

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17th April 2023 at 7:30pm at Bisham Abbey

Attendees

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

District Councillors: Cllr Mandy Brar.

Part One

Public Forum

One member of the public introduced herself as the new Chair of Burchetts Green Village Association and was looking to build stronger links with BPC going forward. There are a number of ongoing issues currently being dealt with in conjunction with RBWM, such as speeding and traffic noise.

One member of the public asked if National Highways had liaised with BPC, highlighting that local residents had received a letter regarding upgrade and remediation works to the culverts and parts of the structure of the A404. The repair work will take place over summer and will last approximately 12 weeks. It was noted that the works will require access to BPC land. BM to liaise with National Highways representative.

One member of the public asked when the new bins were to be installed. BM noted that Holfords had indicated May 5th alongside the carpark works, but this may change due to weather etc.

One member of the public asked about defibrillator training. BM noted that the machines were due to be renewed and training would take place once that had happened as the units may differ. AK asked that we extend an invite to BGVA once the training is in place.

One member of the public gave an update on the recent Community Speedwatch session noting that four drivers had been caught. The group would like to expand the Speedwatch site, and place signs at each end of the village, which would need planning permission and funding.

One member of the public reported that a further bollard had been displaced around the memorial. BM gave update on position of RBWM regarding the bollards and asked for residents to capture images of lorries making the turn over the verge.

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Clerk: Barry Malki

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One member of the public noted that the land belonging to No4 The Green had been sold but had been divided into smaller parcels. DO noted that there would be a number of important planning issues that would need to be considered if the proposal to erect garages for third party use on this land that had been referred were taken forward. DO also noted that there was a separate question of whether the existing wayleave agreement would apply to the proposed use. BM to provide a copy of the Wayleave Agreement for DO to review.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Jim Cooke

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting of the Council held on 20th March 2023.

4. Matters Arising

See Ongoing Actions

5. Ongoing Actions

BM gave an update on action list items.

- Repairs to the orchard fence are complete. The contractor has agreed that a 50cmx50cm sign would be the smallest he would accept in lieu of the £400 balance for the initial works.
 - MRB proposed paying the £400 and removing the sign.
MC seconded.
Motion was carried.
- BM has been liaising with the Friends of the Church group regarding the Coronation Event on the slipway.
- BM gave an update on the Annual Parish Meeting
- The meeting with National Highways regarding the future of the A404 is to be on April 24th at 7pm.
- BM updated on the investigation into the Precept Variation, noting that there was a typing error on the spreadsheet which gave an incorrect variation. GW stated that the budget needs to be reviewed at the May meeting. It was noted that this was a significant and regrettable error which meant that the report submitted to RBWM had not reflected the will of the Council in reaching its decision for the precept for 2023-4 at its meeting on 1st February where the matters under discussion had been considered on the basis of the appropriate percentage increase in the precept to be applied and the corresponding amount that such increase would produce. BM to report on this to the next Meeting.

6. Planning

Appn. Date: 9th March 2023 Appn No.: 23/00603

Type: Full

Proposal: First floor front extension with gable features, 2 no. front dormers, part two storey side/rear and part first floor front/side extension, single storey side infill extension, first floor side extension with 1no. Juliette balcony, rear balcony, support posts, single storey side/rear extension, hip to gable, PV panels, alterations to fenestration, new steps and ramped access and raised terrace following demolition of existing single storey element and detached outbuilding.

Location: Marlow Meadows Quarry Wood Road Marlow SL7 1RE

Determination Date: 4 May 2023

CLLrs Comments: The CLLrs were neutral to this application, but noted that there was no flood risk assessment undertaken, and asked that the Borough be satisfied with the measures in place.

Appn. Date: 13th April 2023 Appn No.: 23/00897

Type: Discharge of Condition

Proposal: Details required by Condition 2 (Materials), 4 (Landscaping), 5 (Surface Water Drainage and 8 (Biodiversity) of Planning Permission 21/02380 for Replacement dwelling.

Location: Pallium Quarry Wood Road Marlow SL7 1RE

Determination Date: 8 June 2023

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

The CLLrs discussed the Wider Area Growth Study published by RBWM and Slough Borough council. MC noted that one of the areas indicated in the study fell within Bisham Parish and stressed that the Council must be vigilant as to future developments.

DO noted that the document provides evidence for future Housing Development on, primarily, Green Belt sites.

GW stated that he doesn't agree that the term "evidence" is appropriate for an informative study.

MC thought it would be useful to identify the barriers to progressing the highlighted development.

DO noted that a significant factor for all of the sites, was the local transport infrastructure.

BM to ask for BPC to be kept informed of future plans.

AK asked for an update on the BCA development plans. Cllr Brar noted that they were approved last year.

7. Highways

MC reported that a new sign had been installed at the junction of Burchetts Green Road, but that it was incorrectly positioned. Cllr Brar had reported to Highways team.

MC noted that there was an increase of litter on the A404.

MC noted that Lee Lane was still flooding following heavy rainfall.

MC thanked Cllr Brar for reporting the pothole on Lee Lane.

DO commented that he felt the drains were not being cleared sufficiently often, or thoroughly enough. GW noted that it is rare that the drains are cleared on Burchetts Green Road.

8. Parish Land

AK noted that the Berkshire Flag was becoming worn and asked for opinions about replacing it with the union flag more generally, not just at specific events. GW felt that the impact would be greater if flags were only flown periodically.

9. Footbridge Works

BM presented the costs for repair or replacement supplied by Sarum Hardwood.

BM to obtain additional quotes and ask Sarum to investigate main beams.

10. Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Bisham Abbey at 7pm on the 19th May subject to an appropriate room being confirmed by Serco.

11. Elections

BM gave an update on the elections, noting that they were uncontested and left BPC with five Cllrs, so would need to discuss co-option at a future meeting.

AK offered thanks to MC and MRB for their long service to the Council and the Parish.

MC said it had been a privilege to serve the Parish and hopes that new members of the council regard the full geography of the Parish, including Pinkneys Green, Stubbings, Burchetts Green and Cookham Dean.

MRB said that it had been privilege but felt that it was time for new people to come forward to support the Parish.

12. Flooding

Colin Lemmings noted that the recent flood alert was very close to being upgraded to a flood warning, and that the river had still not returned to normal levels. CL also noted that excess groundwater was still causing significant problems, and that RBWM was not giving enough attention to the issue.

CL noted that the recent Flood Liaison meeting had been ineffective, and that this may have been impacted by purdah. The new Borough-wide plan is now 5 months late to be published.

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CL noted that the Environment Agency were only focussing on short-term solutions, and that alerts were still automated based on rising river levels due to industrial action.

AK thanked CL for his work liaising with the EA and asked if we had needed to trigger the Emergency Plan. CL confirmed that there had been no Flood Warnings for two years. CL also noted that RBWM's wider emergency planning, which should reflect infrastructure changes, hadn't been updated since 2013.

13. Finance

BM gave an update on closing the year down on the accounts software, ready for the audit process.

14. Correspondence

BM reported that National Highways had asked for access to Parish Land to conduct a biodiversity study.

15. Information Reports

GW met with BGVA and was pleased to see that they were actively trying to build a working relationship with BOC. He is happy to act as a liaison going forward.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 21:23

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Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor