

STEPPINGLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

For: Steppingley Parish Council
 Held on: Tuesday, 14 November 2023

PRESENT

Pauline Henninger
 Hugh Jackson (Chair)
 Melissa Jordan
 Marcus Webb
 Julie Todd (Clerk)

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Ian Adams - CBC
 Cllr Heather Townsend -
 CBC

APOLOGIES

Cllr Gareth Mackey – CBC
 Chris Wood
 Lionel Yarde

Agenda Item	ACTION
<p>1.</p>	<p>Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Cllrs Mackey, Wood and Yarde.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Members' Interests None</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>CBC Councillors' Reports <u>CBC Finances</u> – projected £9 million overspend for 23/24. SEND transport is £5 million over budget. <u>FixMyStreet</u> – fly tipping can once again be reported on FMS. Cllr Jackson reported difficulty reporting fly tipping on by way – Ward Cllrs to follow up with Environmental Services. <u>Flitwick Station</u> – soft trial of bus station on 4/12. <u>Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans</u> – currently out for consultation. Late 2024 there will be plans for more rural areas. <u>Local Plan</u> – new Local Plan in 2028 – initial engagement February 2024 followed by official consultation in 2026. <u>HAS17</u> – Ward Cllrs are investigating possibility of oak trees having TPOs. If successful, there would be a 20 m exclusion zone around each tree. It was agreed Cllr Jackson would write a letter of support to Joanna Baker, CBC. <u>Temporary Event Licences</u> – Cllr Jordan asked where this information could be found. Cllr Adams to follow up with Jo Borthwick, Head of Public Protection, CBC.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Flitwick Lodge For 2023 events there were no event management plans or noise records. A PCN has been issued – owners have 21 days to reply – a planning application is expected. Cllr Townsend with Cllr James Jamieson meeting with CBC Enforcement and Licensing and will report back.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting: 26/09/23 Cllr Webb proposed that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Cllr Henninger seconded and it was unanimously agreed. Cllr Jackson signed the minutes.</p>

<p>6.</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flitwick Road SID – sign needs adjusting and it is not always working. - Lights on Tree on Triangle – Cllr Jackson is meeting with The French Horn to discuss. 	<p>CW HJ</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Reports</p> <p><u>a. Planning</u> Nothing to report.</p> <p><u>b. Highways</u> - Peakes End Bend – it was agreed it was important to keep the sandbanks trimmed back.</p> <p><u>c. Footpaths, P3, Hedges, Tree Warden & Conservation</u> - Cricket Pitch Hedges and Lime Trees – have now been cut. - Rabbit Fencing – quotes were asked from 3 suppliers, only one received Tim Buckingham for £950 + VAT. It was unanimously agreed to accept this quote.</p> <p><u>d. SVA Liaison</u> Cllr Jordan reported: - Village Hall – inside of windows work will start on 08/01/24 and outside on 23/03/24. SVA have secured a 20% discount due to the delay in starting the work. - CBC Community Grant – applying for £10k to cover windows (£9k0 and new heaters (£1k). - SVA has approx. £12,000 in the bank.</p> <p>Pavilion: - SVA has met with cricket club and agreed £1k rent pa from 1 April-31 September. - Cricket club responsible for tidying up and clearing out their belongings at end of season. - Pavilion will be available for letting throughout the year except when there is a cricket match. - Cllr Wood investigating letting out pavilion and recreation ground for dog events. - SVA website is being updated to reflect new letting opportunities.</p> <p>Bingo being held on 16/12/23.</p> <p><u>e. Recreation Ground</u> Hooped fencing around play area – length needed to be measured.</p> <p><u>f. Steppingley Profile</u> Nothing to report.</p> <p><u>g. Communications</u> WhatsApp village group continues to thrive.</p>	<p>CW</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>MJ</p> <p>MJ</p>

	<p><u>h. Finance</u> The financial spreadsheet was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Accounts – as of 31/10/23</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="419 331 914 405"> <tr> <td>Current Account</td> <td>£9,274.14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Reserve Account</td> <td>£9,291.90</td> </tr> </table> <p>Invoices agreed for payment:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="419 472 1121 712"> <tr> <td>The Village Garden Maintenance Services</td> <td>August, September and October</td> <td>£125.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Julie Todd</td> <td>April-September Salary</td> <td>£704.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td>£829.90</td> </tr> </table> <p>- Recreation Ground Maintenance – cricket club have been chased for payment. - Online banking – Unity Trust processing PCs application. - Clerk’s Salary – 2023 NALC pay award - £1 rise in hourly rate backdated to April 2023. This was unanimously agreed.</p>	Current Account	£9,274.14	Reserve Account	£9,291.90	The Village Garden Maintenance Services	August, September and October	£125.00	Julie Todd	April-September Salary	£704.90	Total		£829.90	
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<p>7.</p>	<p>2024/25 Budget + Precept Prior to the meeting the finance spreadsheet and budget were circulated to councillors.</p> <p>Major items for expenditure in 24/25:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tree survey + associated work £2,500 - Play area fence £2,000 - New play equipment £5,000 <p>2024/25 Precept – Cllr Jackson proposed to raise the precept by RPI (8.9%) and Cllr Henninger seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed. The precept would be £8,690 which equates to £81.98 for Band D houses – a rise of 7.9% as the tax base has risen from 105 to 106.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>													
<p>8.</p>	<p>SPC/SVA Relationship See 6d above.</p>														
<p>9.</p>	<p>The Pavilion See 6d above.</p>														
<p>10.</p>	<p>Correspondence Distributed by email.</p>														

11.	Matters to be Brought Forward to Next Meeting None	
12.	Date and Time of Next Meeting Tuesday, 30 January 2024 @ 7.30 pm in the village hall.	

The above are considered a true and accurate account of the meeting.

Signed

Date