

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th June 2022 at 7:30pm at Bisham Abbey.

Attendees

Councillors: Cllr Jim Cook (Chairman), Cllr Alan Keene (AK) (initial Chairman), Cllr Mary Cooper (MC), Cllr Derek Oliver (DO), Cllr Mandy Robson Brown (MRB), Cllr Ged Wylie (GW).

District Councillors: Cllr Mandy Brar joined the meeting at 8.20pm.

The Officer of the Council: Barry Malki (BM) was unavoidably absent. MRB was asked to take the Minutes.

Public Forum

Seven members of the public attended the meeting in person. AK took the chair for the first ten minutes of the meeting.

- a) One resident from Beynhurst Glade, Burchetts Green Road, came to inform the parish council of the problems residents were experiencing because of the extensive rebuilding at Greetwell, at the end of their shared private lane. The builders were said to be working through daylight hours, often starting very early in the morning before 0700 and finishing late in the evening, sometimes up to 2100, using various machines which made a lot of noise and made it impossible for people to enjoy their gardens. Large lorries and articulated lorries are using the narrow lane, causing problems. He said the communal woodland may be damaged by a trench which had been proposed. The owners are rarely there but he said that he had managed to speak to them to ask for more consideration of the neighbours, but without any success. This work has been going on for months and even went on throughout the Jubilee weekend. The Borough has been informed of the nuisance. Another resident of the Lane asked whether there were any time conditions noted within the application's Approval, but the parish council believed that there were not. Although the RBWM does have general noise restrictions, there was nothing that was specific to this site. Cllr Brar said that she would contact the Environment officers of RBWM to find out what the general restrictions are. Vehicles quite often block the whole lane and sometimes make it difficult for traffic on the road to see whether the road is clear for them safely to drive into Burchetts Green Road. AK advised the residents to go on to the Borough website to put in formal Complaints about the hours of working and the noise of machinery at any time, early or late. They should quote what noise and nuisance there was, as well as the hours and the days of the week, in addition to the danger on the highway caused by the lorry movements. The parish council were asked also via the Clerk to contact the Borough on behalf of the residents. Complaints had been made to Enforcement officers but this is not the correct department to contact.
- b) Another resident asked about training for the defibrillators in Temple and Bisham Village. There have been three sessions for residents already, but it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange another session.
- c) It was reported that the pavement-side of the hedge by Bisham School needs to be trimmed again and that proper removal of the long-standing amount of debris, and growth to the edge

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of the pavement, at the base of the hedge was a priority, as the pavement is made much narrower than is needed for residents with pushchairs or with any disability.

- d) The fencing from Abbey Lodge to the School has become overgrown in places with ivy and there is an overhanging branch. The Clerk was asked to contact the Abbey and ask them again to clear both the fence and the branch.
- e) An advertising banner has appeared on the white bridge over Bisham Brook which is attached, it is thought, to the balustrade. This is an RBWM bridge, not a parish council bridge. The event advertised has already taken place but the banner has not been removed. GW reported that advertisements for horse trials at BCA have been put up at several points in the parish, especially near the Burchetts Green roundabout. He reported that he had spoken to BCA because he was concerned that this was a traffic issue, as drivers could be distracted by the signs, but the signs had not been removed. Councillors commented that RBWM road signs often stay in place long after road works have been completed, and at the time of the meeting the road closure signs at each end of Burchetts Green Road, put in place to close the road for the party on Jubilee Sunday, were still in place, which is very confusing for drivers, as the road is not closed.
- f) A resident from The Green thanked the RBWM for cutting the grass on The Green but said that nothing else outstanding had been done. The litter bins are still overflowing and trees due to be cut back or taken down remain. Debris from earlier work still remains. He thanked Cllr Brar for the new village 'gate' signs but was of the opinion that they had been put in the wrong place, specifically mentioning the one at the A404 end of the road which seems to be pointing towards Temple, and he voiced the opinion that there should be a 20mph limit on the length of road from The Green to beyond the School. He said there had been several accidents on this stretch recently and that speeding cars had made the High Street dangerous, as cars are parked there. The parish council had not been consulted where the new 30mph 'gate' signs should be placed and it was suggested that we might again ask for the stretch of road past the school to have the speed limit reduced to 20mph as it is for many local schools (e.g. Altwood School, Cookham Dean School and also in The Pound, Cookham) although the problem is that in Bisham the School access is actually off the road in Church Lane, rather than on the main road.

