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Minutes of **MEETING of RENHOLD PARISH COUNCIL** held on **Wednesday 17th October 2018** at 7.30pm in the Renhold Village Hall, Wilden Road.

PRESENT:- Parish Councillors, Mr. Slater, Mr. Gurney, Mrs. Dean, Mr. Cook, Mrs. Gribble and Borough Councillor Sheryl Corp, the Clerk Mrs. Barnicoat and eleven members of the public.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE TO BE RECEIVED: - Cllr. Slater welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending; Parish Councillors Mrs Brunsdon, Mr. Polhill, Mrs. Quince and Mr. Gregory, Borough Councillors Stephen Moon and Jade Uko, had sent apologies for absence, these were accepted.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS:-

There were no declarations of interest received for the meeting.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for the next item.

3. OPEN FORUM: -

There were two governors from Renhold School present to talk through some progress in relation to highways, following a meeting with Andrew Prigmore, Borough Officer that took place. Cllr. Quince has been regularly liaising with the school governors and Headteacher to support and see how best to move matters forwards regarding the school congestion that then impacts on the village. The local authority have been supportive of pursuing a zebra crossing outside the school, and have notified the school that they will be drawing up designs ready to take to consultation early next year with a potential for an after April installation. The Clerk was asked to seek clarity from the Officer regarding this.

It was discussed that this would not stop the children from walking out behind the parked bus, it was detailed that it is expected that the bus parking space will move to prevent this from being an issue.

It was asked of the school governors what plans the school has in the short term to help the situation, as there are no finances to fund a crossing support person. It was asked if the school could release two staff members to help move the children onto the bus and support the child crossing the road. It was also felt it would be more sensible if the bus were to be smaller in size and arrive later, these items would all be fed back to the school.

It was requested that the school remind parents of how to park with consideration, this it was detailed is done regularly.

Residents were welcomed to take pictures of the bad parking as the Headteacher is following this up. Engagement with the school on this matter is most welcomed it was reiterated.

A resident wished to seek confirmation of the latest progress with the bench installation.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting and it was unanimously agreed by those present that the next item of the meeting to be brought forward from Village matters so the feedback regarding the bench location could be given.

9. VILLAGE MATTERS:-

Those present were reminded that at the last meeting Cllrs. Quince and Gribble had agreed to undertake a door to door survey of houses in the locality of Green End, in particular around the Green to ascertain opinion on the location of a new bench, following the purchase of two new benches for the village funded by the Borough Councillor Ward Fund. The Councillors who had undertaken the survey had circulated a summary of the responses to all Councillors and also to

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those members of the public present at the meeting. On three separate occasions, Cllrs. Gribble and Quince had visited residents near the Green and the surrounding areas to get feedback. Residents who were not in, did receive return visits so as much local feedback could be received and taken into account. The report detailed:

The survey was conducted over two days and 54 houses visited in Woodfield Lane, Becher Close and Green End to determine the best location.

- Of those houses visited, 11 did not answer the door on either occasion.
- Of the remaining 43 houses, 6 (14 %) had very strong reservations about the bench being positioned opposite the bus stop, near the village sign and would prefer it to be placed at the splay on Becher Close . Their concerns were :
 - i. The green is not a green, but a traffic island.
 - ii. It is an unsafe location due to the number of builders loading/unloading and the large lorries going to and from Woodfield Farm
 - iii. A number of cars park at the triangle and then go off to work
 - iv. Parents who have children at Great Barford Academy park there whilst waiting for the bus
 - v. The threat of antisocial behaviour
 - vi. Thought splay at Becher Close would be a safer option
- 17 (40%) thought that 'the green' was the most logical place, their reasons being:
 1. It would provide seating for the elderly residents waiting for the bus and several residents have witnessed elderly residents standing at the green
 2. One elderly resident said she had stood waiting for the bus, which was late, for twenty minutes and decided to return home, but did not have the energy to walk back
 3. It would complement the beautiful village sign
- The remaining 20 (46.5%) thought the bench to be a good idea but had no preference about location.

The Council commenced by thanking Cllrs. Quince and Gribble for the time they had taken to undertake this work, and residents at the meeting also commented they were grateful for this. The feedback was discussed, each item in turn. The Council discussed in more detail the anti-social behaviour referred as a reason for not having the bench, and the level of such behaviour as well as the time frame of this. It was noted that this situation arose over twenty years ago, so it is a historic issue not a current problem. Therefore based on the survey of local residents and the amount that support 'the green' and have no preference, which totalled 86.5% of those surveyed, the Parish Council supported one bench to be located on the area known as 'the green'. It was agreed that a quotation for the installation of the bench to be brought to the next meeting for consideration, and the Clerk to check the local authority have no objection with the location.

