

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr. Julian Vischer
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2014/12/023

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 11th December 2014 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs. R. Rook (Chair), W. Meades, E. Reed; Ward Cllrs. P. Geary and D. Hosking + 1 resident

1. **Apologies** Cllrs. S.Bailey, R. Humphreys. Ward Cllr. K Mclean
2. **Declaration of Member's Interests** Cllr. W. Meades item11b; Cllr. E. Reed item13c.
3. **Approval of November Minutes** Approved, Proposed: Cllr. E. Reed, Seconder: Cllr. W. Meades.
4. **Matters Arising** None
5. **Village Appearance**
 - a. Old noticeboard on the long barn - it was agreed to take this down. **Cllr. Rook**
 - b. Ditch by Recreation Field – *moved to Item 7.*
6. **Recreation Field Improvements**
 - a. **Choice of play equipment & planning application** – ongoing – should be decided by the next meeting. **Cllr. Humphreys**
 - b. **PPF - appeal against loss of funding** – No decision as yet. On 21 November Rob Ward, Milton Keynes Council Business and Liaison Manager, passed on a request to us for a copy of our Hockey Foundation grant application, adding that once the audit team at MKC had seen this a decision would be forthcoming within a week. This was emailed back by the clerk on 22 November. Requesting an update on 9 December, the clerk was told by Rob Ward that he had not received the copy of the grant application. A copy was again immediately emailed back. The day of this meeting the clerk asked Rob Ward for any news to be reported back only to be told that he had still not received the application. [*The day after this meeting the clerk emailed RW to see if he had received the last email only to be told he hadn't. It turned out that RW was not receiving any emails with attachments (at least from the clerk) and he had contacted technical help from MKC. Later the same day RW emailed the clerk to say he had received the attachment.*]
7. **Allotments**
 - a. **Handover Lease & Site Plan** – no update. **Chair**
8. **Flood Mitigation**
 - a. **Reinstatement of ditch by Small Farm** – The clerk had written to Mike Hainge as per the minutes of the last meeting and was informed that his letter had been forwarded on to the Highways Department. Cllr. Reed had been told at the N. E. Area Forum that the works should be done by the Spring.
 - b. **The ditch opposite the North End Farm** – Pat Lever had come to do the work with his digger only to find a team from MK Council clearing out the ditch. He therefore went home again. It transpired that the team was clearing the ditch of weeds and rubbish as part of the area work schedule only no-one had informed the Parish Council. Pat Lever to return to scrape out the silt at the bottom of the ditch to ensure a clear flow of water. **Chair**
9. **Landscaping**
 - a. **Burial Ground boundaries** – no update.
10. **Finance**
 - a. **Cheques for approval & Balances** – The following payments were approved:

Signed

Date

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2014/12/024

<u>chq</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>
100616	J Vischer	133.28
100617	Post Office (PAYE)	67.80
100618	The Gate News	100.00
100619	SRW Club	150.00
100619	Stoke G Pre-school	100.00
	TOTAL	551.08

- b. The latest bank reconciliation sheet and bank statements were circulated and approved.
- c. **Draft budget** – the clerk presented a draft budget spreadsheet. Initial discussions suggested a small increase in the precept to cover inflation and the reduction in the MK Council support grant (about £180) up to approximately £7,000 (this represents about 60p. per band D household). Final decisions to be made at the next meeting. The MK audit team decision on the PPF funding grant (*see item 6b above*) could be significant.

Chair and Clerk to confirm figures

11. Planning

- a. **Long Barn Entrance Alterations** – Ward Cllr. Geary reported that the Development Control Committee had agreed to set the legal process of enforcement in train after the Members Motion. A new Chief Planning Officer was in post, Anne Rose. All agreed that residents would be pleased at this result. A vote of thanks was offered to Ward Cllr. Geary for all his efforts.
- b. **14/01899/MMAM - Home Farm Barn, Bay Lane.** Ward Councillor Geary confirmed that the application was still pending even though refusal had been recommended. This meant that a site visit was required for the Committee. It would take place on this coming Monday 15th December; this would be discussed at the next Committee meeting on 18th December at 14.00hrs at the Civic Offices. Councillors were invited to attend.
- c. **New application - 14/02692/TCA, Bay Cottage 38 Common Street** - Notification of intention to dismantle 1 x Leyland Cypress group (2) and prune 1 x Silver Birch tree (1) by removing lower branches to height of 2-3m and laterally reduce long side limbs to balance where required. No objections.

12. Correspondence/Grant requests

None in addition to correspondence circulated by email.

13. Councillors' / Residents' Items

- a. **Feedback from NE Area Forum** – Cllr. Reed reported that the main topic of interest had been superfast broadband, which was discussed at length. A working group was being put together with representatives from all the remoter communities to plan the best way forward. Current Ravenstone village cables derive from Stoke Goldington but this is too far away to run a fibre optic cable without a booster box so one would have to be installed here. David Hosking requested a representative from Ravenstone to join his superfast broadband working party. **Graham Bell to be approached by Chair** The road repair timetable was also discussed. Next meeting: 5th March 2015 at Lavendon at 19.30hrs.
- b. **Bid for new grit bins from MKC** – This had not been successful.
- c. **Abbey Way land ownership** – No update.
- d. [Abbey Way road surface - Springtime]
- e. **Anglian Water Damage** – Cllr. Meades reported that as no-one had been in touch to make a joint application to Anglian Water he would pursue his own claim.

- 14. **Date and Time of next meeting** - Thursday, 8th January 2015 at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed

Date