

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 16th October 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)

District Councillors: Cllr Howard.

Officer of the Council: Barry Malki

Public forum

One Member of the Public reported that there would be no further work to the Brook until spring due to RBWM's requirement that The Green needs a three-month lead in for a closure. Cain Bio had applied for the closure in August, meaning that work could have potentially taken place in November, but the Environment Agency (EA) wouldn't give permission beyond October due to trout spawning season. Cane Bio will reapply for permission with both organisations.

One Member of the Public asked when the new dog bin was to be sited. BM gave an update on the bins explaining that they would be onsite around the XXXX but this was contingent on weather.

One Member of the asked about the repairs to the footbridge into the Orchard. GW has asked the contractor for a date for a site visit but hadn't had a response. CL reported that there were holes in the decking, asked if they had been made as part of a structural survey. GW stated that it was unlikely Sarum Hardwoods (the original bridge builder) had made the holes and that they may be the result of wilful damage. GW said that he would inform Cllrs when he had had further information from Sarum.

Cllr Howard gave an update on the hedges at the school and the Abbey, stating that the process had been very complicated. The lower growth is the responsibility of RBWM, and the higher growth is the responsibility of the school. GW noted that there needs to be more footpath exposed outside the school. Cllr Howard reported that after the first cut, it was deemed insufficient so has since been cut further back. Cllr Howard noted that the Highways Act states that the hedge should be cut back by a "reasonable amount". DO noted that there is a small white kerb now visible along the inside edge of the tarmac. Cllr Howard reported that the structure of the Academy/School made communication and decision making difficult. CL thanks Cllr Howard for helping get the issue dealt with.

Cllr Howard conducted a site walkabout from the White Bridge to Bisham Roundabout to clarify ownership of different pockets of land.

Cllr Howard reported that Cookham Bridge will be closed to vehicles for six months to allow for the deck to be lifted and the bearings to be serviced. This will be the first time this work has been conducted since the bridge was erected 150 years ago. The 50 year and 10 year maintenance activities will take place simultaneously.

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Cllr Howard reported that he was in contact with the EA regarding Temple Footbridge. CL noted that there was an update on the RBWM website stating that repairs wouldn't take place until at least 24-25 budget year.

Cllr Howard reported that there RBWM was facing a financial deficit of £6m in the current financial year, and forecast a deficit of £7m in the next financial year, based on an interest rate increase to between 6-8%. This may result on some parish priorities being even further down the priority list for the Borough, so it's possible the question of devolved services may be raised in the future. GW asked where the cost savings would be for RBWM. Cllr Howard answered that some contract could be delivered by smaller, local contractors. DO asked if there was any indication which services are likely to be devolved based on other wards. Cllr Howard was unable to provide an answer. DO stated the BPC would need to understand the current costs for different services within the Parish. Cllr Howard reported that he had only had vague responses to questions about contracts, rather than detailed breakdowns. CL asked if this was related to the current Highways tender. Cllr Howard reported that that was focus on hard infrastructure works. AK noted that devolution has come up before, and was always a resource issue, so the best approach may be to partner with a neighbouring Parish. Cllr Howard agreed that that would be a conversation worth having.

Cllr Howard reported that he was currently looking into the spending of Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy funding, and a report is to be compiled.

Part One

79. Apologies for absence

Cllr Mandy Brar

80. Declarations of Interest

None

81. Minutes of Meeting 18th September 2023

JC asked about the levels of detail that Cllrs wish to be recorded in the minutes, stating that he believed that they should be a brief record of decisions and pertinent discussion. Factual accuracies would need to be addressed at subsequent meetings. DO stated that discussions need to be accurately reflected so that there is a month-by-month record of progress on issues. AK agreed as this would be the only way for the public to get a regularly update.

BM stated that he felt it went against good practice of transparency to agree significant amendments to minutes by email outside of meetings, and that each item to be amended should be discussed, agreed and recorded as part of the Minutes item on the agenda.

