

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr. Julian Vischer
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2014/11/020

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 13th November 2014 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs. W. Meades (Acting Chair), E. Reed, S.Bailey, R. Humphreys. Ward Cllrs. P. Geary, K Mclean and D. Hosking

1. **Apologies** Cllr. R. Rook
2. **Declaration of Member's Interests** None
3. **Approval of October Minutes** Approved, Proposed: Cllr. E. Reed, Seconder: Cllr. S.Bailey
4. **Matters Arising** None that are not covered in agenda items
5. **Village Appearance**
 - a. **Tour of village with Mike Hainge** – Half an hour was spent touring the village with Cllrs. Meades, and Humphries with Ward Councillors present. The Common Street bank improvement works were still outstanding after 18 months, Mike Hainge promised to look into this.
 - b. The condition of the **old noticeboard** on the long barn in the village was brought up. It is unsightly and in need of re-oiling at least. Residents who find it convenient to put up posters/information without requiring a key do use it periodically. Should it be upgraded to the standard of the others i.e. with a glass front? Should it be taken down? It was agreed that councillors should ask around the village for views.
6. **Recreation Field Improvements**
 - a. **Final invoice** – this had arrived and been checked as correct.
 - b. **Merchant Venturers Funds** – A payment of £1,500 had been transferred from Smiths Gore to the Parish bank account.
 - c. **Choice of play equipment & planning application** – Cllr. Humphries reported that the final quote for the play equipment had not been received and he had not managed to meet up with Karena Scowen to agree the proposal. He was reminded that the project had to be completed by the end of March 2015 so that Hockey Foundation funding could be released.

Cllr. Humphreys
 - d. **PPF - appeal against loss of funding** – see *September minutes*. No update from Rob Ward - to be chased.

Clerk
7. **Allotments**
 - a. **Handover Lease & Site Plan** – Merchant Venturers have shared their map of the site, and are looking favourably at extending the proposed lease to 25 years instead of 10 years. They have also been involved in a similar allotments scheme nearby. Negotiations to continue. **Chair**
8. **Flood Mitigation**
 - a. **Reinstatement of ditch by Small Farm** – No news on this matter. It was agreed to write to Mike Hainge to explain that the cost of the repeated repairs (up to 4 times every year) to the potholes that appear because of the disappearance of this ditch, and the consequent continuous flow of water over the road surface during the Winter, could be completely alleviated by a relatively small capital expenditure on the ditch's reinstatement. **Clerk**
 - b. **Repairs to culvert emerging from under North End road** – This was included in the tour of the village. Ward Cllr. Geary reported that MK Council had surveyed the culvert and no problem was found with the flow of water. The above also applied to the culvert on Stoke Road – there had been no material to wash out.

Signed

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- c. **The ditch opposite the North End Farm** - The hedge-cutting work had been carried out and invoiced by DC Blunt. The ditch was ready for clearance. **Chair**

9. **Landscaping**

- a. **Burial Ground** – as no one had heard whether the volunteer group had assembled to tackle the overgrown boundaries it was assumed that it had not happened yet.
- b. General comments were invited about the standard of landscaping works since the inauguration of the new contract. There was agreement that the quality of the work was much better than before and had been done well.

10. **Finance**

- a. **Cheques for approval & Balances** – The following payments were approved:

J Vischer - salary	100611	163.39
MK Council - Rec Grd final	100612	1,767.00
DC Blunt - Landscaping	100613	2,298.00
J Darlow - Moles	100614	192.00

- b. The latest bank reconciliation sheet and bank statements were circulated and approved.

11. **Planning**

- a. **Long Barn Entrance Alterations** – Ward Cllr. Geary reported that a Members Motion had been submitted at the Development Control Committee meeting. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council had attended and made successful verbal submissions. A report by the committee is due to be published before the next Development Control Committee meeting on 4th December and this would state whether enforcement action was going to be taken.
- b. **14/01899/MMAM - Home Farm Barn, Bay Lane**. The application was still pending but Ward Councillor Geary reported that refusal had been recommended.
- c. There were no new applications.

12. **Correspondence/Grant requests**

- a. Chapman's Educational Foundation Report – Cllr. Meades read out a summary of the report. The Chair had been re-elected. There had been no report submitted from the Village Hall Committee. Councillors agreed that the suggestion to open the education grant to a wider audience to include apprentices to trade and skills should be supported. A *proviso* should be included that before 2nd and 3rd year tranches of the grant were made available that a progress report on the applicants should be required. **Clerk/Cllr. Meades**
- b. A poster advertising the forthcoming MK marathon had been received. Discussion followed about possible teams from Ravenstone.
- c. The clerk reported that he had received a quote from Zurich Insurance that he had asked for many months ago but which had been withheld to approximate with the renewal date (3rd December). The quotation seemed to be offering the same coverage as the previous Aon policy with the addition of the 3 dog bins and the new rubbish bin, which had not been included previously. The quotation was approximately £200 cheaper. Members agreed unanimously to purchase the new policy from Zurich Insurance for a three-year period to qualify for a further 5% discount. A cheque for £403.90 was made out.

13. **Councillors' / Residents' Items**

- a. **Bid for new grit bins from MKC** – no update. Clerk to contact Rob Ward.
- b. **Abbey Way land ownership** – Letter from Louise Middleton:
- c. **Abbey Way road surface** – MK council regards this as 'below the threshold of intervention'. To be re-submitted after winter frosts etc.

Signed

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- d. Road gullies from the Burial Ground** – MK council has ‘closed’ this matter as they have a program of doing all drain gullies this year and it will be done in due course.
- e. Ditch by Recreation Field** – not yet done.
- f. Anglian Water Damage** – all responses not yet in as claims need to be supported by invoices for the repair work. Anglian Water’s insurance should cover the damages.
- g. The next North East Area Forum** meeting 3rd December at Weston Underwood Village Hall. Mince pies will be served.
- h.** Ward Cllr. Geary asked councillors if they thought there was a case for **superfast broadband** in the village? Martin Smith Infrastructure Manager would be the person to contact if they did.

14. **Date and Time of next meeting** - Thursday, 11th December 2014 at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Signed

Date