointment that none of the Borough Councillors attended and, despite sending an email, a response has not been received.

The Chair advised that the CCTV is back up and running apart from the one outside of the Co-op. Andy Muskett is trying to resolve the issue with Bedford

Borough Council.

Cllr Melville advised that he is arranging for the agents for the brickworks site to meet with Councillors.

He advised that he had met with the Police and Cllr Spice with regards to the Police using the Committee Room at the Village Hall as a base. They like the space however need to agree funding and works that would need to be done. Cllr Melville advised that he had a phone call from Jon from Universal Studios a few weeks ago. They are still awaiting a decision from the Government.

Cllr Melville advised that there are ongoing issues in relation to 6 Broadmead Road. Cllr Spice will liaise with Environmental Health.

8: Report from Bedford Borough Council

Cllr Spice advised that Community Safety Officers had been diverted to Cleat Hill to work with other statutory services there.

She advised that the Council had developed a Leisure Strategy and that as part of this, at some point in the future, the Oasis will be closed however the site will be repositioned as an alternative leisure facility.

Bedford Borough Council is increasing their portfolio of Council owned homes as part of the Temporary Accommodation Housing Strategy.

Cllr Spice advised that the 4 hours free parking has been extended to Lurke Street car park for the Christmas period. She asked if the Council could post about the free parking there and Allhallows on social media.

Following a recent peer review, a 10-Year Capital Plan has been put in place. Cllr Spice advised that the budget for 2025-26 is currently under discussion.

Cllr Melville advised Cllr Spice that the Warm Space project would not be going ahead due to lack of volunteers.

Cllr Spice advised that there would be events in Bedford every weekend in the lead up to Christmas. The Christmas Light Switch On has been moved to the 30th November 2024 due to the predicted storm this weekend.

The Clerk advised Cllr Spice that correspondence had been received from Bromham Parish Council as they are being billed for the supply of electricity to the derelict bungalow. The Clerk advised them to contact Bedford Borough Council and Cllr Spice.

Cllr Melville raised that there had been some issues with refuse collection and bins being missed.

Cllr Spice advised that she had reviewed the latest crime statistics and felt that residents should be encouraged to report incidents.
Cllr Spice will request two 30 mile an hour signs for Stewartby Way/Green Lane.
Cllr Spice will arrange for the new MP to come to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

Cllr Haley asked Cllr Spice to look into the issue at the Interchange with the road signs not reflecting the road markings. Cllr Melville also asked for the area could also be cleaned up as there are lots of weeds and rubbish.

Cllr Spice gave a brief update on the develops at the Interchange and advised that there would be a Police presence at the Bus Station in the town centre as there would be a Police Hub in the mobility centre.

9: Clerk's Financial Report

9.1 Authorise payments for BACS Transfer
The Council RESOLVED to authorise the BACS Reports for the Parish Council and the Sports Pavilion. It was also RESOLVED to authorise payments to Cllr Fraser for Christmas Fair expenses and JMR Groundworks Ltd for the remove of the play equipment. These invoices were received after the BACS Report had been prepared.

9.2 Balances of Accounts
Members were advised that as at the 31st October2024, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:

£44,870.98
£37,279.41
£5,185.55
£420,910.89

9.3 Budget Monitoring
The Clerk talked through the budget monitoring report. The main area of concern is staff costs however this will be met from reserves/VAT reimbursement.

The Clerk will circulate the budget monitoring report to councillor's via email.

9.4 Local Government Pay Award
The Clerk advised that the 2024-25 pay award had been agreed nationally and that the back pay from April 2024 had been paid in the November salaries.

10: Quotations for authorisation

10.1 Street Bin
The Council REOLVED to purchase a street bin that will be located by the lower school. The Clerk will contact Bedford Borough Council for a wheelie bin.

10.2 Christmas Event for Staff
It was RESOLVED that the Council would meet the cost of the employee's Christmas meal.

10.3 Health & Safety
It was RESOLVED that the Council would purchase new safety boots and wellington boots for the Caretakers. An amount of £100 was agreed.

11: Planning Applications & Decisions

Ref: 24/02163/FUL Full Planning Application for proposed two new roof dormers on front elevation @ 43 Oxford Blue Way Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9GF

The Council RESOLVED that it had no objections to this planning application

11.2 Ref: 24/01563/LBC Proposed demolition of existing site buildings (excluding retained outer kiln walls) within the curtilage of the listed building @ former Stewartby Brickworks Broadmead Road Stewartby Bedfordshire - withdrawn

11.3 Planning Applications & Decisions received after the despatch of the Agenda

Ref: 24/01608/S106A Modify/Discharge S106 Agreement Application for proposed request to Modify the S106 agreement relating to 11/01380/M73 affecting the following: (i) Sport, Recreation and Play Facilities (ii) Community Facilities (Scheme 2-including removal of the Gateway Park) @ Wixams Settlement Land Formerly @ Elstow Storage Depot Bedford Road Wixams Bedfordshire – refused

11.4 Update on Universal Studios
None

12: Amenities

12.1 Highways/Lighting
Cllrs Law and Banks to arrange to review highways and lighting.

12.2 Recreation Area
The play equipment on The Green has now been removed.

Cllr Haley to apply for grant for the replacement roundabout at the Sport Pavilion play area.

12.3 Newsletter
Cllrs Fraser and Banks to do the next newsletter in January 2025.

12.4 Sports Field/Pavilion
The Clerk advised that the Bowls Club has not yet confirmed whether they have carried out all the actions in accordance with a recent health and safety inspection.

The Clerk to setup Cllr Williams on Scribe.

12.5 Village Hall
Cllr Law advised that the wheelie bins needed to be moved to make it easier for Biffa to collect the refuse.

The Clerk to arrange for Smith of Derby to look at the clock.
Cllr Melville raised concerns about the Operatic Society's use of the Village Hall in light of health and safety concerns.

12.6 Policing
Cllr Melville advised that the crime statistics mainly relate to domestic incidents however shoplifting is started to be reported.

12.7 Encyclis
Cllr Law attended a public consultation meeting about the carbon capture facility. There will be six chimneys in total with three working at any one time. The CO2 will be taken to a site in Northampton. This will mean negative omissions.

The Council RESOLVED that the chimneys should be all terracotta in colour.

13: Community Events 2024

It was RESOLVED that the Christmas Fair in 2025 will be held on the 29th November. Stalls will be £30 (food vendors £50).

14: Grants

Cllr Banks advised that a grant of £100 had been agreed by the Co-op for the Christmas Fair.

There has been no feedback on the grant for the Village Hall flooring.
Cllrs Law and Burnage advised that they had applied for one grant for the play area and had another one to submit.

15: Council Surgery / Community Engagement

A date for the next Council Surgery has not been agreed however this will be in the New Year.

16: Cold Weather Support Plan

Cllr Melville advised that the Council would be unable to run the Cold Weather Support Scheme due to lack of volunteers.

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 8.34 pm.

Safeguarding Policy to be added to the next Agenda.

19: Date and Time of Next Meeting

Date and Time of Next Meeting
Thursday 19th December 2024 @ 7.00 pm.

The Council RESOLVED to hold the Budget Setting meeting on Thursday 9th January 2025 @ 6.30 pm.