The following items for amendment were discussed:

- Item 67 – DO wished that it be noted that it was agreed that the recordings of the meetings were to be kept for a period of six months as discussed. Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – Bridge Restoration – DO asked that the sentence “The way the decking is fixed will likely damage it and require replacement” be replaced with “The way the decking is fixed

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means that it would probably be damaged in the course of being removed and would need to be replaced." Cllrs agreed.

- Item 68 – Bridge Restoration – GW asked that the sentence "GW had visited the bridge and was satisfied that the structure was sound" be replaced with "GW had visited the bridge and considered that the structure was sound". Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – Bridge Restoration – DO asked that the following sentence be added "A further report on progress on this matter would be presented to the October meeting" be added. Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – Slipway Repair – DO asked that the following sentence be added "The School had accepted responsibility for these costs". Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – Temple Lane TPO - DO asked that the following sentence be added "reported that there had been no written response to the letter the Council had sent to RBWM on this matter and". Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – DO asked that a new item be added regarding the Orchard that states "BM reported that Holfords had started to remove the leftover debris as part of their work in the Orchard.". Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – Temple Footbridge – DO asked that the sentence "DO asked that BM speak to the Environment Agency to get an up-to-date report on the footbridge" be replaced with "BM should write to the Environment Agency to request a timetable for the proposed works that will be carried out to this bridge.". Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – Cain Bio – CL asked that the sentence "CL reported that the area around the culvert was getting worse and the scalping had been exposed" be replaced with "CL reported that the damage to the car park was getting worse and the scalping had been exposed". Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – Quarry Wood Road Parking – Do asked that a new sentence be added stating "DO noted that it was important to ensure that letters that had not been responded to within this time were followed-up routinely and efficiently.". Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – Tree Survey – Do asked that the sentence "BM noted that the Arboriculturist had given a quote of £450+VAT" be replaced with "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". Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – Cookham Waste – Cllrs asked that this item be split into two separate points, Cookham Waste and Electronic Banking. DO asked that the following sentence be added "BM also 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." Cllrs agreed.
- Item 68 – DO asked that a new item regarding Playground Parking be added, including the following sentence "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."
- Item 72 – Parish Land – DO asked that the sentence "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" should be added. Cllrs agreed.
- Item 73 – Playground – DO asked that the sentence "GW reported that the HAGS works were complete" be replaced with "GW reported that the HAGS works removing and replacement of the swing had been completed in line with the quotation". GW asked that "removal of climbing frame" be added after "swing". CL asked that the sentence "GW

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updated on the damage to the large climbing frame” be replaced with GW updated on the damage to the slide on the large climbing frame”. Cllrs agreed.

Cllrs stated that there hadn’t been time to review the August minutes as the amended version had only recently been sent out. BM noted that the amendments were copy and pasted wholesale from DO’s email, which had been approved in the September meeting. There were no amendments further than those which had already been approved.

