

**P A R I S H O F W E S T O N I N G**

**MINUTES of the Meeting of**

**Westoning Parish Council**

**held on Wednesday 14th August 2019 at 8.00pm**

**in the Village Hall, Westoning**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs T Fraser (Chairman), E Bhasin, R Botterell, P Ellis, C Luff, L Milne,

J Nethersole, B Rogerson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Barker (Clerk), 5 members of the public were present

**7146 Apologies for absence** – Cllr A Rayment

**7146.1 Councillor co-option**

Cllr Botterell proposed that Mrs Leisa Milne be co-opted onto the Council as a Parish Councillor. This was seconded by Cllr Nethersole. The co-option was agreed. Cllr Milne signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

**7146.2** **Parish Councillor vacancy**

The Clerk said that there is still a vacancy for one Parish Councillor.

**7147 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2019 were amended at Point 7144 to add a letter received from a resident and they were then approved. Cllr Boterell proposed, seconded by Cllr Luff the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and signed by the Chairman.

**7148 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Ellis – finance Point 7152.2

**7149 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7150 Reports and representations**

7150.1 Central Beds Councillor J Jamieson

CBC Cllr Jamieson said that there is a lack of facilities for young people in the parishes as well as Westoning. He said that some Town Councils employ a dedicated Youth Officer and are more proactive but they have a much larger precept. He said that he will explore if CBC can offer any funding or support towards youth activities. (**Action CBC Cllr Jamieson**)

**7151 Public Participation**

Members or the public attended as younger representatives of the village. They said that they feel frustrated by the lack of facilities in the village for 11 – 17 year olds. Their suggestions included; a weekly youth club, a hard standing area to use bikes and permanent goal posts. The Parish Council said that they were very pleased to see some representation from the younger residents in the village and discussed the suggestions. They said that they understood the problems associated with a lack of facilities and will give this further consideration to see what can be done. The issue has already been raised with the Recreation Club and it was agreed to have further discussions with them. The Parish Council requested that in the meantime they and their friends are mindful of littering. They also said that using the road for riding their bikes up and down is dangerous and it is of concern. Cllr Bhasin said that she will talk to Reverend Nigel Washington about the Youth Club currently run by the Church. (**Action All Cllrs/Cllr Bhasin**)

**7152 Finance**

7152.1 Bank balances and finance report:

The Clerk confirmed that the budget report was circulated by email.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 24,865.83 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 85,355.31 |
| **TOTAL** | **110,221.14** |

7152.2 Cllr Luff proposed, seconded by Cllr Bhasin the following payments, agreed by all:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cheque Number** | **Payee** | **£** |
| 000259 | K Barker – salary | 470.56 |
| 000259 | K Barker – expenses | 27.85 |
| 000260 | HMRC – Clerks tax | 3.60 |
| 000261 | Mrs Harris – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000262 | D J Granger – tree work and alleyway inv 019740 | 384.00 |
| 000262 | D J Granger – mowing inv 019752 | 391.20 |
| 000262 | D J Granger – mowing inv 019640 | 391.20 |
| 000263 | Andy Muskett Ltd – Church Road light upgrades | 3,163.32 |
| 000264 | Wicksteed – play area inspection | 54.00 |
| 000265 | Anglian Water – water charges | 88.92 |
| 000266 | E.on – electricity bill | 220.02 |
| 000267 | P Ellis – reimburse for plants | 17.00 |
| 000268 | D Ladin – tree watering and litter removal | 70.00 |
| 000269 | CBC – uncontested election fees | 88.83 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **5,645.50** |

7153 **Village Matters**

7153.1 Community Christmas Event

Cllr Botterell said that he had looked into the purchase of an artificial tree. The tallest tree is too small at only 9ft at a cost of £500. He said that he has been in contact with Jim Dycol about removing the dying Christmas tree and constructing a concrete base with a circular hole in the centre to hold a cut Christmas tree. The cost to remove and dispose of the old tree with its root ball and construct a concrete base is £350 plus VAT. Cllr Botterell said that he has tagged a suitable cut Christmas tree on Humphries Farm , Maulden (which is 20 feet tall before cut ) and he will need to send a formal confirmation that the Parish Council wish to purchase the tree at a cost of £260 plus delivery of £60.

Cllr Botterell proposed the cost of £350 plus VAT for the removal of the old tree and base and the purchase of a cut tree at £260 plus delivery,. This was seconded by Cllr Nethersole and agreed by all.

Cllr Bhasin spoke about possible arrangements for the forthcoming event:

* Clock Tower – light up with coloured lights. Also, use uplighters throughout the year.
* School – suggest a combined effort with the event at the school. Cllr Bhasin said she is waiting to hear back from the school to see if they are interested.
* School bands – looking into whether this is possible.
* Food Bank collection
* Father Christmas – to collect letters from the children and the Cllrs to dress up as elves.
* Switch on lights – Dot Basset (recently honoured with the British Empire Medal) to be asked to switch on the lights.
* Gazebos – further investigation needed.
* Recreation Club – involvement of the Recreation Club facilities/possible use of the function room.
* Sound system – Parish Council to purchase, cost to be explored.

7153.2 Cherry Tree removal

Cllr Ellis said that the school are happy for the trees (discussed at the July meeting) to be removed. The school has agreed to plant 3 new trees in replacement. Cllr Nethersole agreed to obtain a quote. Cllr Bhasin proposed, seconded by Cllr Rogerson to agree a cost of up to £500 for the removal of the trees should this need to be undertaken before the next meeting, agreed by all.

7153.3 Parish Website

The Clerk informed the Parish Council that the Beds Parishes website will be closing down at the end of March 2020. The Parish Council will therefore need to set up a new website. The Clerk said that she will find out what websites other parishes use. (**Action Clerk**)

7153.4 Petanque Club

The Clerk confirmed that the Petanque Club has decided not to use the Recreation Club car park and has now found another location. They have returned the cheque for materials which was not cashed.

7153.5 Play Area

7153.5.1 Witches Hat

Cllr Ellis said that Wicksteed has quoted £180 to repair the equipment. Cllr Botterell proposed, seconded by Cllr Rogerson to accept the quote, agreed by all. Cllr Ellis said that he is also looking into a quote for new play area surfaces.

7153.5.2 Play area notices

The Parish Council agreed that the wording for the notices to be placed in the play area should be amended and read ‘this equipment is reserved for children under 12 years of age’.

7153.6 Recreation Ground fence and gates

Cllr Ellis said that he has obtained a quote for the replacement of the fence and gates from two Contractors. Both were over £12,000. Cllrs agreed that they need to be replaced. The Chairman said that this has not been included in this years budget but he will look at the budget to see where the funds could be allocated from. (**Action Chairman**)

**7154 Planning**

7154.1 Planning Applications:

7154.1.1 CB/19/01895/FULL – Culverton House, Flitwick Road – replace front porch with front single storey extension. Replace single storey rear extension with double storey rear extension. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7154.1.2 CB/19/01983/LB - Westoning Manor Estate, The Grove – Listed Building: clean and repaint in black (the colour they currently are) the wrought iron gates at the entrance to the Westoning Manor Estate. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7154.2 Other Planning Matters

7154.2.1 Enforcement - 23 High Street – erection of 2m high fence fronting the highway

Noted by the Parish Council.

7154.2.2 Park Farm appeal

There was no update.

**7155 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 11th September 2019 at 8pm**

**Village Hall, Westoning**

The meeting closed at 9.30pm

Approved: ………………………………………………. Date: ……………………………………………………….