

**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 10th November 2021 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall, Westoning**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs A Rayment (Chairman), E Bhasin, P Ellis, P Kelly, E Leftly,

C Luff, J Nethersole, B Rogerson, E Russell

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs K Barker (Clerk), 1 member of the public was present

Agenda published on the noticeboard and on the website

**7533 Apologies for absence** – Cllr R Botterell, CBC Cllr J Jamieson

**7534 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th October 2021 were amended and approved. Cllr Luff proposed, seconded by Cllr Kelly the approval of the minutes as a true record. All agreed by those present and the minutes signed by the Chairman.

**7535 Declaration of interests**

Cllr Rayment – finance point 7540.2

Cllr Nethersole – finance point 7540.2

**7536 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**7537 Chairman’s actions**

The Chairman said that he ordered the new Oak Tree and spoke to Dycol about putting in a 2 metre fence around it as well as removing branches from the existing Oak Tree.

**7538 Reports and representations**

7538.1 Central Beds Councillor J Jamieson

CBC Cllr Jamieson was not present. The Clerk said that she had been informed by CBC Cllr Jamieson that Greenfield Road outside the 30mph limit to Greenfield is due for pre-patching and surface dressing in January/February. CBC have displayed notices regarding the proposal to put in yellow road lines around the village.

**7539 Public Participation**

There were no comments from members of the public.

**7540 Finance**

7540.1 Bank balances and finance report:

The Clerk supplied a finance report prior to the meeting.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Account** | **£** |
| TSB Community Account | 45,444.67 |
| TSB Instant Access Account | 66,534.71 |
| **TOTAL** | 111,979.38 |

7540.2 Cllr Kelly proposed, seconded by Cllr Russell the approval of the following payments, agreed by all present. The cheque for Idverde from the October meeting is still being held. The Clerk to query the invoice from Network Rail to ascertain what this is for.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Payment Method** | **Payee** | **£** |
|  | Paid prior to meeting |  |
| Card | Majestic Trees – Oak Tree and planting | 545.76 |
|  |  |  |
| 000514 | Clerk – salary | 492.93 |
| 000514 | Clerk – expenses | 42.57 |
| 000515 | HMRC – Clerk tax | 2.40 |
| 000516 | Parish Warden – village tidying | 275.00 |
| 000517 | Wicksteed – play area inspection | 72.00 |
| 000518 | Anglian Water | 80.86 |
| 000519 | A Rayment – reimburse for fairybell tree | 529.94 |
| 000520 | Westoning Village Hall – hall hire | 18.00 |
| 000521 | J Nethersole – reimburse general maintenance | 30.00 |
| 000522 | Royal British Legion – wreath | 20.00 |
|  | **TOTAL** | **2,109.46** |

7540.3 Other finance matters:

7540.3.1 Budget/Precept 2022/23

The Parish Council agreed to meet on 29th November to consider the budget and precept for 2022/23.

7540.3.2 Grant to Church for Community facilities

The Chairman said that he has been in discussion with Reverend Nigel Washington about expenditure regarding outreach community ventures. In recent years the Church big fundraiser, The Fete, has not taken place and the move to a cashless society has affected their income. Attendances are down as people are nervous of assembling in big groups. The Church has stayed active in the community and maintained safe services and provided particularly for young families and all groups have now resumed. The current community expenditure consists of Friday Fellowship £18 per week/£810 per annum; Westcaf £18 per week/£810 per annum; Sewing Group £18 per week/£810 per annum; Youth Group £15 per month/£135 per annum+; TWiG £30 per month plus costs £540 per annum.

The Parish Council agreed that the Church offers a lot of activities for the community and agreed that they would like to contribute to the room hire for Westcaf at £810. To be discussed further at the budget meeting.

7540.3.3 Recreation Club rent payments

The Chairman referred to the Parish Council’s letter sent to the Recreation Club in January, regarding the grass cutting costs and it was confirmed that a monthly rent payment would be payable by the Recreation Club of £200.00. The Parish Council waived the monthly charge during the period while the Recreation Club was closed during the covid lockdown but rent payments must now be made of £200 per month until March 2022 when this will be reviewed. The Clerk was asked to write and send an invoice to the Recreation Club and inform them that payments should have started in September so a payment of £800 needs to be made into the Parish Council bank account to cover September, October, November and December.

