

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th September 2023 at 7:30pm at Bisham Abbey and via video conference.

Attendees

Councillors: Jim Cooke (JC)(Chair), Alan Keene (AK), Ged Wylie (GW), Derek Oliver (DO), Colin Lemmings (CL) (via Video Conference).

District Councillors: Cllr Mandy Brar.

Part One

65. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mark Howard (RBWM)

66. Declarations of Interest

None

67. Minutes of Meeting 21st August 2023

Cllrs asked that more detail be included in Matters Arising, including the additional points emailed by DO and particularly noting the following items.

- Bridge Restoration – the detail of the discussion needs to be recorded.
- Slipway – update on the original strake with the damaged fixing, and the repair to the damaged surface. Holfords to provide quote for the repair.

Cllrs asked that the minutes be amended and distributed ahead of October meeting. BM noted that the draft minutes would be published in the interim.

JC proposed that future meetings be recorded for reference purposes, and recordings kept for six months.

Ak seconded.

Cllrs agreed.

BM noted that the recording of the meeting would need to be reflected on the public notices.

68. Matters Arising

Bridge Restoration – BM updated on conversations with Sarum Hardwoods, who believe that the likely hood of needing to replace major structural parts of the bridge is very low but can't say with certainty without removing parts of the decking. The way the decking is fixed means that it would

BISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Barry Malki

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

probably be damaged in the course of being removed and would need to be replaced. Sarum introduced to GW in order to undertake a site visit and discuss in more detail. AK agreed to attend. GW had visited the bridge and considered that the structure was sound. GW also noted that there was some softness on the exterior parts of the bridge on the Orchard side, which may benefit from a cutting back of trees to allow additional sunlight and wind to reach the bridge. AK noted that it was important to take the advice of the suppliers with regards to long term maintenance. GW and AK agreed to present at future meeting following site visit. A further report on progress on this matter would be presented to the October meeting

Bins and Slipway Strake – BM reported that Holfords had agreed to undertake the works during the week of 2/10/23 although this may be impacted by weather.

Slipway Repair – BM reported that pictures had been taken but didn't show damage clearly. The School had accepted responsibility for these costs Holfords had agreed to price the repairs. DO noted that there was a new Head Teacher at the school.

Bollard – BM reiterated that RBWM considered the repair of the bollard at the Eric Gill memorial not to be a priority. DO suggested that a more resilient structure might be beneficial. AK suggested something decorative, but higher up may work. CL reported that the decorative stones had been removed. Cllr Brar agreed to raise with Highways to find a solution. CL suggested speaking to the nursery manager for support.

Temple Lane TPO – BM reported that there had been no written response to the letter the Council had sent to RBWM on this matter and updated on conversations with Helen Leonard, the head of the Tree Team at RBWM, noting that they didn't see the Temple Lane TPO as an enforcement priority due to restricted resources, and that they were more focused on health and safety related issues. Cllrs asked to escalate the issue and ensure the letter reached the Tree Team's line-manager (Adrien Waite).

Orchard Debris - BM reported that Holfords had started to remove the leftover debris as part of their work in the Orchard.

Coffin Bier – JC proposed putting the Coffin Bier to bed, as its fate is uncertain. AK seconded. DO agreed. GW stated that he would prefer to wait until a definitive answer had been received from Reading Museum.

Defibrillator Training – BM reported that the defibrillator training from the new provider would be £395 per session. JC proposed allowing £395 for one session with a view to adding another at a later date if demand was high enough. AK seconded. Cllrs Agreed.

Flood information – JC noted that there was a new Flood Information board in Higginson Park. CL noted that it had been erected by J. Boulton, a Flood Risk Consultant.

Bisham Woods Access – JC noted that he was still trying to get in touch with the Woodland Trust manager for a site meeting.

Quarry Wood Parking – DO asked BM to chase Neil Walter for specific answers to the points raised in the letter sent regarding Quarry Wood parking. JC asked if there was a response policy to correspondence at RBWM. Cllr Brar confirmed that it was 10 days. DO noted that it was important to

BISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Barry Malki

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

ensure that letters that had not been responded to within this time were followed-up routinely and efficiently

Overgrown Access to A308 – BM noted that this had been reported but was unclear if the work had been undertaken.

Cookham Waste – BM noted that the Direct Debit had been set up for Cookham Waste, who would begin emptying bins immediately.

Electronic banking - BM reported that Lloyds would be contacting the Councillors directly in order to set up the electronic banking facility. AK questioned why it was taking so long to complete these standard arrangements and BM was instructed to chase Lloyds on this

Cain Bio Environmental Survey – BM reported that he had received the Health and Safety documentation from Cain Bio. CL reported that the damage to the car park was getting worse and the scalping had been exposed.

Playground car-park - BM reported that Highways England had confirmed that it would repair the damage promptly. CL noted that the situation was deteriorating as the scalping were now exposed.

Tree Survey – BM noted that the Arboriculturist had given a quote of £450+VAT to assess the works that need to be done in The Orchard and The Green, and that the tree survey would take place on 27/09/23 if price agreed. JC proposed accepting the quote. DO seconded. Cllrs agreed. BM to get quotes for works prior to October meeting.

Slate Fence – BM noted that the owner wanted to re-erect the slate fence but was currently being held up pending approvals from Historic England and the Conservation Officer.

Diverted Footpath – BM reported that the owners had decided to go ahead with their application to divert the footpath following consultation with stakeholders including the Ramblers. CL thought the diversion of the footpath would make the reinstatement of the slate fence pointless. AK felt that the value of historic assets is not reduced because they can't be viewed.

Gateway into Orchard – BM reported that the Public Rights of Way team were discussing internally whether there was an issue with a private access into the Orchard. CL noted that the gateway has only been in place for two years. DO noted that installing a gate will have, in effect, caused damage to the existing fence. AK noted that it would be very difficult to prove who owned the fence as it was in place prior to the Council taking on ownership of the Orchard. AK was supportive of people being able to access the Orchard and that it should be encouraged. CL disagreed and thought the gate should be blocked. AK felt that as a designated Public Open Space, it would be counter-intuitive to block access. CL noted that there had been an issue regarding dumping of green waste in the Orchard at the gate. AK agreed that we needed to write to the owner to stop the dumping. JC proposed writing to the residents and raise the subject of dumping. AK seconded. Cllrs agreed. AK proposed allowing the gate to remain in place. GW seconded. JC agreed. DO abstained. CL was unable to vote as he was attending via Video Conference but asked that his dissention be minuted.

Website – BM reported that the website had been updated, and the additional links requested by CL had been added.

BISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Barry Malki

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

Temple Footbridge – BM should write to the Environment Agency to request a timetable for the proposed works that will be carried out to this bridge

School Hedge – JC proposed writing to RBWM and thanking them for dealing with the hedge, but also asking for confirmation about future management responsibility.

69. Ongoing Actions

See matters arising.

70. Planning

Appn. Date: 21st August 2023 Appn No.: 23/02061

Type: Variation Under Reg 73

Proposal: Variation (under Section 73) of Condition 2 (Approved Plans) to substitute those plans

approved under 23/00399/LBC for the consent to repair 2no. internal timber posts with amended plans.

Location: Tithebarn Bisham Grange Temple Lane Bisham Marlow SL7 1RS

Determination Date: 16 October 2023

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

Appn. Date: 1st September 2023 Appn No.: 23/02131

Type: Works To Trees Covered by TPO

Proposal: (T1) Ash - section fell dead central stem. (015/1979/TPO).

Location: Land To South West of 15 Temple Mill Island Bisham Marlow

Determination Date: 27 October 2023

Cllrs' Comments: The Cllrs were neutral to this application and had no objection, subject to the Tree Officer's approval

Appn. Date: Wed 06 Sep 2023 Appn 23/02181/LBC

Type: Listed Building Consent

Proposal: Consent for internal decoration works inclusive of minor alterations to improve upon poor historic modern additions, alongside fire safety improvements

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

Cllrs' Comments: The Cllrs were positive to this application, and had no objection subject to approval by Historic England and the Conservation Officer.

The Cllrs highlighted the following inaccuracies in the application;

- The application states that the building is not in the flood plain, when it is.
 - The application states that the works are internal, but some of the work highlighted is external.
-

Appn. Date: Wed 06 Sep 2023 Appn 23/02180/FULL

Type: Full

Proposal: Internal decoration works inclusive of minor alterations to improve upon poor historic modern additions, alongside fire safety improvements.

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

Cllrs' Comments: The Cllrs were positive to this application, and had no objection subject to approval by Historic England and the Conservation Officer.

The Cllrs highlighted the following inaccuracies in the application;

- **The application states that the building is not in the flood plain, when it is.**
- **The application states that the works are internal, but some of the work highlighted is external.**

71. Highways

BM noted that the abandoned caravan on the A404 had been reported by the Highways England reporting portal. Cllrs asked to chase for update.

GW reported that he was to attend a meeting regarding the proposed new business park and would report back to the Council regarding any traffic concerns that may impact the parish.

DO asked if Cllr Brar could enquire as to any further information regarding the future plans for the pumping activity on the A404.

GW noted that the Roadworks Portal on the RBWM site was not particularly user-friendly when looking for information.

72. Parish Land

See Matters Arising.

It was reported that the work to the Brook would not now be carried out in September as the required permission to close the road to enable the works to be undertaken had not been granted. It was noted that the proposal regarding works to the trees on the bank was still awaited

73. Playground

GW reported that the HAGS works removing and replacement of the swing and removal of climbing frame had been completed in line with the quotation. JC thanked GW and CL for their work on the playground project.

GW updated on the damage to the slide on the large climbing frame - which he believed to be wear and tear, rather than deliberate - and has spoken to sovereign regarding a repair who suggested that a repair may be cheaper directly from the slide manufacturer. GW noted that CL had secured the slide to avoid it being used.

74. Co-option

BM updated Cllrs reporting that no one has come forward for co-option.

AK proposed extending deadline to 8th October.
JC seconded.
Cllrs agreed.

BM to inform RBWM's Electoral Services of the situation.

BM to speak to the Temple Mill Island residents' group to see if they will share the flyer to members.

75. Flooding

CL reported that the latest Flood Liaison meeting had been cancelled.

76. Finance

BM updated the Cllrs with the latest financial report.

77. Correspondence

None.

78. Information Reports

DO suggested it might be worth writing to the new political regime within RBWM to engage with them regarding the Article 4 issue previously proposed. DO to provide a cover letter to accompany the original letter.

AK reported that the Royal East Berkshire Agricultural Association Annual Ploughing Match and Show was to take place in Stubbings.

JC attended the Marlow Society meeting and reported that the works to the bridge had been postponed until next May. The capstans had been damaged and were to be replaced. The meeting confirmed that there would be no ANPR cameras on the bridge, but that signs could be erected advertising ANPR cameras. AK suggested a flashing warning sign for overweight vehicles would be a useful solution.

JC reported that an unofficial meeting regarding the proposed film studio had drawn a lot of negative attention.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 21:50

-----End-----

Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor