

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr Julian Vischer

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2015/02/003

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 12th February 2015 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs R. Humphreys – in the Chair, S. Bailey, E. Reed; Ward Cllrs P. Geary and D Hosking + 4 residents

1. **Apologies** Cllrs R. Rook, W. Meades; Ward Cllr K McLean
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** - Cllr R. Humphreys for items 10 b & c (Planning). As the meeting would not be quorate for this item a waive of interest motion was put forward. Agreed unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting and any Matters Arising** - Approved, Proposed: Cllr S Bailey, Seconder: Cllr R. Humphreys; unanimous. No matters arising.
4. **Village Appearance**
Repairs to Dog bin – the contractor had carried out the task quickly and efficiently in liaison with the clerk and Cllr. Rook. A metal post had been used instead of the wooden type.
5. **Recreation Field Improvements**
 - a. **Choice of play equipment & planning application** – the play wall had been decided on and Cllr Rook had prepared and submitted a planning application for the equipment. However immediately prior to this meeting the village committee had met to discuss the concerns raised by four residents over the plans. Their main objections had been noise – of ball on wood – and the size of the equipment changing the character of the field. Objections could be lodged against the plan with the planning authority but with the interests of the community at heart it was agreed to review the choice of equipment. The planning authority would be asked to delay their decision. The current chair of the group Cllr. Humphreys resigned his position and Mrs Debbie Edgar volunteered to take over.
 - b. **PPF - appeal against loss of funding** – Rob Ward, Milton Keynes Council Business and Liaison Manager, had replied on 6 February to the effect that the remaining £2,129.56 would not be paid. This was on the basis that monies already paid for the earlier PPF application had been used for items that technically had not been applied for, which went against the rules; and most significantly that: *“Review of the recreation field funding sources shows items under the heading of PAIS that were not approved by MKC. This spreadsheet records that only £2,507.06 of the £5,302.50 was spent on the project that was approved which would mean a repayment to MKC of £2,798.14.”* However admitting that some confusion was clearly apparent MKC would not be asking for this money back but he felt - and MKC Audit agreed with him - that this had released them from any obligation to pay the remaining £2,129.56 which could arguably be said to have
Chair & Clerk to respond
6. **Allotments**
 - a. **Handover Lease & Site Plan** – The Chair had been told there would be an update by the end of February
Chair
7. **Flood Mitigation**
 - a. **The ditch opposite the North End Farm** – the quote for the reinstatement works was not yet in *[post meeting Note: the quote was received 15 February for £204 including VAT]*
 - b. **Ditch by Recreation Field** – The plans are due to be shared before works proper begin.
 - c. *[Reinstatement of ditch by Small Farm – by Spring]*
8. **Landscaping**
Burial Ground boundaries – no update.
9. **Finance**
 - a. **Cheques for approval & Balances** – The following payments were approved:

Signed

Date

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<u>chq</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Amount</u>	
100625	J Vischer	172.24	
100626	Cllr. Rook	97.50	
100627	Marcus Young	540.00	
100628	Village Hall Association	123.75	
100629	J Vischer - expenses	<u>26.88</u>	Available Funds at 26 January 2015:
	TOTAL	960.37	£8,718

10 Planning

- a. Long Barn Entrance Alterations** – Following the serving of the enforcement notice in January there had been no more news, although it was still early days. However Ward Cllr. Geary suggested writing to the Enforcement Officer to chase up. **Clerk**
- b. 14/02898/FUL Westcott House** Common Street Additional blockwork wall works behind already approved timber panels dividing property from neighbour, blockwork wall behind door, new doorway access at rear and framework, door in existing opening in wall and extra timber support for already approved slate roof (relates to Application 13/00799/FUL). No objections.
- c. 15/00097/TCA Westcott House** Common Street Notification of intention to crown reduce by two thirds one Ash tree. No objections.

11 Correspondence/Grant requests

Invitations had been received to the Civic Reception and the Civic Service.

12 Councillors' / Residents' Items

- a. Abbey Way land ownership** – Louise Middleton, Specialist Practitioner Solicitor MKC Legal team, had informed the Chair that the form was signed and the application would be sent off this week to Land Registry.
- b. Website** – This was moving forward.
- c. [Abbey Way road surface - Springtime]**
- d. Superfast Broadband group** – the formalisation of the group had not happened yet as more recruits were being sought. Mr & Mrs MacDougall reported that the erratic nature of the service had been getting worse – it was barely suitable to run a small business from the village. They would be pleased to be part of the pressure group. It was agreed that the fibre-to-remote-node option would be the most effective so this would be pushed for.
- e. NEW** – The verges by Westcott House continue to be damaged. **Clerk** to contact Rob Ward
- f. Retrospective Planning** for the stable and lambing shed at Horseshoe farm, North End will be discussed at the next meeting.
- g. Bus Service 37** – the proposed MKC budget cuts definitely put this service at risk and councillors were invited to attend and speak at the budget meeting on Wednesday 18 February. Unfortunately none of them or the clerk were available that evening. Mrs Denise Pritchard complained that the service was vital to her and several others. Ward Cllrs stated that they were against the cuts and would vote that way at the meeting.
- h. Ward Cllr. Geary** went on to say how the budget in general would be voted against by the opposition parties as it proposed savage cuts to services such as buses and libraries, Age concern & Citizen's Advice Bureau's whose services depended on the grant provided by the Council; and yet there was no mention of cutting the £60m MKC payroll bill which on the contrary was set to rise by £1m.
- i. Ward Cllr. Hosking** informed the meeting that Ousedale School was proposing an important admissions change. This would create guaranteed places for pupils with musical aptitude from outside of catchment that may squeeze out local pupils. Councillors agreed to object to the proposal along these lines. A meeting will be held on 24th February at 6pm at the school. **Clerk**

Date of next meeting 12th March 2015 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30pm Meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed

Date