

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee

held on Wednesday 18th December 2024 at 10.00am

At the John Spanton Sports Pavilion

Present; Cllrs. Quittenden, Fordyce, Jones, Crow-Brown, Bates

Also present; Kyla Lamb (Clerk)

281. APOLOGIES

Cllr Smith.

282. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 31st July be approved and signed.

283. MEMBERS INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

284. CAR PARKS AND TOILETS

The Clerk reported that in general all works are now complete at the toilets. Signage is needed in the men's toilet to inform them there is a baby change unit in the ladies. The stoma bag user requirements are now in the disabled toilet. Several quotes were considered for CCTV. The Clerk will ask Cllr Wright if she has any grant funds available towards the CCTV. Cllr Quittenden asked about the upgrade to the outside power point. The Clerk will look into this as a quote had been sought.

The Clerk reported that the signage for Flash Park signs also required clamps and fitting. She has discussed this with Neil our groundsman and the most cost effective solution was to repurpose old goal posts and purchase rails and clamps for the signs. The quote from Mirage Signs was £459 for the fittings. The Clerk had looked online and found the costs to be the same.

AGREED: To arrange a site visit in the new year to agree where CCTV is required before accepting a quotation.

RESOLVED: To recommend to Full Council to accept the quote of £459 from Mirage of Kent to supply 28 channels and fixings for the signs to be fitted in both car parks.

285. APPRENTICE

The Clerks have investigated the possibility of an apprentice. It had been difficult to find a training course that was suitable. With the increase in the minimum wage and employers national insurance the cost of taking on an apprentice was not viable.

AGREED: That no further action be taken regarding appointing an apprentice at this time.

286. CEMETERY

The Clerk reported that we are still awaiting transfer documents by our Solicitor for the cemetery extension. Cllr Jones asked about CCTV at the cemetery.

AGREED: to leave the possibility of installation of CCTV at present.

287. ALL WEATHER PITCH REPLACEMENT MAT & LED FLOODLIGHT UPGRADE

The Clerk reported that the floodlight upgrade had been carried out. There are some issues with the lux levels to get the lighting splay across the pitch correctly which Kingfisher Lighting are dealing with. The balance of payment will not be released until the lux test is passed. The electricity units being used has halved since installation.

Following a meeting with the football foundation it is likely that the mat replacement cost will be approx. £190,000. There is a shortfall, KCC should have some grant monies available hopefully approx. £10,000 and there will be the current years revenue income to add to the sinking fund balance. The Clerk suggested that the shortfall could be funded from MPC reserves and then replaced with the revenue income surplus for the following years after replacement. The Clerk further reported that reported that the pitch is covered by a clawback clause for the football foundation until April 2027. Cllr Local had emailed as he was not able to attend the meeting and asked if MPC should consider passing the pitch to Minster School. Members considered this and it is not something that is possible during the clawback period to the Football Foundation and it is not something that is felt should be considered at this point.

RESOLVED: to recommend to Full Council to go ahead with the mat replacement if possible in summer 2025 and cover the shortfall in the sinking fund and any further funding available from MPC reserves and replace from future income.

288. PAVILION

the clerk reported on 2 quotes received to replace all of the guttering. the least expensive was £5250. the clerk, groundsman and Cllr Fordyce had looked at the problem areas and felt that sections could be replaced by our staff.

Cllr Local had also asked about MPC's efforts to move to net zero. solar panels at the cemetery were considered and the electricity use is minimal compared to the cost of solar panels. An electric van would again be very expensive in relation to the minimal mileage of the current van. There is currently no KCC funding for EV points. The use of solar panels has been considered in the past and once again it was felt that the risk of damage and the cost would not be viable.

Meeting closed at 11.04 a.m.

Chairman

Date