

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mr. Julian Vischer
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2014/09/015

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 11th September 2014 at Ravenstone Village Hall

Present: Cllrs R. Rook (Chair), W. Meades, E. Reed (after 8pm).

1. **Apologies** Cllrs. S.Bailey, R. Humphreys
2. **Declaration of Member's Interests** Cllr. Meades declared an interest in the Planning Application for Home Farm Barn
3. **Approval of Minutes** Approved. Proposed Cllr. Meades, seconded Cllr. Reed. Unanimous.
4. **Matters Arising** None that are not covered in agenda items
5. **Village Appearance**
 - a. **Replacement of Seat** – The Memorial Seat had been replaced at a cost slightly over budget of £129 (ex VAT).
 - b. **Reinstatement of ditch by Small Farm** – *Moved to item 9 Flood Mitigation*
 - c. **Damage to Verges in Common Street** – Following a meeting with Rob Ward, Neighbourhood Manager in regard to item 6d (*below*) Rob Ward offered to send A3 copies of relevant drawings so that they could be marked up with the appropriate section of verge in order to create a kerb. This to be sent back to MKC where the contractor Ringways could offer a guide price. It was clear that the works would not be carried out until next year and may require match funding from RPC. **Chair**
6. **Recreation Field Improvements**
 - a. **Final invoice** – this had not arrived. Reminder to be sent to Phil Snell. **Clerk**
 - b. **MV Funds** – None had been received. Cllr Rook had reminded MV again by email. **Chair**
 - c. **Choice of play equipment & planning application** – decision outstanding on final piece of play equipment. **Rob Humphries**
 - d. **PPF - appeal against loss of funding** – The Chair and clerk met with Rob Ward, Neighbourhood Manager and Heather Baker Business & Liaison Officer, at MKC offices. RPC pointed out that the enlarged scope of the Recreation Field project (as a grant had subsequently been awarded from the Hockey Foundation) had included the £2,129.56 outstanding PPF grant. Rob Ward made clear that the letter advising RPC of the outstanding sum was an error resulting from a combination of changeover of staff and reduction in the length of the grants spend period. A letter received by MKC from our previous clerk announcing that this grant was closed was an error on our part. Some discussion revolved around both the classification of the grant – capital or maintenance as this affected MKC's grant criteria – and how much cross-over there was with the smaller grant awarded previously for the recreation field (grants may not be awarded more than once for the same 'project'). So that RPC could take full advantage of the £9,000 Hockey Foundation grant (itself subject to match funding) Rob Ward made clear that they would do their best to correct the respective errors and establish how they could present the award for £2,129 to MKC as it would require a new Delegated Decision (i.e. the outstanding funding would have to go through the technical process of being 're-awarded'). The process would take at least 10 weeks.
7. **Allotments**
 - a. **Lease & Site Plan** - No change since the last meeting. Email reminders had been sent. **Chair**
 - b. **Application for PPF Funding** – the application had failed to secure a grant on the grounds that RPC did not yet have the lease to run the allotments. Note to be sent out to prospective plot-holders to keep them in the picture. Agreed to pursue this project and seek PPF in the next round and funding from any other appropriate sources **Chair**
8. **Flood Mitigation**
 - a. **Repairs to culvert emerging from under North End road** – No change since the last meeting. Reminder to be sent to Ward Cllr. Geary. **Clerk**
 - b. **The ditch opposite the North End Farm** - Cllr. Reed had discussed this with Pat Lever who was willing to carry out the work for £250 but required the hedge over the back of the ditch to be cut back so that he could get machinery in. It was agreed to award this hedge-cutting work to DC Blunt provided that it could be completed for under £250. Proposer Cllr. Rook, Seconder Cllr. Meades. Unanimous. (Total spend

2014/09/016

Signed

Date

RAVENSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

£500).

Chair & Cllr Reed

- c. Works for Stream banks adjacent to Common Street by MKC, and item d (below)** – Rob Ward informed RPC that these were not a priority for this year. However should some major subsidence occur he assured RPC that they would be immediately repaired.
- d. Works to ditch adjacent to Mill Road outside Small Farm by MKC** (see item above)

9. Landscaping

It was agreed that the upkeep of the landscaping was being done to a good standard.

Discussion ensued about the Burial Ground where the mowing was fine but an overgrown hedge needed serious pruning. As this would be over and above the usual specification it was suggested that the PCC be informed and requested to part subsidise the works.

Chair

10. Finance

a. Update on External Audit - Mazars had passed the audit with two minor comments. Firstly that fixed assets purchased during the year should be included in total assets and secondly there was inconsistency in 'Trust Funds' responses in the different sections – they should all read N/A.

b. Cheques for approval & Balances – Expenditure to date £10,673.92

MKC invoice still outstanding. To be chased up.

Clerk

The following payments were approved:

chq no. 100603	Clerk's salary (2 mths)	£400.48
chq no. 100604	Post Office (PAYE)	£65.20
chq no. 100605	Mazars	£120.00
chq no. 100606	OC Sawbridge (fitting seat)	£60.00
chq no. 100607	MBC (seat)	£100.94

11. Planning

a. 14/01219/LBC 11 Common St. Listed building consent for the installation of an air source heat pump. The principle had been accepted by planning but a re-design was taking place.

b. 14/00508/FUL & 14/00509/LBC Yew Tree Farm Still pending.

c. Long Barn Entrance Alterations – no update from Ward Cllr. Geary.

Clerk

d. NEW – 14/01627/TCA Notification of intention to remove mixed Hawthorn/Blackthorn/Wild Cherry hedge to rear boundary. 2 Chaseport Close. Permitted

e. - 14/01918/TCA Notification of intention to crown reduce 1x Cherry tree in order to reduce height of tree to 15 - 18 ft. 3 Abbey Way. No objection/comments.

f. - 14/01899/MMAM - Home Farm Barn, Bay Lane. Minor material amendment to planning permission 11/02645/FUL for changes to the approved plans to add a single storey extension. There were no details available on this which is most unusual. It was agreed to object as a point of principle on the lack of information and that the original application was subject to numerous objections so that no amendment should be considered to be minor .

Clerk

12. Correspondence/Grant requests

The invitation to the Mayor's Civic Service was no longer valid as the event had been cancelled due to the resignation of the mayor.

The Site Allocation Plan consultation letter had been received as hard copy as well as email. There were no suggestions to make.

13. Councillors' / Residents' Items

a. Blocked footpath, May's Lane – this referred to an email complaint about a recently gated public footpath but the location was not recognised. Clerk to recirculate and relay to Ward Cllrs.

Clerk

b. Grit Bins offered by MKC - No update.

c. 'Handyman' jobs around the Parish - oiling the Village Notice Board had been added to the schedule. The work had not been carried out yet.

d. Abbey Way land ownership – No update from the solicitor.

e. NEW – Abbey Way road surface – a complaint had been received verbally from a resident of the close about the poor state of the road surface which was loose and crumbly, with weeds growing in the gutters. The road sweeper seemed to make matters worse. To be reported.

Clerk

f. Road gullies blocked from the Burial Ground to North End Farm house. To be reported. Clerk

g. Ditch by Recreation Field and down stream to the Old Forge – Blunt's to be asked to clear. Clerk

h.

Date and Time of next meeting - Thursday, 9th October 2014 at 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed

Date