

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 20th March 2023 at 7:30pm at Bisham Abbey

Attendees

Councillors: Jim Cooke (JC)(Chair), Alan Keene (AK), Ged Wylie (GW), Derek Oliver (DO) and Mandy Robson Brown (MRB)

District Councillors: Cllr Mandy Brar.

Part One

Public Forum

One member of the public reported that they had submitted a planning application, and that BPC's objection was based on uncertainties about the ownership status of an area known as The Warren. The resident stated that they were also unsure of the Warren's status.

AK confirmed that there had been historic issues around the status of the land.

JC believed that the Warren was a designated Green Space, and that there should be no access across it. The resident believed that the area in question was part of the curtilage of the property. MRB disagreed noting that the land to the side of No 1 was not a driveway but, with the land behind 1 and 2, formed part of The Warren and was, to her knowledge, owned by the owner of No 2.

JC noted that the Warren was offered to BPC to manage as Parish Land, but had been sold to residents in an ad-hoc fashion for many years.

DO noted that usage of the land can create permissive rights of access. The resident noted that no rights of access are shown on the property deed. DO stated that rights may exist even if they are not indicated on the deeds.

JC asked if the strip of land in question was included in the deeds. The resident confirmed that it was.

MRB confirmed that some pockets were purchased as part of garden extensions.

JC asked if RBWM had made a decision on the application. The resident confirmed that the application is still being considered.

GW stated that if the ownership can be proven with the deeds, then the issue would be moot.

One member of the public asked if there were any considerations to lowering the speed limit on Marlow Road, as there is a danger around vehicles trying to negotiate the parked cars at speed. JC reported that the issue had been discussed for a number of years, and that the police believed that the parked cars discourage speeding. Speed Bumps had also been mooted but discounted due to the potential impact on the foundations of surrounding properties. The road is also too narrow for chicanes.

GW asked the resident what they felt was an appropriate speed limit for that part of the road. The resident suggested 20mph.

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Clerk: Barry Malki

Email: clerk@bishamparishcouncil.org.uk Tel: 07751141223

One member of the public asked if there was any news on the new dog waste bin. BM responded that it was awaiting installation.

One member of the public asked if there was an update on the repairs to the footbridge. BM responded that Sarum had visited and were preparing an inspection report with costs. indicated One member of the public noted that the fence still hadn't been repaired, and that a large sign had been erected. BM to contact the fencing company.

One member of the public asked about the possibility of a temporary traffic camera to monitor issues during rush hour, such as cars mounting pavements, and coming very close to pedestrians. Cllr Brar asked the resident to email her with an outline of the problem. BM to speak to PCSO regarding monitoring.

One member of the public reported that the abandoned vehicle on The Green had now been registered as abandoned by RBWM and would take up to ten weeks to remove.

One member of the public offered praise to Holfords for their recent work on the Parish Land.

One member of the public asked if it was possible to include two notices regarding village events for Easter and the Coronation in the noticeboards.

One member of the public asked if there had been any movement with the Woodland Trust on the issue of parking for Bisham Woods.

JC responded that he had received no response from the WT manager, but that previous conversations had inferred that there was not much that could be done, short of petitioning the nearby residents who are limiting the access.

One member of the public reported that following the last instance of flooding in 2015, RBWM and the Environment Agency said that the bridge at the end of The Green should be raised. MRB noted that it had been raised, but not by enough.

One member of the public asked if there would be more defibrillator training. BM responded that he was talking to the company about battery replacement and would be sorting training when that had taken place.

AK asked the residents of The Green about the potential impact of the application for a tree removal at the end of the row of houses, as it may provide screening from the A404. The residents stated that there wouldn't be any impact on their properties.

One member of the public raised the Cllrs attention to the works that had taken place around the entrance to Stoney Ware estate, noting that many of the ancient laurel and sycamore trees had been removed, which were known to provide a habitat for bats (following a survey approx. 20 years ago). The resident had reported the issue to the Tree team at RBWM and highlighted that no bat survey had taken place. RBWM's response was reported to have been that they had no issue with the application or the work. The resident has reported the issue to Natural England and will be taking further action.

GW questioned whether the works undertaken had been within the scope of the application. DO noted that the application included trees all around the site.

DO stated that RBWM needed to address the questions as to whether the trees that were removed were covered by the application, including the basis for the Tree Officer's decision.

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The resident stated that their main concern was the lack of consultation with neighbours. DO believes that the neighbours should have been notified as standard procedure. The resident reported that the head of the Tree Team, Helen Leonard, stated that there was no need to consult with residents in the case of this application.

MRB asked what the Tree Officer's report had specified. The resident reported that the Tree Officer specified that the trees should be replaced with native species.

BM noted the difference between applications concerning trees within the conservation area, and applications for works to trees covered by a TPO.

The resident believes that destroying a known bat habitat constitutes a criminal offence.

One member of the public reported that a large section of the slate fence will not be reinstated, and that a new post-and-wire fence has been erected.

JC noted that works have already been carried out on the land around the existing footpath. AK believes the owner is pre-empting the decision to divert the footpath.

GW suggested that the landowner may be looking to reinstall the slate fence in future. AK believes that it is still not right to do so without permission, due to the status as a historical structure.

124. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mary Cooper (MC)

125. Declarations of Interest

None

126. Minutes of Previous Meetings

1st February 2023

GW was unhappy with a statement that appeared to suggest that under-utilisation of the playground was presented as fact.