(**Action Clerk**)

**7541 Highways**

7541.1 Highways Issues reported to CBC - update

The Clerk said that the missing kerb blocks near the Bell Pub will be replaced. The rocking kerb stone outside 4A Church Road have no planned works as it is not dangerous.

The Clerk was informed of a crack in the road in Sampshill Road. Cllr Nethersole to inform the Clerk of the exact location and the fault for the Clerk to report it to CBC.

(**Action Clerk/Cllr Nethersole**)

**7542 Recreation Ground**

Nothing to report.

**7543 Village Matters**

7543.1 Flower Planters

Nothing to report. Put back on the agenda in February.

7543.2 Rock Snake

The stones have been put in place but are being removed. A lot of them have been found and will be put back and another coat of adhesive put on top. Resident, Nick Edmonson was thanked for undertaking the work.

7543.3 Christmas Event

Cllr Leftly said that the plans for the event are going well. The School PTA are organising a raffle, stalls and Santa in a sleigh. The Chequers will be supplying mulled wine and hot chocolate. Reverend Nigel Washington and CBC Cllr Jamieson will judge the lights.

7543.4 Tree for the Platinum Jubilee

The Chairman said that the new Oak Tree has been planted. Cllrs Bhasin and Rogerson have kindly agreed to water it for the first 2 years. The Parish Council will cover the cost of any water used and will provide the required length of hosepipe. The Chairman to purchase 50m length of hosepipe. The water payments to be included in the 2022/23 budget.

The Chairman said that Dycol have quoted to put in a 2 metre fence around the new Oak Tree on the Green of £480 plus VAT. Cllrs agreed that this seemed a little high and the Chairman said that he will try to get the cost down to £350 plus VAT. Cllr Nethersole proposed, seconded by Cllr Rogerson to accept the lower cost and agree to the work if the price can be lowered, agreed by all present.

7543.5 Festival of Britain sign

The Chairman said that Signs of the Times have confirmed that the sign should be ready in 3 or 4 weeks.

7543.6 Land East of A5120

The Chairman confirmed that he has heard nothing further after his meeting with MPC who are working on behalf of Countryside Properties. He said that he expressed concern that there is no provision for a football pitch and burial ground in their plans. CBC Cllr James Jamieson has made the Planning Department aware of the Parish Council’s concerns. A formal planning application has not yet been submitted.

7543.7 Tree on Village Green

The Chairman said that he spoke to Dycol and they have agreed to remove any problem areas from the existing Oak tree on the Green for £500 plus VAT. This was proposed acceptable by Cllr Nethersole and seconded by Cllr Rogerson and agreed by all present.

7543.8 Website analytics

The Clerk provided some analytical information showing:

Footfall in the current period and previous period:

Devices the website was accessed from:

7543.9 Westoning On Sunday

The Chairman said that a hard copy Newsletter was required and would be produced as soon as possible.

7543.10 Defibrillator

Cllr Ellis said that he had to re-register the defibrillator. It was recently used and had been taken out of service until it was checked.

**7544 Play Area**

7544.1 Picnic Bench

To be put back on the agenda in March.

7544.2 Litter Bins – play area

The Parish Council resolved to spend up to £500 on two new litter bins with lids and ground screws. The Chairman to look at the options for the Clerk to put in an order.

(**Action Chairman**)

**7545 Planning**

7545.1 Planning Applications:

7545.1.1 CB/21/04674/FULL - 47 Park Road - proposed internal and external alterations. The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7545.2 CB/21/04665/FULL - 1 Tyburn Lane - single storey side rear extension

The Parish Council has no objection to the application.

7545.2 Other Planning Matters:

7545.2.1 Solar Farm

The Chairman said that he received a letter from Anesco and they are prepared to pay £375 per mw index linked. He said that he will circulate the letter and also send it to CBC. He said that the Parish Council objected to the size of the development but the community benefit part of the objection is no longer relevant.

**7546 Committees/Sub Groups/Representatives/Reports**

7546.1 Diwali Celebrations – Cllr Ellis said that the celebrations were very well organized by the village shop.

7546.2 Dog bags

Cllr Nethersole said that dog fouling continues to be a problem and she will put out some more dog bag dispensers.

**7547 General correspondence:**

There was no correspondence

**7548 Date of next meeting: Parish Council Meeting**

**Wednesday 8th December 2021 at 7.30pm**

**In the Village Hall**

The meeting closed at 9.32pm

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