In regards to the second bench, it was agreed that this would be located on Cranbourne Gardens within the area of open space, with the local authority to be contacted regarding the possible location options. The Clerk to arrange this and place the order for the second bench.

It was noted that following the survey, any other items raised by residents were also recorded and these had been presented to the Council as well, which would be reviewed during Village matters later on during the agenda.

The Council continued with the meeting agenda.

4. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:-

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th September would be carried forward to the next meeting.

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5. MATTERS ARISING:-

The matters arising were dealt with at this point, which included the planning responses had been submitted, and Cllr. Cook had been issued with the relevant paperwork. The Clerk had fed back the Council's thoughts on a zebra crossing at Church End.

All other items will be covered during the meeting.

6. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT:-

The report had been circulated to all, Cllr. Corp reiterated that Ward Fund monies are still available.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS WITHIN THE VILLAGE: -

The Council noted that due to the recent update received earlier during the meeting, a lot had been covered regarding the school parking issues along Church End. Cllr. Quince had sent a detailed report on the range of work that has been taking place with the school to improve this issue.

The recently reported broken road name sign at Woodfield Lane has now been replaced it was noted.

A resident had communicated regarding Ravensden Road traffic, and the Clerk had responded circulating this to all Councillors.

The Clerk had finally received feedback from the Officer about the breakdown of the costing of the £3.5k charge by the Borough Council to undertake associated feasibility work to look at traffic calming measures in more detail along Hookhams Lane. There was a detailed discussion on the best way forward(s) regarding this, given the study may not come forward with a possible scheme and that any further works if they are identified, would have to be funded by the Parish Council. It was agreed by those present that it is important to take this work forward to improve highways in the village, so the Clerk to feedback the Council's wish to proceed with the audit.

There was again further concern expressed about the condition of the footpath along Hookhams Lane and the poor state of the nearby area which continued to be weeds and not grass. This has again been reported to the local authority and the Mayor was also made aware during his recent visit to the parish.

A resident expressed a need for slow down signs on the Spires development as children are often playing and are put at risk by the vehicles. It was agreed for the Clerk to suggest this to the Borough Councillors as a potential Ward Fund item.

Following on from the bench survey feedback, there were comments noted about the condition of highways and paths in the village in general, including potholes. Residents need to picture items and report them directly to the Borough Council as much as possible to help action be taken. This to be highlighted in a future newsletter article - along with reiterating the need for residents to ensure their hedges are cut back for path users. The Clerk to take forward.

8. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT: -

a) **Bedford Borough Council Local Plan final public consultation update** – a number of actions had been taken forward(s) after the last meeting, a leaflet was collated by the Clerk and printed promptly. A number of Councillors then arranged to put the leaflets into the Village Magazine so they could be circulated to every household in the parish. The Clerk had started work on the final draft response to this important consultation and a thorough response would be submitted ahead of the end of October deadline to the local authority.

b) 18/02348/FUL two storey rear extension at Castle Dairy House - the Council have received the application, reviewed it and wish to raise no objection.

c) 18/02325/FUL one and two storey rear extension at Thatched Cottage 14 Brook Lane - the Council have received the application, reviewed it and wish to raise no objection.

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d) 18/0407/S73A installation of portable cabin, storage rooms, toilets, valeting canopy, wash canopy and wash screen at Car Wash, Norse Road - The Council have received the application, reviewed it and wish to raise that whilst they have no objection to the application, they do urge the Officer to visit the site and review the disposal of the water from the washing, as the Council and nearby residents have worries this is not being managed correctly.

e) Feedback from Neighbourhood Plan workshop event – Cllr. Slater had attended this event and gave feedback. The links to the presentations by the Planning Officers had been circulated to all.

f) Other planning matters to include application decisions – it was noted that an application relating to 27 Hookhams lane, and Wentworth House on Ravensden Road had recently been registered with the local authority, however, the plans have not been received to date. The Clerk was asked to seek an extension to the response date to both these applications to enable to them to come to the next Council meeting.

The Clerk had reported the planning enforcement concern in Church End. This had been registered, but to date there was no update on the progress of this investigation.

It was reported that the application to remove the lime trees at 62 Ravensden Road had been refused, with it also being noted the recent applications for: 60B Hookhams Lane, Woodfield Farm, 6 Lady Mayor Drive and 87 Langlands Road, had all been approved. The application for 4 Langlands Road had been withdrawn the Clerk reported.

9. VILLAGE MATTERS:-

The Council continued to discuss this item.

The Clerk had forwarded pictures taken of the litter issues at the footpath by the Polhill Arms to the Officer, and is awaiting a reply as they are on paternity leave. The Clerk was asked to follow this up and record the Mayor during his recent visit was supportive that the Borough Council do have sufficient capacity with their litter collections which had been an issue given previously as to why this location may be a problem.

