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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL F&GP COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the F&GP Committee meeting held on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7.30pm in The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT** Cllr J O’Brien (Chair), Cllrs M Caton, S Ghosh, J Hogg and P Jones

**ATTENDING** Mrs Ruth Clifford – Parish Clerk

Mrs Emma Philbrick – Deputy Clerk

1 member of the press via Zoom

1 member of the public via Zoom

**176 APOLOGIES FOR**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Khan – Holiday and Cllr Sell – Holiday.

**RESOLVED** to accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Khan and Sell

**177 DECLARATION OF INTEREST -** None

**178 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH JUNE 2023**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 28th June 2023 as a true and accurate account.

**179 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

85 – Clerk to forward her emails to Fiona Gardiner to Cllr Sell who will try to obtain answer – Fiona Gardiner came back to Ruth but she still sent all emails to Cllr Sell.

88b – Cllrs O’Brien and Jones to draft a proposal detailing which streetlights should be trialled for part-night lighting – Done

**180 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, CLLR JOHN O’BRIEN**

Attached

**181 LIGHTING**

**a) TO RECEIVE AN OUTAGE REPORT**

Light out on Chapel Hill near the bus stop by Spencer Close – awaiting reconnection of the power supply by UKPN. 1 light in Lower Street – contractor has made several attempts to reach but no luck so far due to parked cars. Will keep trying.

**b) TO RECEIVE A GENERAL REPORT ON LIGHTING AND UPDATE ON CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

The structural and electrical tests of our lighting stock were completed in July. Two columns were found to be unsound and have been removed and replaced – one in St John’s Crescent and the other in Millside. Both are awaiting reconnection of the power supply by UKPN.

We are working our way through the electrical report, but this may have budget implications going into next year.

Regarding Christmas lighting, we have been given the same price as last year including the Social Club. We are waiting licensing approval for lights to be put on

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the new columns by mini roundabout but it’s doubtful this will now be received in time.

**c) TO DECIDE THE DESIGN OF REPLACEMENT LED LANTERNS FOR THE RECREATION GROUND**

The Clerk tabled two designs which our contractor had found for the Recreation Ground and also for Bentfield Road. One was very similar to the existing lanterns at £1,025 per light and another was a slightly different design at £750 per light. The Clerk and Cllr O’Brien advised that their preferred option was the cheaper due to the budget implications and the fact that they thought they would still look in keeping in a Conservation area. After discussions by members and having been proposed by Cllr Caton and seconded by Cllr Hogg, and with 3 votes in favour and 2 votes against, it was

**RESOLVED** to replace the existing halogen lanterns with the LED ones similar to the style there now at £1,025 per light.

**182 FINANCE**

**a) TO APPROVE THE LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION**

The schedule was checked against the invoices before the start of the meeting by Cllr Jones. There were no questions, and the payment schedule was approved.

**b) TO RECEIVE THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT TO 31ST AUGUST 2023**

This was tabled at the meeting.

**183 FLOODING – TO CONSIDER THE REVISED QUOTE FOR AN ADDITIONAL SET OF POLES IN UGLEY BROOK**

The quote was circulated with the agenda and Cllr O’Brien advised that the increase was due to additional requirements by the Environment Agency. Cllr Hogg asked if it was the responsibility of the Parish Council, and it was advised that it is actually Essex Highways but for many years they have never cleared out the Brook or carried out any work on it. All requests have been ignored. Cllrs O’Brien and Jones reported that at their site meeting, the Environment Agency had stated that the location where the flood wardens stand to pull out the debris is dangerous due to parked vehicles and it should be adapted for safety. After further discussion it was agreed to make a formal complaint to our Essex County Councillor and if no response then escalate it to the Chief Executive. It was also agreed to request a site visit by representatives of UDC and ECC.

Having been proposed by Cllr Caton and seconded by Cllr Jones, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** to accept the revised quote and go ahead with the work whilst pursuing the above.

**184 CRAFTON GREEN – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES ON THE COMMUNITY BUILDINGS**

The Clerk advised that the insulation in Crafton Green House was replaced this week so hopefully this will make a difference to the energy costs.

**185 WINDMILL – TO RECEIVE ANY UPDATES**

Cllr O’Brien reported the following:

The profit from the fete was £3286 which is a good result.

There are no major mill works anticipated for the rest of the year. The autumn without a cherry-picker.

‘Santa at the Mill’ will be taking place on Saturday 9th December.

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**186 YOUTH MATTERS**

A report from the current providers was circulated to members ahead of the meeting. Cllr Caton advised that Essex Youth Service has a new member of staff who will be looking after Uttlesford Youth Centres. She has already attended a meeting at Forest Hall School with the Parish Council and has lots of new fresh ideas to bring forward and will work on better marketing. Cllr Caton voiced her disappointment at the report and results received but is enthused by the new member of staff taking over and is hopeful for better things.

After a question by members, the Clerk advised that funding for this service by UDC in 2024-25 is not guaranteed and if not received then the Parish Council would have to decide whether or not to pick up the shortfall.

**187 STAFF MATTERS**

Nothing to report.

Meeting closed at 8.17pm

**ACTION POINTS**

183 Make a formal complaint to our Essex County Councillor and escalate to the Chief Executive if necessary.

183 Request a site visit from representatives of UDC and ECC