BM reported that the only mention of the playground usage was "MC stated that she was not supportive of ringfencing £6k for Special Projects, which would nominally be used for the playground, as many parishioners did not get a benefit from it." which constituted the opinion of a Cllr.

The Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes of 1st February as an accurate record of the meeting of the Council.

20th February 2023

GW asked that the item about preparing a report be changed to "report back to Cllrs".

The Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes of 20th February as an accurate record of the meeting of the Council.

127. Matters Arising

See Ongoing Actions

128. Ongoing Actions

BM gave an update on action list items.

- Temple Meadow TPO – This has been received from RBWM. DO believes that a significant number of trees within the TPO area have been removed without permission and suggested that the Tree Officer marks the trees that are covered by the TPO. DO to draft a letter to Helen Leonard.
- Quarry Wood Parking – Cllr Brar met with Cllr Clark and Neil Walter, who has proposed a double yellow line up to the Guide hut, then single yellow line for 30m then a double yellow line up to Marlow Meadows. MRB asked if they wouldn't take the double yellow line further. Cllr Brar responded that that would happen at a later date. GW believes a conversation should be facilitated between the Rowing Club and the Compleat Angler for a solution.
- 30mph Speed Limit – currently being discussed with the Highways team. Parking solution and speed restriction needs to be holistic and focus on impact in the surrounding area.
- BM updated that Cookham Waste were now emptying the waste bins and dog bin.
- BM noted that there were new election rules for voters and that he had posted the information on the website and in notice boards.

129. Planning

Appn. Date: 20th February 2023 Appn No.: 23/00407

Type: Variation Under Reg 73

Proposal: Variation (under Section 73) of Condition 9 (Approved Plans) to substitute those plans

approved under 21/02380/FULL for a replacement dwelling with amended plans.

Location: Pallium Quarry Wood Road Marlow SL7 1RE

Determination Date: 17 April 2023

Cllrs Comments: The Cllrs were neutral to this application and had no comment.

Appn. Date: 10th March 2023 Appn No.: 23/00627

Type: Works To Trees In Conservation Area

Proposal: (T1- Pine) - Fell

Location: 1 The Green Bisham Marlow SL7 1RY

Determination Date: 21 April 2023

Cllrs Comments: The Cllrs were neutral to this application and had no comment subject to the approval of the Tree Officer. Cllrs stipulated that they would like to see a suitable replacement planted if appropriate.

Appn. Date: 7th March 2023 Appn No.: 23/00587

Type: Cert of Lawfulness of Proposed Dev

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness to determine whether the proposed replacement single storey extension is lawful.

Location: The Forge Golden Ball Lane Maidenhead SL6 6NW

Determination Date: 2 May 2023

Cllrs Comments: The Cllrs were neutral to this application and had no comment.

The Cllrs had been unable to review 23/00603 as it had only been published earlier in the day. Cllrs to review and comment via email prior to the next meeting.

130. Highways

MRB reported that the uphill section of Quarry Wood Road is deteriorating, possibly due to the movements of heavy vehicles.

Cllr Brar noted that some repairs had taken place, but that they were not suitable.

GW noted an incident with speeding on Burchetts Green Road and had asked RBWM to install repeater signs.

Cllr Brar noted that they were going to be installed shortly.

JC reported that National Highways had been in touch to request a non-public meeting regarding plans for the A404.

BM to liaise and find suitable dates.

131. Parish Land

AK stated that the advertising sign on the Orchard fence needed to be removed. JC asked if Cllrs would accept a small sign. JC stated he would be happy with a very small sign.

MRB reported that the grass is growing at the slipway where the ground was damaged, but that the ground still needs levelling. BM to get a price from Holfords.

JC asked for one of each event notice to be placed in the large notice board in the village.

132. Playground

GW had circulated a report to Cllrs and was still awaiting refreshed quotes from the suppliers.

GW noted that CIL money was still available, but that BPC would have to put in around £2900 depending on the refreshed quotes.

AK proposed a thank you to GW for his efforts on the playground.

133. Flooding

No update

134. Finance

BM reported that the Council had £9,317.34.

135. Timetable 23/24

CLLrs decided to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 19th May 2023. BM to arrange, and to ask Jill Boulton to be a guest speaker.

AK noted that there was no need to amend standing orders if the timetable is adhered to.

BM noted that, in the event of minutes not being agreed at a subsequent meeting, draft minutes would be published on the website.

136. Correspondence

BM noted that the Bisham Church Friends group had asked to plant a tree on the slipway to mark the coronation.

MRB suggested that the Orchard would be more appropriate.

JC asked to find a suitable date for planting.

BM to liaise with the Friends Group.

137. Information Reports

AK met with PCSO Lorraine Holmes who would like to attend future meetings if available. BM to liaise.

AK reported his attendance of the Rural Forum, noting that there was nothing on the agenda specific to Bisham.

AK reported on the Community Crime and ASB summit, and that there would be a consultation to help allocate funding and resources.

DO reported that there were works being carried out to trees in Bisham Woods, and that there were cases of ash dieback. DO suggested it would be useful to speak to the WT regarding their management plans for the woods.

One member of the public commented that the Bisham Brook Restoration Group had been in touch with the new manager and had spoken about future plans, particularly around clearing trees from the brook. JC suggested that the new manager be invited to a future meeting.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 21:49

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Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor