

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Parish Council held 5th November 2014

Present: D Palmer (Chairman), M Bell, P Taylor C Hagger, S Linsell T Connolly, C Smith.

Apologies: NONE

In attendance: Jo Downton - Clerk.

Declaration of Interests: None

Minutes: The minutes of the parish council meeting held on the 1st October 2014 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Matters arising:

The Clerk reported that RCC had been contacted about the lighting grant but was yet to hear from them and this would be followed up. The Clerk had been working with EON and Western Power about updating all information to take into account recent updates of lights and equipment. Eon had been given the go ahead to continue to replace the lights agreed by council on the urgent list. This work has been completed. The bill for this work had actually come in at a higher cost than was previously thought however EON had kindly agreed to reduce costs to fit with the councils budget. Two lights in the village had also been reported in need of attention and this work had been carried out.

The Clerk had contacted the newsletter about putting in an article about the councils decision concerning the re grassing of the triangle and the vacancy on the PC. The grass article made the November issue however sadly due to unforeseen circumstances the vacancy was not advertised. This post was however advertised on Exton web and the Clerk had contacted a previous applicant informing them of the vacancy.

RCC had contacted the Clerk about the triangle and work dates have not yet been given. RCC had also been contacted about the amount of rubbish to be found surrounding the village and plans were to be made to arrange a collection.

The Clerk had finally managed to secure a quotation for the railings on the War memorial (£900.00) but this was to be carried over until the next financial year as funds were not available this year.

Issues relating to the defibrillator had cropped up and most are resolved, and notification had been received that the kiosk and equipment had been checked and was all in working order.

PAGE had been in touch and information was passed onto the web.

The Clerk reported that a Xmas tree might have been secured but could not at this stage say for certain that one was not to be purchased. The Council usually donates a grant towards costs of this tree and the Clerk asked if council would be agreeable that should this money not be required whether it might be donated to the village school to purchase books for their new library as a way of thanking them for printing the village newsletter. Proposed P Taylor seconded S Linsell.

The Clerk reported a request for a donation for the church grass cutting.

Items requiring action only:

The Clerk asked council their thoughts on the Cottesmore Village Plan and no observations were made, this is to be reported back to the concerned party. Concerns

were also voiced about the increasing workloads/ responsibilities being placed on parish councils and its impact on future councilors.

Planning Applications: New Car Parking entrance 15 Stamford Road Exton – No objections but one concern was over possible dangers of reversing out onto the main road.

Precept – Draft: A discussion took place about future plans of the council with respects to continuing the replacement of lights with new LED lights and financial responsibilities for the Pump House and the War Memorial. The Responsible Financial Officer explained how the Savings account had been consistently drawn on over the last few years and asked council to consider possibility trying to build this sum up a little more in the coming years. Equally it was advised that council should try in the next few years to top up the Reserve account and prepare for the expense of the Pump House which could run into a considerable outlay for the council. The Precept this year must allow for the possibility of financially covering the cost of the election in May and RCC approximate the cost would be in the region of about £2000.00. Hence this sum had been included in the draft precept. Equally £3000.00 had again been budgeted for lights although the next lights to be tackled costs would exceed this amount. The Officer reported that although there might be some monies left at the end of the year at this stage after discussion with the Chair it was thought best to leave this as predicted as Nil. The Officer also pointed out that the predicted budget outlay for virtually all other expenses had been left as was in the previous year and any possible increases would just be absorbed. Overall the council was informed that this coming year and for a few years ahead it might prove a very expensive time for the council but with continued effort the council would be able to try and continue to met its financial responsibilities and secure its buildings etc. to a good standard, whilst also trying to maintain some reserve monies as insurance.

Donation for grass cutting in churchyard was discussed. It was proposed £200.00 be awarded and it was then proposed to amend this to £100.00. A vote was called and with one abstaining, four to three secured £200.00 to be budgeted for in the precept for the following financial year.

PAGE : Councilor Bell reported to council on the intention of young villagers to attempt to secure £2500 towards (full cost approximately £10,000) a new skateboard area for the village playing field. This endeavor was going extremely well and offers of donations had started to come from villagers. The council was asked if it could cover the cost of the village hall hire for an event that was to be held to raise funds for this scheme. The council was delighted to hear that young people were working very hard and it agreed to cover the costs involved. Proposed C Hagger Seconded S Linsell. Councilor Bell also requested that the Clerk contact Exton Estates about re leasing the land required for this project and also check insurance issues and report back to council.

Authorisation of Cheques:

LRALC Training (DP) £35.00
Post Office (Clerk wages – Admin) £548.11
CAB donation £100.00
VEETS (Telephone System) £100.00
EON £55.36
R Webster Grass Cutting £48.00
PAGE insurance £478.62

Items for the agenda of the next meeting of the Parish Council – 3rd December 2014: