**Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 1st August 2022, at 7.30pm, in the Reading Room.**

Present: Ray Vidler (Chairman), John Garrod, Ian Ashbridge.

**Agenda items**

1. **Chairman’s Welcome**

Cllr Vidler opened the meeting at 7.30pm.

1. **To accept apologies and reasons for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Parker, Hubbard, Durham and Jessica Ashbridge (clerk). **P. Cllr Vidler, S. Cllr Ashbridge, All in fav.**

1. **To make any declarations of interest**

Cllr Ashbridge declared a personal and pecuniary interest in Item No. 7.

1. **Public Participation Session**

No members of the public were present.

1. **Planning**

**SCDC Applications:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Planning reference** | **Address** | **Proposal** | **Decision** |
| **22/03023/FUL** | Land At 44 Mill Hill Weston Colville | Erection of a 1.5 storey dwelling with associated off-road parking |  |

The meeting considered the above planning application, including a brief site inspection from the highway. Concerns raised over the proposed development included the necessity to move a road sign which would be partially obstructing the proposed vehicle entry point; a concern that the flood plan provided with the planning application failed to consider surface flooding (it was agreed that the Parish Council’s response would draw the applicant’s attention to the flash flooding event of 23 June 2016).

The meeting noted the presence of a flood drain running beneath the highway opposite Pound Farm and following the southern boundary of 44 Mill Hill, exhausting into the ditch to the rear of the property, and meeting the Stour at the end of Horseshoe Lane. It was agreed that the consequences of this drain being compromised could affect other properties in the event of a similar flooding event to that of June 2016. It was agreed that the above points would constitute the Parish Council’s comments on the proposed development and that this would take the form of an objection.

1. **Street Lighting Contract**

A report was received from Cllr Vidler. The proposal from Scottish & Southern Electricity (current supplier) was for a 55% increase on the current contract price. An initial study of energy tariffs suggested that, given the extreme rise in all energy prices over the last twelve months, there was little to be gained in running a formal tender process since the value between proposed suppliers was unlikely to be material. It was proposed that the contract be renewed with SSE. **P. Cllr Vidler, S. Cllr Garrod. All in favour.**

1. **Platinum Jubilee Funding –** To receive a report and determine actions.

Cllr Vidler had circulated a paper prior to the meeting which presented the Parish Council’s total expenditure on the Jubilee celebrations but which now included final amounts received for sales of surplus commemorative mugs and a VAT reclaim on the purchase of these. The question before the meeting was to clarify that an auditor would be satisfied in the application of PC funds. Cllr Vidler commented that a PC auditor would only seek to determine the use of PC funds, not other groups involved in the overall Jubilee celebrations. It was agreed at the March meeting of the council that the council could spend up to £900 on the Jubilee and that the actual amounts would be agreed at subsequent meetings. As the three items that the PC spent were supported by minuted approvals, and with supporting receipts and were less than the originally agreed £900, there would be no reason why an auditor should not be satisfied. Cllr Vidler proposed the meeting accept the expenditure as per the circulated document. **P. Cllr Vidler, S. Cllr Garrod, Abstention. Cllr Ashbridge.**

1. **Matters for next Agenda**

It was noted that the application for a Local Highways Improvement grant, submitted in September 2021 and assessed in April 2022 had been unsuccessful, but that feedback indicated villages that had been persistent had achieved success in this matter. It was agreed that an update on the LHI application should be tabled for the September Parish Council meeting, but that the application for 2023 funding should be submitted ahead of this.

**Date of Next Meeting: 5th September**

**Dates of Parish Council meetings in 2022 are: 5th September, 3rd October (planning), 7th November, 5th December (planning).**

**Signed………………………………………………………………………………5th September 2022**

**Cllr Vidler**