MINUTES.

Letwell Parish Council Meeting held on the 23rd of August 2021. Meeting held at the Village Hall, Letwell. 7:30 pm.

**Councillor’s present**- Cllr Nettleship, Cllr Sharpe, Cllr Biggins, Cllr Straw. RMBC Cllr S Dack.

**Public present:** Martin Horn, Vicky Bennet, Nicky Blyth, Louise Addy, Martin Shaw.

**Clerk**: Rebecca Thompson.

Prior to the public session Cllr Nettleship presented Cllr Sharpe with a gift from the Parish Council and gave a speech thanking Cllr Sharpe for his 42 years in the voluntary role as Clerk.

Councillor Sophie Dack from RMBC introduced herself.

Cllr Nettleship explained that he would address the questions that Martin Horn had previously sent to the Parish Council.

***Q1. Can the Council produce last year’s accounts in a format that people would understand in the FLAG? My suggestions for headings are Ramper Maintenance, pond, flag pole, Insurance/ legal then any other obvious groups.***

Cllr Nettleship advised that finances are on the website for public to view. He advised that if a person should feel the need for a further breakdown of finances, they are welcome to contact the Clerk.

Cllr Nettleship said that the FLAG magazine was a community magazine for the 3 villages and is not there for Council business. Martin Horn aid that Firbeck Parish Council put their business in the magazine and he feels that the way Letwell Parish Council Publish theirs on the PC website could be difficult to read for some.

***Q2. The Council failed the internal audit this year but there is very little mention of it in the previous minutes. How many areas and what did they the council fail on?***

Cllr Nettleship advised that the financial side of the audit did not find fault with the finances. He said that the audit document is on the website should Marin wish to read it. Cllr Sharpe stated that for 42 years they had passed the audit and never have the finances been brought into question. Martin Horn said he was not questioning the finances he was asking about the rest of the audit. What outstanding documentation did the auditor find? Cllr Nettleship said he can look at the audit report on the PC website.

***Q3. If the council only failed this year but the audit was the same as the last year and all the previous years and the clerk has not changed how they worked, has the chairman asked the auditors to comment on why nothing was picked up before? If not why no*t?**

Cllr Sharpe replied that no auditor in 42 years have ever asked for documents which the recent audit have requested. None of the issues raised in the audit have ever been flagged up. If they have never been brought to the attention of the Council then the Council will have not known there was an issue. The audit company have been approached and their response was that each auditor within the company is different and they can only assume that the one that carried out our audit this year was much more thorough than the previous. They would not comment any further.

* Nicky Blyth said that she felt let down that decisions have been made without public consultation.

Cllr Nettleship stated that if Nicky was referring to the blocks, then he will explain. He said he received a complaint that cones had been put up on the grass verge outside the end house on Barker Hades/ Ramper Road. He approached the owners of the property who said that the grass verge was being damaged repeatedly as had the man hole cover from the tractors and large vehicles from the farm, as a compromise with the property owners he said they could put Stones/ Boulders there instead of the cones. Cllr Nettleship went on to say that he requested they use stone that was randomly cut. This was done. Cllr Nettleship said if people found the blocks offensive, then they should speak to Martin Horn as he was the one which complained about them meaning that they now had to be bright white. He said the Parish Council had received complaints from Mr Horn which meant they had to seek retrospective permission from the Highways department. Highways have said the rocks can stay but must be painted bright white. Vicky Bennet asked Cllr Nettleship if he thought he had broken the rules by not seeking permission before agreeing to the rocks, Cllr Nettleship said that if he had broken the rules, it was because a member of public was asking for help, Vicky said that councillors need to follow rules and regulations and if you’ve broken the rules then there should be consequences. She asked if going forward would Cllr Nettleship do the same, He replied that if a person requested his help, then yes, he would. He said that as a councillor he thought he was doing the right thing to help Martin and Gill. Vicky replied that maybe his integrity should be brought into question if he feels as a Councillor, he can break the rules. Cllr Nettleship said that as chairman of the council he will not have his integrity questioned, in his opinion there was a complaint, the Parish Council assisted, they now have the permission required and the matter is closed.

