

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

Councillors seemed pleased to get back to a normal face-to-face council meeting after so many months of the novel experience of Zoom meetings.

There were no applications for the current vacancy on the parish council (PC).

There was a long discussion on the question as to which banks the PC should use to limit risks under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. Some banks offer more favourable interest rates but require long term deposits. Two councillors were selected to undertake an in-depth review of the options and submit proposals to the Governance and Finance committee.

It was agreed to go ahead with a maintenance and upgrade programme for the parish office.

Rippon Homes had proposed to transfer ownership of the public open space (POS) on the Roman Meadow development, together with a donation of £15,000 for ongoing maintenance, to the PC. The POS is not considered to be at an acceptable standard by the PC and there are also questions regarding the pond and the hydro-break operation. Two councillors will undertake an investigation and report back.



Minutes from recent committee meetings were reviewed and contained the following.

- ◆ A provisional date of Friday 3rd June 2022 was agreed for a Platinum Jubilee celebration event at Manor Park, although timing will remain flexible to avoid clashing with any national events. It is hoped that the event will bring together the community and, as this is also the weekend for the Family Twinning visit, it is hoped to involve that group in some way.
- ◆ An updated quote has been obtained for the production of the boards for the planned heritage trail. It was suggested that the trail be launched at the Platinum Jubilee celebration event with a dignitary to unveil the first board.
- ◆ Proposals for the use of the former bowls green included two multi-use games area (MUGA) that could be built to cater for different age groups. Quotes will be obtained for updated designs and funding options will be investigated.
- ◆ The police organised a litter pick for two young people caught littering in the village.
- ◆ The library has now successfully reopened with all Covid-19 precautions in place.

An extended discussion took place on whether the PC should set up a Good Neighbour Scheme for Welton. There were concerns that this was not the time to take on additional administration work at the parish office as there are a number of groups within the village already taking on many of the responsibilities of such a scheme and perhaps any coordination role should be left to them. It was agreed that the groups' activities should be left as they are.

The PC debated setting up a Facebook page. It was agreed that any Facebook page should start as a PC communication tool, leaving the possibility of two-way communication to a later time. A Facebook page would be expected to have the benefit of reaching out to a younger generation but there were concerns about the level of administration effort for the parish office staff. The parish clerk will investigate the matter further and provide feedback.

The next parish council meeting is on Monday 12th July at 7.30pm at Manor Park.

Hugh Gilfedder

