Parish Council
Thursday 20-Mar-2025 @ 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: Public Participation
Cllr Melville welcomed Gary, a resident of the village, to the meeting. Gary raised concerns about traffic speeding in the Rousbury Road and Park Crescent area. He has also spoken to his neighbours and they are equally concerned about speeding, the dangerous driving and the potential risk of harm.

He feels that a 20 mph speed limit should be put in place.

Cllr Melville advised that several emails and discussions had taken place with officers at Bedford Borough Council and Cllr Spice (who was also present at this meeting).

Cllrs Melville and Spice talked about the cost and waiting list for average speed cameras and the idea of Speedwatch however volunteers are needed for this.

The last time that the Council asked for volunteers to come forward, there were insufficient numbers.

Gary also advised that there were some crash barriers missing on the A421 and debris on the Marsh Leys Roundabout that needed sweeping.

5: Presentation from Avison Young & Harworth
The representatives from Avison Young and Harworth gave a presentation to the Parish Council about their plans for the old Brickworks site and how they intended to ensure that the heritage of the site ran through the development.

There are plans for 1,000 homes on the site.

A public meeting has been arranged for the 12th April 2025 in the Stewartby Village Hall so that they can share their plans with residents.

Over the next few months, there will be increased activity onsite. It is anticipated that the first homes will be seen coming out of the ground in 2027

The Parish Council expressed their thanks to Avison Young and Harworth for engaging with them and the local community.

6: Minutes of the previous meeting
[For each agenda item, record:
- Item number and title
The Council RESOLVED that Cllr Melville should sign the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 20th February 2025 as a true and accurate record.

7: Matters arising from previous minutes
Cllr Melville advised that the new wheelie bins had not yet been received from Bedford Borough Council.

Cllr Melville advised that he had not received an update from Cllr Fraser on the paths.

The Clerk has asked ACE Fire & Security to quote for some different fire extinguishers. This has not been received.

8: Chairman's Report

Cllr Melville attended the recent Parish & Town Council Meeting hosted by Bedford Borough Council. It was noted that the role of the Monitoring Officer was limited. The Model Code of Conduct for Councillors was also discussed.

The Parish Council will review this at the next meeting.

Cllr Melville advised that the glass recycling trial was working well and that this would be rolled out. Guidance has been brought in to ensure that all Councils have the same approach to recycling including food waste.

He advised that the issues with traffic calming in the village were ongoing and that a response had not been received from Ben Purdy from Persimmon Homes.

Bedford Borough Council have agreed to repaint the junction lines at Rousbury/Montgomery however these works have not started.

Cllr Melville advised that Andy Muskett as had another break in and wants the Christmas Lights moved as a matter of urgency. Cllr Melville will ask the Caretaker to ascertain how much space is needed and Cllr Law was asked for a quote for a storage container.

Cllr Melville congratulated Cllrs Burnage and Law for securing a grant from the Veolia Environmental Trust for £75k for the play area on The Green. Additional funding has also been sought from Bedford Borough Council however the outcome of this will not be known until the end of the month. The play area should be installed by the end of May/June 2025.

The Council RESOLVED not to proceed with the legionella works at present. Cllr Melville will write to Urisk to advise that the Council is not happy with the risk assessment and report.

9: Report from Bedford Borough Council

Cllr Spice advised that a number of complaints had been received about bus services that afternoon. Sadly, there was a collision involving a bus at Wixams that resulted in a fatality.

Cllr Spice advised that there was no update about Universal Studios and that conversations are ongoing with the Government.

Cllr Spice asked for a list of events that the Parish Council was planning in 2026 and offered her assistance.

Cllr Spice asked about events in 2025 and was advised that there would be an Eat Feast in June and the Christmas Fair in November.

The Parish Council and Cllr Spice will host a joint surgery at the Avison Young and Harworth event on the 12th April 2025 in the Village Hall.

Cllr Spice apologised for not having an update on the bungalow however she will endeavour to find out what is happening for the next meeting.

Cllr Melville raised the state of the A421 and the amount of litter. Cllr Spice will speak to officers at Bedford Borough Council about this.