Part One

23) Apologies for absence

JC apologised for being late for the meeting – he had been held up by a telephone call from the Clerk and Borough Cllr Brar apologised for arriving late owing to her earlier meeting. The Clerk sent his apologies for not attending, as his car had broken down.

24) Declarations of Interest

AK declared a personal interest in application 22/01471

MC declared a personal interest in the discussions about Greetwell, Beynhurst Glade, which was not the subject of an application.

25) Corrections to Minutes of the meeting of 16th May

Public Forum: Re. Bisham Brook Restoration Group. Correct to: JC questioned whether this was *in accordance with* the Environment Agency guidance for the brook.

Correct to: AK suggested that the Council should be informed of any maintenance work on Parish Land by third parties *for approval before it is carried out*.

Planning:

Application 22/00952. Correct to: **Cllrs were neutral to this application and had no comment, but noted that it would be subject to the approval of Historic England.**

Application 22/01029. Correct to: **Cllrs were neutral to this application and had no comment other than that it was subject to the Tree Officer's approval.**

Application 22/01208. Correct to: **Cllrs were neutral to this application and had no comment other than that it would be subject to the Conservation Officer's approval.**

Governance: Risk Management:

Paragraph 2 – Correct to: BM clarified that volunteers are classed *as if they were similar to an employee working on behalf of an organisation*.

Paragraph 5 – Correct to: JC proposed *that changes to the document should be proposed and considered for adoption at a subsequent meeting*. Complete remaining comment as before.

Governance: Complaints Policy:

Correct to: JC proposed *that changes to the document should be proposed and considered for adoption at a subsequent meeting*. Complete remaining comment as before.

Governance: Expenses Policy:

Correct to: JC proposed *that changes to the document should be proposed and considered for adoption at a subsequent meeting*. Complete remaining comment as before.

Cllr Brar joined the meeting at 8.20pm.

26) Matters Arising

a) GW reported that he had made contact with a third company who might be interested in doing the necessary work on the Playground. He is carrying on with his investigations and so the council decided to leave this until he can report again next month,

b) Cllr Bar reported the Speedwatch has now been taken out of the remit of the police and will only be carried out by residents. Training would be given to a group of volunteers (of at least four people) and the group would then be lent a speed gun for a six-month period. Thereafter if successful, each parish council would buy its own speed gun. Three people are needed to be on duty each time the speed gun is used. Information on speeding is then passed to the police who send a letter to the driver of the vehicle. The day, time, speed and vehicle registration number would need to be noted. GW reported that people in Burchetts Green were also interested in taking part in this scheme, involving therefore both the parishes of Bisham and Hurley. Every group would officially individually sign up for the scheme. Cllr Brar will make contact with the scheme organisers.

Following the Public Forum discussion, MC had previously asked Cllr Brar about the action to be taken about the noise at Greetwell, Beynhurst Lane. Some photographs of the site have been taken by a resident, which will be passed to her. MC, as a resident in the Lane, spoke about the problems at the site which had been discussed at the Public Forum.

c) JC reported that the Clerk was getting no response from the Borough on various issues; Cllr Brar reported that the Borough is apparently having problems recruiting new staff.

27) Ongoing Actions

The Chairman had received nothing in advance of the meeting from the Clerk, which he would probably have reported upon orally had he been able to attend the meeting. Over the years the parish council has made various efforts to set up a system to keep up to date with the progress of issues, to include Planning. We do need the progress of applications to be available for review at subsequent meetings.

MRB spoke about the building which continues at Hockett Corner in Hockett Lane. The Conditions application has had several new documents with changes added to it since it was considered by the parish council. What is being built is neither the Approved application nor the Conditions application. She said that instead, additional Variation applications should have been submitted to take account of the changes which the parish council knew nothing about, as the original Conditions application had already been considered before there were more documents added to the list. This problem may also concern Lowater, in Church Lane, since although there have been multiple applications about this site, it is possible there are changes of which the parish council is unaware.

Greetwell, Beynhurst Glade was again discussed, noting what had been said by residents during the Public Forum. Cllr Brar is helping with support of the parish council. However, she advised that the best route was for residents to send their concerns direct to the RBWM via the Complaints link on the Borough website. She also suggested residents could write to Victoria Goldberg and Arron Hitchen (RBWM Enforcement) and to Andrew Durrant who is their senior officer. It was agreed that the parish council needs to support the residents by making our own complaint and the Clerk will be asked to do this. The Borough will be asked about hours of permitted working, as currently the site is noisily operational both early in the morning and late in the evening on many occasions.

