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Minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Parish Council held on:

Thursday 20th July 2023 commencing at 7.30PM

Minutes taken by the Clerk, Sarah Stock

Attending: Cllrs JS, RGn, WS, MM, SC, MV

Apologies received: Cllr Richard Gent, Margaret Green

2023/36 Co-opt new member to the Council.

Council unanimously resolved to co-opt Mr Mark Vernon, Spencer Close to the council.

Mr Vernon will sign declaration of interests, acceptance of office and agreement to abide by the code of conduct.

2023/37 Declarations of Interest. No declarations of interest made.

2023/38 Public Session. Members of the public attending: 31

Kate Chapman, Gillings Planning Consultant, acting on behalf of Esland, are preparing an application for change of use at Aysgarth, Harlestone Road, Church Brampton, from a standard dwelling house to a children's care home. Melanie Dougill, representative from Esland attending to answer operational questions.

Letter circulated to some residents (published on PC website) explains the proposal. KC noted the application is from C3 to C2 use, as property is lease hold the application stipulates flexible use. Esland provide support and housing to children who have experienced traumatic childhoods. They run many sites in rural and urban locations, seeking to replicate a family environment in the looked after sector. In this home they intend to care for 2-3 children, with 6 staff (providing 24-hour care over a 48-hour shift pattern). MD assured residents that Esland has never received complaints regarding their rural homes. This home is unlikely to house children with a history of Anti-social behaviour or children who might abscond. Parking is on site.

Residents raised various concerns which were addressed by MD. In summary:

- Gates on the property are locked to prevent children running into the road.
- Children are carefully matched to the location.
- Staff provide activities on and off site, accompany children to parks or on walks. In some cases, it is appropriate to allow children to leave the site independently, staff make full risk assessment. Occasionally children do make local friends and integrate into the community.
- Esland provide long-term care for children unable to return home. At age 17 the young person would move on to appropriate semi-independent living arrangement.
- Children do attend education, occasionally at a local school but often education needs are complex and specialist provider is used. Staff drive children to school.
- Local authorities fund child places, some from Northamptonshire but some children are placed by other local authorities.

- Where a child has contact with their family, visits are not usually on site.
- Esland has secured short term commercial lease pending a successful planning application before seeking a longer lease. Residents noted that housing for this sort of project is in short supply, and it is the availability of the property which is driving the choice of location rather than its suitability.
- Residents noted that Althorp covenants may prevent the change of use.
- KC noted no pre-application advice has been sought by consultants.

Council noted all concerns raised. As yet, no application has been submitted to WNC.

Verbal Updates (no decisions will be made on items in this section of the agenda)

- Chapel Meeting Room power supply: No progress, clerk to advise. CLOSED.
- Golf Lane Oak. Andrew Leighton (WNC) has confirmed by email that WNC will commence works to the tree after the summer.
- Neighbourhood Plan: No volunteers have been forthcoming. CLOSED.
- Althorp (email from Stuart Coleman, 10/5) confirming action will be taken to clear Ash tree, clear ROW CE6, and trim hedges at Ten Cottages, Harlestone Road. Mtg with Sam Williams (Althorp) agreed actions. Clerk to put Althorp on notice that the council will action outstanding work and invoice Althorp accordingly. SEE ITEM 2023/45
- Harlestone Road SID Pole. New location agreed with WNC Highways. CLOSED.
- Council awarded £2,550 from Safer Road Northamptonshire for purchase of SID. NOTED
- Cllr MM & Clerk attended WNC Local Area Partnership Training. The program is there to address specific issues of social deprivation by area. No action for CWC. NOTED.

2023/39 Minutes. Council approved the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 15th June.

2023/40 Bank reconciliation and YTD budget vs Expenditure review

Council accepted the bank reconciliation and the budget analysis provided with the agenda.

Current Account (Unity 20415701)	£5,258	
Reserve Account (Unity 20415714)	£27,127	
2023/24 Opening balance:	£32,385	
YTD Income	£17,408	
YTD expenditure (Inc. VAT & Unauthorised payments)		£14,241
Online Balance on July 17th 2023		
Current Account (Unity 20415701)		£4,671
Reserve Account (Unity 20415714)		£32,806
Balance b/f		£37,477
YTD Closing balance (less pending expenditure)		£35,553
2023/24 Unclaimed VAT YTD	£1,326	

2023/41 Accounts for Payment

Council approved the accounts for payment – all payments are inclusive of VAT.

J Hawkins (SO)	July	28.7.23	£27.50
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Z A Finney (Noah & Grace) (SO)	July	28.7.23	£55.00	
Sarah Stock (SO)	July	28.7.23	£488.60	
Yu Energy	1185022	3.7.23	£261.78	£12.47
Yu Energy	1142381	1.6.23	£32.66	£1.56
E-On Energy Solutions	119008	28.6.23	£273.00	£45.50
PW Wardent Environmental	7069	24.5.23	£900.00	£150.00
Mr J Thompson	Mtg Rm Windows	24.6.23	£180.00	

2023/42 Streetlighting – review maintenance and efficiency

Maintenance: Council noted increase in price of E-on Electricity Solutions maintenance charges from £130 to £227 per quarter.

Council will organise the electrical testing at cost of £27 (excluding VAT) per light. Total cost £1,566. Once completed the council will notify E-on that they will discontinue the maintenance contract.

Streetlight Efficiency: Balfour Beatty will provide a quote to upgrade to lower wattage bulbs and to introduce 'dimmed' lighting between 12midnight & 5am. Quote not received before date of meeting.

2023/43 Playing Field & Pocket Park

Playing Field: Council noted Cllr MM's assessment of works needed at the playing field, to cut down dead and dying trees and make repairs to the Western Boundary Hedge and of tree works in Cedar Hythe. Cllr MM will obtain quote from Maurice Fitch.

Council is aware that groups of youngsters are loitering late at night in the Playing Field car park. Residents should report any vehicles or incidents to the police.

2023/44 Community Governance review

Council noted West Northamptonshire Council is preparing a Community Governance Review. Council discussed the merits of extending the boundary to incorporate Brampton Plains, Brampton Halt, Brampton Fisheries and Brampton Valley Way. Incorporating this area would make geographical sense. Cllr SC will provide map with suggested boundary and Clerk will advise Pitsford Parish Council of the conversation.

2023/45 Environment (verges, path, trees, and village maintenance)

Spencer Close: BPHA will collect hedge clippings, and Cllr MV will request they remove the bench.

Pitsford Road junction sign obscured by vegetation. Cllr SC has reported to FMS.

Althorp works outstanding: (email from Stuart Coleman, 10/5) confirming action will be taken to clear Ash tree, clear ROW CE6, and trim hedges at Ten Cottages, Harlestone Road.

No response from #3 Ten Cottages, Harlestone Rd. Clerk to confirm Althorp can progress hedge cutting.

Council asked that hedges alongside Ten Cottages, Welford Road also be cut back as these are obstructing the pavement.

ROW CE6 has not been cleared by residents. Clerk to put Althorp on notice that the council will action outstanding work and invoice Althorp accordingly.

2023/46 Planning matters

Council noted following planning application (received after the agenda was published):

2023/5872/FULL at 5 Hamilton Court Single Story Front Oliver Billing 2/8/2023
Chapel Brampton West extension
Northamptonshire NN6 8AJ

Councillors noted that the proposed extension may reduce the light into the neighbouring property. Councillors will examine the plans and send comments to the clerk by email.

Date of next meetings: 21st September. 19th October. 16th November. No December meeting.

Meeting closed 21:35