

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 8th December 2016 at Ravenstone Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs R. Rook (in the Chair), S. Bailey, R. Humphreys and N. Brinner; Ward Cllrs, D. Hosking, P. Geary, One member of the public.

Clerk J Vischer.

1. **Apologies** – Cllr H. Anderson; Ward Cllr K. McLean. These were accepted.
2. **Declaration of Members Interests** – None.
3. **Approval of Minutes of the November Meeting and any Matters Arising** not covered below
 - 3.1. The minutes were accepted as an accurate record. Proposer Cllr Brinner, Seconder Cllr Bailey. Unanimous.
 - 3.2. Matters Arising – None
4. **Village Appearance**
Nothing to report
5. **Flood Mitigation** - update ref flood prevention petition
Ward Cllr Geary relayed that the relevant but temporary officer in MK Council was now Gordon Boot (new interim appointment for 6 months) and that in the meantime 'flooding' would fall under 'planning'. A bid for grant funding from the Environment Agency was being prepared for several projects including RPC's. It was agreed that a meeting could be arranged should there be any updated information to be shared. Clerk to contact the officer and enquire.
Clerk
6. **Landscaping**
Cemetery verge – the Chair reported that the materials ordered by the Clerk had arrived and he had contacted the contractor. Awaiting timetable for works.
Chair
7. **Recreation Field Improvements**
 - 7.1. **Land Deeds** – Cllr Bailey had contacted a colleague familiar with these processes who had advised that in these potentially interminable matters it was best to leave things as they are. Councillors agreed that the position had to be corrected for once and for all and would employ the services of the solicitors adopted for the allotments lease once the lease project had been finalised.
Chair
 - 7.2. **Dog Signs** – the Clerk had negotiated with a supplier the various drafts of the signs in order to present a clear and succinct message. Payment had been necessary 'upfront', which would have to be refunded to the Clerk. Drafts of the two signs presented were approved. Clerk to confirm order; Chair to install.
Clerk/Chair
 - 7.3. **Picnic Bench** – the siting had been agreed and the use of 8 slabs to form a rectangle under the feet of the table. Chair to contact D Haycock to install.
Chair
8. **Allotments**
The Chair reported that he had established that the Parish Partnership Funding grant from 2015-16 would still be well within its time limitation for next year. The new boundary-marking fence had been installed but no update had been forthcoming from the SMV solicitors regarding the proposed lease.
Chair
9. **Finance - Cheques for approval & Balances** –
 - 9.1. The following payments were approved:

08-Dec	100714	Clerk's salary	133.26
08-Dec	100715	Clerk's expenses	<u>128.20</u>
		TOTAL	261.46

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	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>Var.</u>
<u>INCOME</u>	18,806.00	10,885.25	7,920.75
<u>EXPD</u>	19,438.00	20,067.06	-629.06
ADMIN	3,278.00	2,353.99	924.01
MAINT	5,460.00	3,598.00	1,862.00
DONATIONS	750.00	850.00	-100.00
PROJECTS	9,950.00	13,265.07	-3,315.07

Available Funds at 25th November 2016: £7,269.08 (plus allocated reserves).

Approved. Proposer Cllr Rook, Seconder Cllr Bailey. Unanimous.

The Clerk proposed closing the small savings account – balance £4,513.18 included above – as the interest was negligible and the funds might be needed before mid-April when the next precept income would be due. This was agreed.

9.2. Budget Discussions – it was agreed that the bulk of additional budget spending would be on the allotments project. No other ideas had been suggested.

Ward Cllr P Geary relayed information about the MKC budget proposals. As far as RPC was concerned these included the possibility of: 1) reducing the SLA grant by a third; 2) not carrying out grit bin refilling; 3) not carrying out weed spraying along verges and gutters. This would necessarily impact on RPC's precept, and further, should RPC wish to take on the two additional services. The MKC budget consultation had recently opened. It was agreed to respond along the lines previously submitted to Andy Hudson, Director of Waste and Environment, regarding the devolution of services. Also, after posting a flyer around the village, to hold a public meeting for early next January – 5th or 7th – regarding the matter and the impact on the precept. The Clerk was instructed to draw up a provisional budget for discussion at the next parish council meeting. **Clerk/Chair**

10. Planning

- 10.1. Building activity at Northend – the Chair reported that it had taken MKC 'planning' a month to respond. A request for further location information had been received a fortnight ago.
- 10.2. MKC Proposed changes to public participation in planning – 'Scheme of Delegation'. RPC's response (against the proposed changes) had been submitted. The consultation was still open.
- 10.3. **Previous applications - 16/01788/FUL** Yew Tree Farm Stoke Goldington Road Ravenstone, Change of use and conversion of agricultural buildings to form 3 dwelling houses (use Class C3) with the erection of a new dwelling within the grounds. *Permitted.*
- 10.4. **16/01789/LBC** Yew Tree Farm Stoke Goldington Road Ravenstone, Listed building consent for change of use and conversion of agricultural buildings to form 3 dwelling houses (use Class C3) with the erection of a new dwelling within the grounds. *Permitted.*
- 10.5. **16/02538/TCA** Keepers Cottage 13 Common Street Notification of intention to fell 1 x Goat Willow (T1) and 2.5m crown reduction of 1 x Cherry Tree (T2). (No comments/objections) *Permitted.*
- 10.6. **16/02650/CLUE** Burnside Common Street, Certificate of lawful use for the continued existing use as a garden studio. *Unlawful Use.* Resident had emailed the Chair advising that a Planning Application was being prepared.
- 10.7. **NEW applications – 16/03250/FUL** The Old Stables Bay Lane Demolition of existing barn and erection of new bungalow; construction of double garage for Home Farm Barn. Revised scheme to 11/02645/FUL with addition of single storey rear extension and revised parking layout (Retrospective) (Re-submission of withdrawn application 16/02092/FUL). It was agreed to object to the application on the same grounds as the objection to the original application with the additional point emphasised that the paucity of information – lack of detail on sizes, heights, windows and even proposed elevation drawings made it impossible to comment. For the latter reasons members agreed that the application should not have been validated as a legitimate application.
- 10.8. **OTHER to monitor – [Bluebell cottage – alterations to conditions]**

11. Correspondence - other than that circulated by email – The following items were noted – thank you letter from SRW Club; MK Council flyer for private sector lease scheme; Christmas card to the Parish Council from MKC; Holocaust Memorial Day Service invitation - 26 January 2017.

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12. Councillors/Residents Items

- 12.1.** Outstanding highways /lighting issues – 3No: i) Road Signs reference No FS8925833; ii) noisy manhole cover; iii) better warning signage (junction Mill Road/Gayhurst Road). No updates on any of these matters. Ward Cllr Geary informed the meeting that a new Head of Highways had been appointed by MKC as a permanent post after two years of temporary directors. Ward Cllr Geary added that Ward Councillors were hopeful that the new director would be inclined to visit Ravenstone along with other parishes.
- 12.2.** Defibrillator – training/information session – Cllr Bailey reported that a session was being organised with the involvement of St John’s Ambulance for either 13th or 20th January as the defibrillator provider had failed to respond to any requests for such sessions. Flyers would be sent round in advance.
- 12.3. NEW** – Apologies for next month’s meeting were offered by Ward Cllrs Geary and McLean.

13. Date of Next Meeting - Thursday 12th January 2017 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 8.40pm

signed

date