Hideaway, Quarry Wood will be receiving an Enforcement letter concerning the Refused application for the car park area on the river side of the road, but the Borough should be reminded also of the fencing on the other side of the road, which is without the required planning permission, right on the edge of what is a highway. The Clerk was asked to make contact with RBWM about this other fencing.

28) Planning

Appn. Date: 12th May 2022 Appn No.: 22/01274 (and 22/01275/LBC)

Type: Full

Proposal: Installation of EV charge point at the driveway.

Location: 15 Bisham Village Marlow Road Bisham Marlow SL7 1RR

Determination Date: 7 July 2022

These two applications had become separated and the LBC application was considered last month. GW said that the cable should not be painted as mentioned; it should be installed as low as possible on the wall and should be shrouded. He also said that the light should not be removed from the charger, as he thought it was likely to be a 'status' light.

The Councillors were Neutral to the application apart from the comments above.

Appn. Date: 23rd May 2022 Appn No.: 22/01397

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Type: Works to Trees In Conservation Area
Proposal: As per the attached tree works schedule.
Location: Stoney Ware Bisham Road Bisham Marlow
Limited Room 4 1 Market Place Mews Henley on Thames RG9 2AH
Determination Date: 4 July 2022

DO asked that the Tree Officer be requested to take special attention to recommend and/or require some replanting of the mature trees which it is requested should be felled.

The Councillors were Neutral to this application subject to the Tree Officer's investigation and approval.

Appn. Date: 24th May 2022 Appn No.: 22/01420
Type: Discharge of Condition
Proposal: Details required by Condition 3 (Lime Plaster Detail) of Listed Building Consent 21/02714 for the Consent to retain internal works comprising of works to floor levels in the first floor bathroom to facilitate drainage with associated remedial works and reinstatement of ceilings to the ground floor, partition between bathroom and landing and re-plastering to the ground and first floors.
Location: 15 Bisham Village Marlow Road Bisham Marlow SL7 1RR

Determination Date: 19 July 2022
No further information or plans were available. The parish council asked that the Conservation Officer be satisfied that the Conditions had been fully met. The Councillors were Neutral to this application subject to the Conservation Officer's approval.

Appn. Date: 26th May 2022 Appn No.: 22/01434
Type: Works to Trees In a Conservation Area
Proposal: C1- Cypress tree - crown reduction and reshape of approximately 50% to a final height of 4 m, C2 - Cedar tree - fell.
Location: 8 Bisham Court Bisham Marlow SL7 1SD
Determination Date: 7 July 2022

The Councillors were Neutral to this application subject to the Tree Officer's approval.

Appn. Date: 1st June 2022 Appn No.: 22/01479
Type: Full
Proposal: Part two storey, part first floor front/side/rear extension with 4no. first floor rear balustrades, new side canopy and alterations to fenestration.
Location: 3 Cross Road Cottages Henley Road Maidenhead SL6 6QW
Determination Date: 27 July 2022

This is a resubmission of an earlier application. The parish council asked that it should be deferred for further investigation by the Borough Highways department because of safety concerns with large vehicles going into and out of the site.

The Councillors were Neutral to this application provided that the Borough ensured that safety would not be compromised.

Appn. Date: 7th June 2022 Appn No.: 22/01538

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Type: Works to Trees in a Conservation Area

Proposal: (T1) Sycamore - crown reduction of height and spread by up to 3m - radius to be no less than 4meters (T2) Sycamore - crown reduction of height and spread by up to 3m - radius to be no less than 4m (T3) Sycamore - crown reduction of height and spread by up to 3m - radius to be no less than 4m (T4) Conifer Hedge - reduce height by up to 5m and trim garden side creating flat top and side and (G5) Line of Conifers - fell to ground and grind stumps to 12inches below ground.

Location: The Thatched House and The Thatched House Cottage Bisham Road Bisham Marlow SL7 1RL

Determination Date: 19 July 2022) 22/01538:

There were no drawings for this application, only a photograph. There was no up to date arboricultural report. The parish council asked that the Tree Officer visit the site to check through the application carefully before any decision is made.

The Councillors were Neutral to this application subject to the Tree Officer's approval.