10: Clerk's Financial Report

10.1 Authorise payments for BACS Transfer
The Council RESOLVED to authorise the BACS Reports for the Parish Council and the Sports Pavilion

10.2 Balances of Accounts
Members were advised that as at the 28th February 2025, the balances of the Parish Council and Sports Fields accounts were as follows:

£19,626.14
£53,928.93
£29,015.38
£386,465.75

10.3 Caretaker Overtime/Recharge to Village Hall
The Council RESOLVED that with effect from April 2025, the time that the Caretakers spend at the Village Hall for bookings should be recharged to the Village Hall.

11: Quotations for authorisation

11.1 Request from Cllr Law for grant contribution of £1,800 towards the new play area

The Council RESOLVED to provide a grant of £1,268 from reserves if needed.

11.2 Replacement Goalpost
The Council RESOLVED to accept the quote for £64.90 + VAT to repair the goalpost.

11.3 New Staff Uniform
The Council RESOLVED to accept the quote for new staff uniform at a cost of £363.38..

11.4 Quote for Adobe
This was no longer needed as a workaround had been found.

11.5 Quote for Mobile Phone Cases
The Council considered to purchase two mobile phone cases for the Caretakers at a cost of £21.99 each.

12: Planning Applications & Decisions

12.1 Ref: 24/00512/TPO Tree Preservation Order Application proposed Horse Chestnut Tree – pollard @ 63 Stewartby Way Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9LL

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

12.2 Ref: 22/01943/S73WM TYPE: S73 Waste / Minerals Application proposed Section 73: Variation of Conditions 3, 4 and 11 of planning permission BC/CM/2001/11: To amend the approved interim and final restoration schemes @Shanks Waste Solutions Green Lane Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9LY

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

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

Ref: 25/00242/FUL Full Planning Application proposed dropped kerb with raised flower bed and geogrid panel gravel drive/parking area @ 206 Stewartby Way Stewartby Bedford Bedfordshire MK43 9LN

The Council RESOLVED to object to this planning application on the basis that it is not in keeping with the Conservation Area, concerns about the raised bed and how it obstructs the visibility for other road users.
12.3 Update on Universal Studios
Cllr Spice advised earlier in the meeting that there was no update on Universal Studios.

13: Amenities:

13.1 Highways/Lighting
Cllrs Law and Banks to carry out another review of the Village.
The Council RESOLVED to discuss yellow lines/parking outside of the school at the next meeting as Cllr Fraser was not present.
13.2 Recreation Area
None
13.3 Social Engagement
The Council RESOLVED that the event on the 12th April 2025 and the Council Surgery should be promoted on social media.
13.4 Sports Field/Pavilion
Cllr Banks advised that the football pitches were usable again and were being played on.
13.5 Village Hall
Cllr Melville updated Councillors on an issue at the Village Hall with fire detection that had been identified at a recent visit by ACE Fire & Security.
It was RESOLVED to accept the quote for £1,247 + VAT and arrange for the works to be carried out as a matter of urgency. A conversation with ACE about this issue will then take place.

13.6 Policing
Cllr Melville advised that the Police are not going to utilise the Committee Room at the Village Hall as a base due to financial constraints.
13.7 Encyclis
None

14: Community Events 2025

Cllr Melville to set another date for the Events Committee to meet.

15: Grants

The Council has been awarded a grant of £75k for the play area on The Green.

16: Council Surgery / Community Engagement

The next Parish Council Surgery will be on the 12th April 2025 at the Village Hall.
Cllr Melville asked Cllr Spice to invite the Mayor.

17: Policies

It was RESOLVED that this item would be deferred to the next meeting and that the Clerk would identify if NALC had any model policies that could be used.

The iPhone Issue Form was discussed and amendments made.

18: Village Hall Flat

All4U Fostering advised that they do not wish to renew the tenancy at the end of May 2025.
Cllr Melville will contact local agents to advertise the premises for commercial use in the first instance.

19: Review of Asset Register

The Council reviewed the Asset Register and RESOLVED the following:

? Caretaker's printer to be added
? Additional goalposts
? 2 x wheelie bins purchased from Ward Funding
? Solar Lights in Sports Field
? New benches in the Sports Field
? Play equipment on The Green to be removed

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

None

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

Items for the next Agenda:

? Heritage Ideas
Meeting closed at 9.16 pm.

22: Date and Time of Next Meeting

Thursday 17th April 2025 @ 6.30 pm.