

Milburn Parish Council - 7th November 2017

Present

Councillors D Richardson (Chair) R Healey, M Armstrong, M Dixon and P Moran Clerk J Connelly

EDC - Mr A Armstrong

Mr & Mrs S Johnson, Mr M Saul, Mr A Wood, Mr M Farrar & Mrs D Bridge

17.11.1 Apologies

None received

17.11.2 Register of Interests

No interests declared

17.11.3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5th September 2017 had been circulated prior to this meeting. All agreed this was a true record and were signed and approved.

17.11.4 Matters Arising

Matters arising from the last meeting are covered in this agenda

The Councillors noted the Seat under the Chestnut Tree is still to be repaired and will arrange a working party to carry out these repairs.

17.11.05 Village Green

Mr Saul moved back into the village, purchasing Willow Tree Barn. Mr Saul placed garden planters outside his property, but did not realise that the area they were placed was in fact village green. Mr Saul was written to in September 2017, also enclosing a copy of a map showing the Village Green boundaries, and asked by the Parish Council to remove these planters.

Chairman Richardson invited Mr Saul to speak.

Mr Saul is/was very aggrieved that a letter should be written, asking him to remove the planters without any prior conversation, as pointed out, Mr Saul was out of the country and therefore a letter was the best option.

Mr Saul stated that there is no clear guidelines as to what is and what is not allowed and he recommends some sort of guidelines be placed on the website, as this would be helpful to newcomers to the village.

The Councillors agreed to discuss the matter of guidelines further and will obtain advice from the appropriate bodies.

Mr Saul sent various emails to the Clerk and Councillors, with many questions, for example, there was a table and two chairs sited outside Keld Cottage, in the corner, these were on the Village Green, why did the Councillors not ask for them to be removed?

Signed _____ Dated _____

The Councillors replied that they had not seen them, they were placed in the corner and mainly out of site, but had someone complained and brought them to the Councillors attention, the owners of Keld Cottage would have been asked to remove them. The Councillors confirmed they do not Police the Village Green everyday but should anything untoward be brought to their attention, or a complaint, they will act upon it.

Mr Saul feels he and his wife has been victimised regarding this matter, feeling that as newcomers they have been treated unfairly. The Councillors attempted to explain to Mr Saul, this was definitely not the case. The last complaint regarding the Village Green and the placing of an item/or items was minuted back in 2009 and this was dealt with in an amicable way. Mr Saul was also informed that when a letter was sent to him, a letter was also sent to another resident regarding Village Green boundaries, thereby showing he was not the only resident to misunderstand the Village Green Boundaries.

Mr Farrer pointed out that should an accident occur, the Parish Council would be liable, i.e. should someone trip over them. There is a lack of street lighting and the planters are dark and difficult to see at night.

Mr Armstrong (EDC) stated that writing was the more transparent way to communicate than a verbal meeting. Also pointing out that the Parish Council has every right to ask them to be removed if they are on the Village Green.

Councillor Dixon then asked Mr Saul after all that has been said and done, what would resolve this matter now, what did he want, to be able to move on. Mr Saul replied that having listened to some explanations, he would have to go and think about the options open to him.

Councillor Richardson asked Mr Saul if he would be removing the planters, Mr Saul replied he would not, as he needs to discuss it with his wife. Councillor Richardson asked, with the resolve of all Councillors, that could Mr Saul make that decision by Monday.

Clerk to obtain advice should the planters not be removed.

17.11.6 Village Green Drainage

Mr Bellsham had spoken to Councillor Richardson regarding the possibility of hiring a camera for approximately £500 to look through drains to find any blockages. As discussed at the last meeting, it was agreed to monitor the drainage to see how they coped this winter.

Mr Farrar informed the Councillors that water from road in front of the bus shelter and the track behind the bus shelter, runs and gathers at his gate, forms a large pool and then runs down the front of his house were the drains can't cope with it, Mr Farrar asked if it would be possible for a tarmac speed hump be placed at his gate, with a small channel , to channel the water back down on to the road and out of the village. The Councillors resolved to have a look and decide if this is a viable and practical thing to do.

Signed _____ Dated _____

17.11.7 Bonfire

A Risk Assessment for the Bonfire had been received prior to the bonfire and emailed to all Councillors. Copy in the Risk Assessment File.

The bonfire was once again a huge success, early indications are over £600 was raised.

17.11.8 Finance

Invoices received from :-

BDO LLP Account Audit	£ 36.00
G & AM Johnston Grass Cutting	£889.00
Fellrunner Donation	£ 65.00

Councillors resolved to pay all three invoices/donation

Draft Three Budget - Not changed but all three of the above payments to be taken in to account.

Bank Accounts - The Clerk informed the Councillors that there would be a shortfall in the current account to cover all expected payments in March and would require a transfer from the Savings Account to cover this shortfall. The Clerk to enquire as to how to transfer funds from one account to the other.

17.11.9 Correspondence

Barclays Bank, changes to accounts 2018

CALC Circular Sept and Oct

Saltex

GNA Ambulance

RAF Centenary Celebrations

Glasdon Bins

CALC 43rd AGM

Wicksteed Play Equipment

17.11.10 Public Participation

Mrs D Bridge asked, on safety issues, if it would be possible to have the pavement kerb dropped to allow wheelchair access at the car park of the Croft View Houses on to the pavement that leads to the village hall, which would mean the wheelchairs do not have to be on the road, especially on the corner.

Mr Alan Armstrong (EDC) will make enquiries.

17.11.11 Any Other Business

The Village Green outside Milburn House, where United Utilities has been digging, although top soil has been reinstated in places, it is in need of attention to tidy it up. Councillors to look at this, also perhaps re-seeding all corners of the green in spring.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Next Meeting Tuesday, 8th January 2018

The Chairman brought the meeting to a close at 9.05pm