Nicky mentioned the hedges on The Ramper she said that the Council need to care more for the environment and should not be looking at getting them cut until Jan/ Feb as any early cut will have devastating effects on the birds that house in the hedgerows.

Martin Horn asked why people did not interact with the Parish Council? He asked, could the Parish Council make themselves more available, he said the council should be going out of their way to seek people’s views. Nicky said she had been told by Martin Horn that if she requires contact with the council then she must approach the Clerk first. Cllr Sharpe said this was not the case and anyone can contact a councillor, he said that fortunately as it is a small village people do generally get in touch as and when they need to.

Public session closed 8:15pm.

**230801. To receive and approve apologies for absence.**

 Matthew Bell. – Apologies accepted by all.

**230802. To receive any declarations of interest not already declared under the Council’s code of Conduct of Members Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.**

 None.

**230803. To approve the minutes of the extra -ordinary meeting held on the 6th July 2021.**

All approved, proposed by Cllr Biggins, Seconded by Cllr Sharpe.

**230804. To discuss any matters arising from the minutes, for information only.**

 None

**230805.Discuss the Queen’s Jubilee,**

1. **Possibility of planting a tree in replacement to the one which is soon to be removed from the junction of Gildingwells Rd/ Church Lane.**

The Council agreed to have a new tree planted in the honour of the Queen’s Jubilee. It was agreed that the item be deferred until the next meeting.

1. **Possibility of a whole village Jubilee event**.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed that a street party can take place. Proposed by Cllr Nettleship, seconded by Cllr Sharpe. Further arrangements will be made closer to the time.

**230806. To consider the responsibilities of the Parish Councillors, discuss the idea of each Councillor having their own key area of responsibility.**

 Cllr Nettleship explained that he thought it was a good idea that each Councillor had their own area of responsibilities. All Councillors agreed that this they thought this was a good idea, it was decided that they would have a think about their roles and discuss at the next meeting.

**230807.To discuss duck feed.**

 The Clerk informed the Council that Louise Addy can now get the duck feed cheaper from a different supplier, the Council has been paying the older price, Louise has offered to give a free bag with each purchase for the next 3 bags.

**230808.To consider the possibility of a Christmas event.**

 The Council agreed on a mulled wine/ mince pie in the church with the possibility of combining it with a music event. Cllr Nettleship agreed to contact Nicky to discuss with her.

**230809.Clerk Update:**

1. **Highways**

Clerk agreed to contact RMBC and request the markings to be done on Ramper Road.

1. **Tree**

The Clerk updated that she had spoken with RMBC who have put in planning application to remove the tree. The inspector reported that several limbs 10 meter up are damaged/ dead, making the tree dangerous.

1. **Church lane surface**

The clerk agreed to contact RMBC to see if it is possible for the Parish Council to contact residents of Church Lane to gage their views on having the road resurfaced.

1. **Contact From residents**.

Cllr Bell reported that a resident has contacted him to ask if having a dog foul bin would be possible. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact RMBC to enquire.

1. **Banking.**

Clerk advised she has now been granted full access from Natwest.

1. **Audit.**

Clerk advised that all documents requested by the auditor have now been published on the website, she is awaiting a response from NALC to see if they recommend any more.

**230808.Approval Of payments:**

* FLAG £61
* HEDGES (Ramper Road)
* Clerk (21 hours @£11.96 ph. = £251,16)
* Duck Feed £28.50

Approved by all – Proposed by Cllr Sharpe, seconded by Cllr Biggins.

* Cllr Sharpe asked the Council if it was okay to increase the print run of flag from 65 to 70. This was agreed by all. Proposed by Cllr Nettleship, Seconded by Cllr Straw.

**2380809. To receive and consider any current planning applications and issues.**

The tree on Gildingwells Road / Church lane. Discussed in item 230809- B.

**230810.To exchange information and receive members’ reports.**

 Nothing to report.

**280911. To confirm the date and time for the next meeting.**

October the 4th 7:30pm.

Meeting closed at 9:20pm