29) Highways

1. Cllr Brar will be going round the Ward with a Borough officer in the next few days, to look at damaged or low manhole covers, about which there have been many complaints. She will contact GW in time for them to meet when she gets to Burchetts Green. MC spoke here about the state of the pavement from the Burchetts Green roundabout to the kennels site; the pavement is too narrow as it has not been properly cleared.
2. There was a further brief discussion, following the residents' complaints during the Public Forum, to ask the Clerk to write to Bisham School to ask them to trim the roadside hedge again, but particularly to clear the debris from the bottom of the hedge, which is what is really making the path so narrow. The Clerk would also be asked to write to Bisham Abbey to ask them to clear the ivy off the fencing on the stretch of the road near Abbey Cottage to Lowater, and also to cut the overhanging branch.
3. The idea of a 20mph limit past the School was discussed. It was felt that the RBWM would resist this idea because the road through Bisham is a main road, even though all the local schools now have a 20mph on the access road; however at Bisham the access road is actually in Church Lane, not from the main road. The new Bisham signs on the white 'gates' have only just been put in place and it was felt that we should wait for a period of time before asking the Borough for something else new.
4. The traffic problems in Church Lane continue as the building work at Lowater is not completed. There have been times when the Lane is completely blocked by lorries and often it is difficult for traffic to get to the church and sometimes to leave. The site working hours have in the main been good, not starting before 8.00am, as was mentioned within the application Conditions, and only working on a Saturday morning, not all day. The parish council is concerned about the actual use of The Boathouse, which although near the river has no access to it. The application drawing showed two boats moored within it, so it may be used for the storage of small boats that can be lifted out of the river. AK asked that the Clerk check whether the RBWM could visit the site, to check that the boathouse is built as per the applications. Several residents have commented on the size of the building. DO noted that he had an interest in these matters as he lived on Church Lane and commented that there is often a natural reaction to think a building is bigger than shown on the plans. The only way to establish this would be via an officer site visit to measure up the main house, but it was not felt that this would be useful at this late point in the build.

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30) Parish Land

- a) The contractor has now tidied up the debris on the Slipway and Braywick did an extra cut of the grass in time for the Jubilee. A deadline needs to be set for the retendering of the contract for the Parish Land. AK proposed a date of 1st August, which would give the Clerk time to prepare a tender document for the work and all agreed this would be a suitable date. Meanwhile the council asked the Clerk to distribute copies of the current contract with Braywick.
- b) AK commented on the problems with the emptying of litter bins. The dog bin is already emptied under a separate contract. The council discussed whether our own contract for emptying litter bins should be set up, instead of relying on the Borough. The Clerk was asked to research contractors we could contact with a tender, again to be available by the 1st August. DO commented that we need two more dog bins, one on the Slipway and a second one for the Orchard, where there is already one by the gate which is often full. Currently we have five litter bins but only one dog bin. In the Orchard we need one by the main road gate to replace the current bin which is not in good condition, and another at the Green Lane end. The Clerk was asked to price two new dog bins and find out how it would financially affect our present contract.
- c) The willow tree by the river has been cut back but the Clerk was asked to get the contractor back again as there is concern from the church that it is still unbalanced by the large branches to one side. The advice from the tree company who prepared the report on the willow for the church recommended a more radical cut back of these branches.
- d) A resident has asked whether a plaque could be put on the tree planted near the back gate of the School and another plaque for the Coronation Oak, which is not on parish land. The Clerk was asked to explore the cost of two small plaques and JC will try to find out what event the tree near the School was planted to mark, as no-one at the meeting knew.
- e) GW reported that the Borough did not have a dedicated budget to support the parish council on the playground works. GW will ask Naomi Markham of the RBWM if there is any Section 106 money available that could be used to help us with these costs. It is possible that there might be a sponsor.
- f) The RoSPA Report has noted that the climbing frame with the net needs some repair as there is a failed suspension point. The twin swing also needs attention. The company who installed the equipment will be coming to inspect it in the next week.

31) Flooding

No new flood boards have arrived yet. The EA is supplying them (for the last time) and they decide where they are to be placed. The RBWM Flood Report and Emergency Report are not yet complete.

32) Finance

In the absence of the Clerk this could not be discussed.

33) Correspondence

In the absence of the Clerk this could not be discussed.

34) Information Reports

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AK reported that he had attended the recent meeting of the Rural Forum. It was decided that the Rural Forum would work to produce a suitable Biodiversity Action Plan.

There being no other matters to discuss, the meeting ended at 10.15pm.