

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr. Julian Vischer
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2015/01/001

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 8th January 2015 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs. R. Rook (Chair), W. Meades, S.Bailey, R. Humphreys; Ward Cllr. P. Geary and + 2 residents

1. **Apologies** Cllr. E. Reed, Ward Cllrs. K Mclean, D. Hosking.
2. **Declaration of Member's Interests** - None
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting and any Matters Arising** - Approved, Proposed: Cllr. W. Meades, Seconder: Cllr. S Bailey; unanimous.
4. **Village Appearance**
Old noticeboard on the long barn - this had been removed.
5. **Recreation Field Improvements**
 - a. **Choice of play equipment & planning application** – the cost proposals had been re-examined and it was clear that the play wall would account for most of the funds. Costs for AstroTurf instead of tarmac are awaited. The chair offered to prepare a planning application for the equipment so that it would be ready when the final decision was made.
Chair, Cllr. Humphreys
 - b. **PPF - appeal against loss of funding** – No decision as yet. Rob Ward, Milton Keynes Council Business and Liaison Manager, had replied on 2nd January in a generally supportive tone stating "...we can see no problem if that funding is kept specifically for this purpose [play equipment], however, there is an issue of the maintenance of the equipment". It was agreed to invite MK council to offer a maintenance service and failing that to shop elsewhere to ensure Health & Safety requirements were satisfied.
Chair & Clerk to respond
6. **Allotments**
 - a. **Handover Lease & Site Plan** – Chair had spoken with Smithsgore but they were unable to provide further information until the end of January.
Chair
7. **Flood Mitigation**
 - a. **Reinstatement of ditch by Small Farm** – no update (*the works should be done by the Spring*).
 - b. **The ditch opposite the North End Farm** – Pat Lever had completed the ditch clearance and water was flowing easily. However the volume of debris removed and spread over the verge was far greater than anticipated. The Chair had asked DC Blunt to immediately tidy up the roadside and price for re-seeding the verge. This would be an additional approximate £50 and £150 respectively. This was agreed.
 - c. **Ditch by Recreation Field** – The works agreed for strengthening the bank were reported to commenced today with no prior warning to either parish council or nearby residents.(Post meeting note – work appears to have only been trial holes)No specific details of how the job was to be engineered had been sent to the parish council. Chair to investigate.
Chair
8. **Landscaping**
 - a. **Burial Ground boundaries** – no update.
9. **Finance**
 - a. **Cheques for approval & Balances** – The following payments were approved:

Signed

Date

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

2015/01/002

<u>chg</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>
100621	J Vischer	134.97
100622	DC Blunt	840.00
100623	J Darlow	192.00
100624	P Lever	<u>250.00</u>
	TOTAL	1,416.97

AVAILABLE FUNDS AT BANK 24 December **10,135.54**

- b. **Budget & Precept** – DC Blunt had written to confirm he would hold his prices for the next three years and on this basis it was agreed to continue with his service. The budget figure for the mowing of the burial ground was consequently reduced to £300 from £330. It was proposed to increase the precept by 4.9%. Both Budget and Precept were approved. Proposed: Cllr. W. Meades, Seconder: Cllr. R. Humphries; unanimous. Budgeted expenditure: £10,038. Precept £7,265 (mowing subsidy income: £2,200)

10 Planning

- a. **Long Barn Entrance Alterations** – MK Council had served the resident with an enforcement notice. An 8 week appeal period ensues. *(If appeal granted this equates to receiving planning permission. If not enforcement begins – possible update by mid-February)*
- b. **14/01899/MMAM - Home Farm Barn, Bay Lane**. This application had been refused even though the MK Planning Portal still shows 'pending'.
- c. **New application** - 14/02819/EIASC Land North of Parkfield Farm Bay Lane, Screening opinion request for the installation of 11.5MW solar farm at land at Parkfield Farm. This application is the very first stage in the process of seeking approval and precedes the planning application proper. Concern was raised over the probable impact on local routes by construction traffic. Concerns were also expressed about the industrialisation of the countryside but it was pointed out that this was not viable grounds on which to object. Councillors thought it discourteous for the parish council not to have been personally contacted by the applicant.
- Chair to write to Planning Consultant**

11 Correspondence/Grant requests

In addition to correspondence circulated by email the Parish Council had received publicity information covering the year ahead and a calendar from the Parks Trust.

12 Councillors' / Residents' Items

- a. **Abbey Way land ownership** – No update from Louise Middleton. Matters had not moved forward since May effectively. Chair to contact Steven Gerrard. **Chair**
- b. **Website** – Audrey Edwards, who runs the village website, had received an offer to revamp the website from an enthusiastic pupil from Radcliffe School who already had 'staff status' at the school as an IT Technician. The Chair and Audrey Edwards had met with Aiden Canape and were impressed. It was agreed that the site needs 'modernising'. Chair and Ms Edwards had agreed to work with Aiden to develop his ideas for the site.
- c. *[Abbey Way road surface - Springtime]*
- d. **NEW** – Graham Bell had agreed to be the village representative on Ward Cllr. Hosking's Superfast Broadband group - no further update.
- e. Apologies for next meeting from both Chair and Vice Chair. Cllr. Humphries agreed to chair the meeting.
- f. Ward Cllr Geary informed the meeting that the MK Council Budget Consultation was well-advanced and advised councillors to respond individually, if not collectively as time was running out, because several items might be of interest – such as proposed cuts in bus service funding which would affect the village. Link: <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/your-council-and-elections/let-s-talk-budget-mk>

- 13 **Date of next meeting** 12th February 2015 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30pm
Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed

Date