82. Matters Arising

- Item 67 – Cllrs had posited keeping recordings of meetings for a period of six months at the September meeting. AK felt that the retention period needed to be longer, and asked why they couldn’t be kept indefinitely. BM noted that the recorded meetings would be subject to data protection legislation, of which storage limitation is a key principle, and would like to get guidance from the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). DO stated that he didn’t believe length of time was a factor in this instance. JC asked if RBWM record meetings. Cllr Howard said they did but didn’t know how long they were retained. JC asked BM to get a definitive answer from the ICO.
- CL asked when the new bins were to be installed. BM reported that the work was scheduled to take place in the last week of October, but that it would be weather dependant. CL asked BM to get clarity on which day the contractors would be on site.
- AK asked if there was an update on the caravan that had been abandoned on the A404. BM reported that, following guidance from National Highways, the caravan is the responsibility of the Police (as it is on an A Road, not a Motorway). The issue had been reported to National Highways and passed on to TVP.
- Ak asked who was responsible for clearing the vegetation on the A308/A404 at Bisham Roundabout. BM explained that some sections were the responsibility of National Highways and some were the responsibility of RBWM, meaning the cutting schedules are not aligned, or consistent. Cllr Howard to report to Highways dept.
- Bridge Restoration – GW stated that the matter was in hand, and he was liaising with Sarum Hardwood to organise a site visit.
- Slipway Strake – BM reported that Holfords would attend to the broken strake fixing.
- Bollard at Eric Gill Memorial – CL suggested contacting the Nursery for support as many of the vehicles a using the road to access the business. GW stated that it was reasonable for vehicles to have Heavy Goods access. AK stated that businesses are not necessarily entitled to be access by vehicles that the infrastructure is not designed for, and it’s not appropriate for roads to be redesigned just to allow that access. DO agreed that there was no private right for people to have roads reconfigured. JC noted that this hadn’t been a problem in the past. GW noted that it is a current tendency of companies to use larger vehicles. JC asked if BPC could replace the bollards. BM noted that the site was not BPC land. AK asked if planning documents relating to the nursery make mention of heavy vehicle access. JC agreed to approach the Nursery owner to discuss possible solutions. JC also noted that it would be worth approaching the Trust that own the land to look at a long-term management solution.
- Quarry Wood Road Parking. BM reported that Neil Walter had responded to the previous later noting that the three concerns highlighted, such as increased speed of traffic “would be monitored”. DO asked that BPC get a formal response that explain how the concerns will be monitored, and what criteria the monitoring will use as indicators.

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- Co-option – JC noted that he was aware of two potential residents who may be interested in standing for co-option and will contact both. If there is more than one candidate, then an extra-ordinary meeting may be called to interview the candidates.
- Cain Bio – CL noted that there will be a site visit prior to any work commencing.
- Car Park – BM to chase Peter Lucie for photographs of repairs. CL noted that the car park sign was missing. CL reported that a camper van had been in the car park for two nights, and that contractors regularly park vans there. JC proposed investigating the feasibility of a barrier or demarcation post. BM to liaise with Highways to look at options.
- Temple Footpath – AK noted that the change of route would not be a planning issue, rather a Public Right of Way exercise. BM to liaise with Sharon Wooton to ensure that BOC are kept in the loop.
- Letter to Bisham Court residents – AK asked for sight of the letter sent to Bisham Court residents.

83. Ongoing Actions

See matters arising.

84. Planning

Appn. Date: 14th September 2023 Appn No.: 23/02257

Type: Full

Proposal: Raising of the ridge and rear eaves, hip to gable, 4 no. front dormers, 3 no. rear dormers to create additional accommodation within roof space, first floor front extension with gable feature, part two storey part first floor side extension, single storey side infill extension, first floor side extension with 1 no. Juliette balcony, rear balcony, support posts, 2no. single storey side extensions to single storey element, PV, panels, alterations to fenestration, new steps, ramped access and raised terrace following demolition of existing elements.

Location: Marlow Meadows Quarry Wood Road Marlow SL7 1RE

Applicant: Mrs Maria Clark c/o Agent: Mr Matt Toovey Aspects Architectural Services Ltd. St Stephens House Arthur Road Windsor SL4 1RU

Determination Date: 9 November 2023

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

Appn. Date: 6th October 2023 Appn. No.: 23/01942

Type: Works To Trees In Conservation Area

Proposal: T1 - Cherry - fell, T2 - Acacia - Crown reduction by 1m as per photograph.

Location: Rivermead Court Marlow Bridge Lane Marlow SL7 1SJ

Cllrs' Comments: Cllrs objected to this application on the grounds that there is no reason given for the Cherry tree to be felled. As the site forms part of the conservation area, Cllrs believe that the Conservation Officer needs to be consulted.

Appn. Date: 3 October 2023 Appn. No.: 23/02415

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Type: Full
Proposal: Replacement dwelling with integral garage following demolition of existing dwelling and garage.
Location: The Mint House Bisham Road Bisham Marlow SL7 1RL
Cllrs' Comments: Cllrs were neutral to this application and had no objections subject to suitable flood mitigation methods being supplied, and that a condition is placed on the property restricting the future use of the garage.

