

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk: Mr Julian Vischer
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2015-16/04/33

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 14th April 2016 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs R. Rook (in the Chair), R. Humphreys, E. Reed, S. Bailey; Ward Cllrs Peter Geary & K. McLean + 9 members of the public.

Clerk J Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – Cllr W Meades; Ward Cllr. Dave Hosking.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – Cllr Rook: item 10, Planning, 16/00622/FUL.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the March Meeting and any Matters Arising** not covered below
The minutes of the March Meeting were passed as an accurate record. Proposer Cllr Reed, Seconder Cllr Humphries.
4. **Village Appearance**
 - 4.1. *Verge protection at Cemetery gate* – The Clerk was still waiting for the Car Parking (match-funding) Scheme application form which he had been told was due out soon (no date given). He had still not yet had a reply as to whether an alternative, less visible plastic-based cups system would be acceptable. The Chair had calculated the area at 20x2 sq.m. Clerk to obtain installation quotes. **Clerk**
 - 4.2. *'No Dog Waste' sign for rubbish bin at the top of North End* – The 'No Dog Waste' stickers were passed to the Chair to affix. The Chair reported that the bin was very well used and he had purchased some large bin bags to assist the volunteer who frequently emptied the rubbish bin. **Chair**
 - 4.3. The Chair reported that the various recently reported Highways matters e.g. potholes – had not been copied on to the new reporting system. Ward Cllr McLean offered to help; Chair to send reporting reference numbers to Ward Cllr McLean. **Chair**
 - 4.4. The Chair suggested forming a group of volunteers to undertake repairs to the damaged verges in the village. The contractor for the new play equipment installation on the recreation field had agreed to cut turves that could be used for this purpose. Councillors and some members of the public present agreed to the initiative. **Chair**
5. **Flood Mitigation**

The Chair had received a comprehensive reply from James Williamson, Senior Planning Officer at MK Council (MKC), regarding the recent inundation, which stated that Ravenstone had been taken forward as one of the 13 Critical Drainage Catchments that needed further investigation (out of 24) under the new Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP). However there was currently no budget for these works but he was seeking other possible funding sources through the Environment Agency Regional Flood Levy although these were subject to competing bids from other areas. In the meantime he could only recommend some sustainable land management practices that could mitigate against sudden run-off. Ward Cllr Geary pointed out that if it could be established how much money was required then ward councillors could file a budget request at the next full meeting in June. In the meantime it was suggested that a village petition be drawn up demanding flood control measures – a minimum of 20 signatures required. Chair to contact the planning officer requesting costs; and Ward Cllr Geary to contact Chair with regard to petition template. **Chair/Ward Cllr Geary**
6. **Landscaping**
 - 6.1. **Burial Ground boundaries** – Resident Mr McGowan reported that the far boundary had been pruned and the nearer one was still to do. Work in progress.
 - 6.2. **New Landscaping Contract** – The new contractor – Chris Page Services Ltd. – had signed the contract. It had been noted that the company's Public Liability indemnity had only amounted to £1million when many

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contractors were offering £10million. It was agreed to request the contractor to upgrade cover to £5million.

Chair

7. **Recreation Field Improvements**

10.1. 16/00082/CLUP and refund of fees – No refund of fees had been forthcoming – Chair to liaise with Ward Cllr Geary regarding issuing a formal complaint **Chair**

10.2. Procurement of Sports Equipment – The order for the works had been placed with Public Open Space and works planned to start in 4 weeks time. The cheque from the Hockey Foundation had been received. A request had been made to the Chair from a neighbouring resident to increase the height of the fence to help prevent balls escaping into adjacent land. This would be considered once installation was complete. The Chair proposed and it was agreed that signs be erected to ensure that noise was kept to a minimum and use of the equipment was restricted to reasonable daylight hours. Detail to be discussed at next meeting. **Chair**

10.3. Picnic table – Clerk to ascertain prices for wooden type. **Clerk**

8. **Allotments**

There had been no further communication from Merchant Venturers on the matter and it had been noted that a fencing panels had been erected on the north side. However it had been established that this was merely a temporary solution to the accidental removal of the hedge in this location. **Chair to progress**

9. **Finance - Cheques for approval & Balances** – The following payments were approved; Proposer Cllr Rook, Seconder Cllr Bailey:

<u>chq</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>gross amount</u>
100678	Chair's expenses (bin bags)	3.50
100679	Clerk's salary	167.04
100680	Clerk's admin expenses	39.87
	TOTAL	210.41

Ward Grant credit: £450

Available Funds at 19th March 2016: £9,538.

Approved at previous meeting but missed off spreadsheet presentation -

100676	The Tower Mint (£128.40)	<i>held back</i>
100677	Chair's expenses (planning)	97.50

10. **Planning**

Previous applications

10.1. 15/02071/TCA Notification of intention to remove wispy branches to two Willow Fronds at: Bluebell Cottage Bay Lane. *Awaiting decision*

10.2. 15/02777/FUL North End Cottage, Construction of dwelling house. *Approved*

10.3. 16/00282/DISCON, Yew Tree Farm Stoke Goldington Road, Details submitted pursuant to condition 3 (internal finishes), 4 (roof material), 5 (boarding materials), 6 (rainwater goods), 7 (window details), 8 (door details), 9 (retained windows and doors specification), 13 (repointing sample board), 14 (stonework/brickwork samples) and 15 (floor details) attached to listed building consent 14/00509/LBC. *Details refused*

10.4. NEW –

16/00622/FUL Yew Tree Farm Stoke Goldington Road, Erection of a single dwelling. [Cllr Humphreys took the Chair]. After discussion amongst councilors and the public and a presentation from the applicant It was agreed to support the application with the added proviso that 'RPC supports this application subject to the landscaping scheme being as agreed between the developers and Mr & Mrs Saunders of Burnside, Common Street (the adjoining existing property). **Clerk**

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- 10.5. 16/00661/DISCON Yew Tree Farm Stoke Goldington Road Details submitted pursuant to discharge of conditions 4 (flood risk assessment) and 8 (archaeological record) attached to application 14/00508/FUL. No objection.
- 10.6. 16/00725/LBC Yew Tree Farm Stoke Goldington Road, Listed building consent to re-thatch ridge and front elevation of roof. No objection.
- OTHER to monitor** – [Bluebell cottage – MK Planning Enforcement Team had written to Mr Caplin requiring various minor changes and/or further Planning Applications; TPO on Ash Tree adjacent to brook (renewal required in July); Long Barn Entrance Alterations Appeal ref APP/Y0435/C/15/3132949]

11. Correspondence - other than that circulated by email – None.

12. Councillors/Residents Items

- 12.1. Plan:MK – RPC Response submitted 17th March and acknowledged.
- 12.2. Better warning signage (at the junction of Mill Road and the Gayhurst road for traffic travelling south - reported 12th December 2015). 'under investigation'. No update – an update had been requested from MKC. Ward Cllr Geary remarked that when the new Director of Highways and Public Realm is installed they will organise a walkabout of the parish which will include this spot.
- 12.3. Defibrillators – purchase, siting - Mr R McGowan from the Village Hall Committee reported that permission had been granted from the Trustees for the siting of the defibrillator on the hall porch facing the road. He had been offered a slightly more expensive quote for the defibrillator from South Central Ambulance but with a guarantee of no maintenance cost for the first 2 years instead of 1 year (unless used), which included a free training session on its use. It was agreed to purchase from South Central Ambulance. Order to be placed by RPC with funds transferred from the Village Fete Committee **Clerk**
- 12.4. **NEW** – Mr McGowan suggested a litter-pick throughout the village to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. This was agreed. Ward Cllrs informed the meeting that the cleansing team would provide gloves and grabs if requested. **Chair**
- 12.5. The Chair reminded the meeting that there were 6 nominees for the upcoming parish election for 5 seats, so a contested election would be held.

13. Date of Next Meeting - Annual Parish Council Meeting of the newly elected Council followed by the first ordinary meeting - Thursday 12th May 2016 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed

date