It was agreed that Cllrs. Dean and Gurney will attend the next police priority meeting, the Clerk to arrange this.

Cllrs. Quince, Brunsdon, Dean and Slater wished to attend the forthcoming meeting with Alastair Burt MP to discuss local matters, the Clerk to confirm their attendance.

The Police had also responded to a query regarding Speedwatch data collection and how this is processed.

It was detailed that the centenary remembrance celebrations continue, the wreath has been ordered and the silhouettes are starting to be delivered. The contractor for the War Memorial maintenance to be alerted by the Clerk to the forthcoming planting of roses so they do not mistakenly remove them.

It was added that a number of police patrols have been carried out in the village following recent burglaries in Home Close.

The Clerk noted that work is still ongoing about the possibility of the former telephone box at Green End being used as a public defibrillator.

Royal Mail are looking to replace the removed post box at Church End with a new box expected to be located by the Festival of Britain sign it was noted.

At the last meeting, it was agreed for further investigation to be done on setting up Council emails, this was revisited and further clarification sought. The most competitive option to meet the Council's requirements had increased from the previous prices detailed. The Council felt they should not commit to expenditure for this purpose given there are elections in May where new Councillors may have a preferred approach to this.

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10. FINANCE MATTERS: -

The latest transaction report was circulated, and the second half of the precept has been received.

a) Invoices to be paid

The following outstanding invoices were presented

Barnicoat Ltd clerking service September invoice £715.18

A R Worboys Ltd grass cutting £185.40

A R Worboys Ltd grass cutting £358.44

JCB leaflet printing for the Local Plan £29.00

Mazaars LLP external audit fee £240.00

Donation to Katie Humberstone charity of choice, it was agreed £25.00 to RNLI and £25.00 to RSPCA in light of her thirty years' service to the Parish Council.

Donation to Renhold Chapel for hosting last meeting £30.00

It was unanimously agreed to pay the above cheques.

b) Financial analysis of budget against expenditure 2018/19 – this was circulated and there were no items of concern to be noted.

c) External Audit update – the report had been circulated to all Councillors and the Clerk had displayed the conclusion of audit notice. The Council discussed the feedback and confirmed they support a response to be sent to the auditors outlining the Council engage the services of a company, and do not employ anyone, so the auditors' comment is not relevant.

d) Bank signatory form – the Clerk had the form to give to Cllr. Qunice.

At this point of the meeting the Parish Council considered a request to support the Chapel with an application to the Borough Council Rural Grant Committee. The Clerk outlined the process to Councillors and the supporting paperwork was reviewed to better understand the work involved and the level of funding needed. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support the application to be made. They also in principle allocated £500.00 to the project, this it was noted would be the same amount of £500.00 being sought from the Borough Councillor Ward Fund. The Clerk to feed back to the Chapel the next steps in the process. It was again highlighted there are lots of different funding options available for local organisations.

There had also been a communication regarding a new group forming to support reducing social isolation by having an opportunity for residents to come together regularly. The Council understood this idea is being taken forward and agreed in principle to support with £100.00, on completion of a grant application form.

11. CORRESPONDENCE AND INFORMATION RECEIVED: -

NALC Events Bulletin emails

Age Partnership email promoting services

BBC Planning weekly list email

Village newsletter copy

Online playgrounds promotional information

BBC letter acknowledging receipt of planning comments

BRCC e-bulletin newsletter

CPRE update emails

Bank statements

Crime statistics

Village circulation list interested residents wishing to join

ERTA Voluntary Transport email

Village newsletter deadline email

Copied into resident Speedwatch communications

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Village magazine
Clerks and Councils Direct magazine
Beds Police newsletter
Beds Bugle
Resident with a speeding issue on Ravensden Road
HMRC VAT number for future claims
Royal Mail scam information
BBC starting school poster
Bus stop at Church End safety communications
Andy Prigmore has agreed to meet on site at Church End to discuss concerns regarding the blind bend etc
BBC Rural Affairs meeting cancelled
Ian feedback from Neighbourhood Plan workshop
Bench location email with residents
Resident acknowledging they received Parish Council response
Resident concerns regarding pavements and speeding
Royal Mail post box Church Farm communications
Mazaars external audit feedback update
BBC Planning enforcement case opened
Communication regarding Armed Forces commemoration
Anglian Water disconnection email
Passing of former Councillor Katie Humberstone
BATPC Annual report and accounts
Rural Grant consideration of supporting Chapel application
Meeting invite with Alastair Burt MP

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: -

Those that arose.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: - this was agreed to be Thursday 29th November 2018 at 7.30pm, meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed

Dated