Appn. Date: 12th October 2023 Appn No.: 23/02317
Type: Listed Building Consent
Proposal: Consent for the replacement of failing (both tiles and fixings) plain clay tiled pitched roofs, and lead covered flat roofs.
Location: Bisham Abbey Bisham Village Marlow Road Bisham Marlow SL7 1RR
Determination Date: 7 December 2023
Cllrs' Comments: To be discussed at a later date.

Appn. Date: 12th October 2023 Appn No.: 23/02316
Type: Full
Proposal: The replacement of failing (both tiles and fixings) plain clay tiled pitched roofs, and lead covered flat roofs.
Location: Bisham Abbey Bisham Village Marlow Road Bisham Marlow SL7 1RR
Determination Date: 7 December 2023
Cllrs' Comments: To be discussed at a later date.

GW reported that the Outline Permission for the Maidenhead business park had been rejected due to its position in the green belt, and the impact on bio-diversity.

AK commented on previous conversations, and mention in correspondence, regarding the extension of the Conservation area, believing that the Council needs to solidify its policy on the extension. AK believes that BPC would need expert advice. BM to liaise with Conservation Dept and get clarity on the options available.

AK highlighted that the previous response from Adrien Waite regarding Article 4 suggested that flooding is not an issue when considering permitted development and asked what the national guidelines were for development in the flood plain. GW asked if policy was broad brush, or taken on a case-by-case basis. DO noted that this matter was raised following the application at Little Croft, but that the impact was over a wider area. AK suspected that the adoption of a Borough-wide policy was likely not attractive. DO wished to know if the steer on this policy was from a professional planning standpoint or had been politically driven. JC asked BM to liaise with Cllr Brar and Cllr Howard to keep this subject live.

CL reported that different agencies were backtracking on their responsibilities at a recent flood meeting. CL reported that there was to be a major de-weeding programme along the river, with Thames Water and landowners providing financial support. DO believes this is a way of absolving

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blame for flooding issues, and is affecting the whole borough. GW asked if there had been a recent assessment of flooding across the Borough. CL stated that the EA maps are 15 years old.

85. Highways

AK reported that the milestone on the A404 is obscured. BM to report to National Highways.

DO reported that the brick pillars on the footpath from Winterhill Road to Park Farm are marked as "private" and that the signs advertising the public footpath are obscured. DO also noted that there was no sign at the Bisham Woods end of the path.

JC asked Cllrs to review the RBWM Highways Tender document.

86. Parish Land

See Matters Arising.

87. Playground

GW reported that Sovereign and HAGS were providing quotes for both plastic and metal slides to replace the damaged unit. GW noted that the warranty had elapsed. CL reported that the warning tape had been replaced. GW thanked CL for his help with the Playground.

88. Co-option

See Matters Arising.

89. Flooding

CL gave an update from the recent flood meeting, noting the following items.

- That continued investigative and repair work on Burchetts Green Road was being put to one side due to lack of funding. GW commented that the drainage is ok except in the case of a sudden down-pour, after which there is ponding up against speed bumps.
- That £70m had been spent to date on the Thames Project, with no discernible effect.
- That all parishes will be asked to develop a local strategy for flooding, and that the EA will be writing to each Council with invitations to a Flood Wardens meeting.

Ak reported that flooding on the Burchetts Green Roundabout was currently bad.

90. Finance

No Update.

91. Correspondence

None.

92. Information Reports

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GW noted that a field had been left to go wild between Burchetts Green Lane and Hall Place Lane, which had previously been farmed, and was periodically being flailed. The Estate manager reported that a condition of the lease on the field is that it be maintained in agricultural condition. AK noted that the field had previously been used for grazing.

GW reported an incident of a suspicious character falsely claiming to have been undertaking roof work. GW noted that it had been reported to BGVA.

CL stated that there should be items on the News page of the website. BM to populate.

BM suggested getting the noticeboards professionally cleaned. CL noted that one board is leaking.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 23:09

-----End-----

Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor