

BISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 29th January 2023 at 7:30pm at Bisham Abbey.

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

Officer of the Council: Barry Malki (BM)

Public Forum

One Member of the Public objected to the proposed Green Waste store at Stubbings Nursery, highlighting that the store would be situated around half a mile from the nursery, meaning a one mile round-trip for vehicles to dispose of the waste. This route would pass a number of pedestrian routes, including those for Beech Lodge School.

One Member of the Public raised concerns about the lack of support from agencies such as RBWM and the Environment Agency during the recent flooding, noting that there was no defence assistance such as sandbags, and there was no contact from those agencies. The resident reported that there had been significant property damage in the area.

One Member of the Public reported that they would be out of their house for 12 months and reiterated that they had had no contact from RBWM and felt that contact from the EA was purely "lip service". The resident had to report the flooding to RBWM in order to get Quarry Wood Road closed, and a group of local residents had to help to evacuate people from flooded homes, noting that there was no emergency service presence during the event.

One Member of the Public highlighted that there had been no military presence either, unlike on previous occasions.

AK stated that Flooding was a permanent item on the agenda, but that BPC had no statutory rights or duties in the event of such flooding.

CL highlighted that he was the local Flood Co-ordinator, but that the flood team were very restricted in what they were able to do during a flood event and would be primarily collecting information and intelligence to feed to RBWM. Each Marshal has a list of vulnerable residents, that is kept secure for GDPR purposes. The Marshal would inform RBWM as to the locations of the vulnerable households, and RBWM would then coordinate with the Emergency Services. The Joint Emergency Planning Unit (JEPU) is a new venture to enable different councils to work together. CL noted that he would like local residents to attend future flood meetings with RBWM.

One Member of the Public reported how quickly the water rose, and that RBWM should have a list of the Vulnerable Residents. CL responded that this information was given to RBWM. GW asked what the duration of the event was. The Resident estimated one week.

One Member of the Public believed that the EA should be held to account for mismanagement of the locks and the Jubilee River prior to, and during, the flood event.

One Member of the Public believed that the initial flooding occurring at the weekend had an impact on response times, with fewer staff available. The Resident highlighted the need for a visible response plan, that can be triggered automatically in the event of flooding. CL noted that there is a plan in place, but that it wasn't enacted by RBWM. CL also noted that, since the formation of JEPU,

this plan was now kept internally, and not shared with parishes. AK noted that there is flood information available on the BPC website. The Resident asked that the information be posted on a notice board for people with no access to the internet.

JC noted that, during the 2014 Flood Event, RBWM called in the Military for assistance very quickly, but that the current structure has seen multiple organisations trying to get their act together, and certain elements are being missed. JC also noted that some proposed flood measures were cancelled due to financial constraints. JC reported that he and CL were to meet with RBWM to discuss the issues and would liaise with residents for their views.

One Member of the Public felt that there should be a local, crowd-funded plan that works outside of the auspices of RBWM or the EA

GW stated that he felt JEPU would likely result in better cross-agency working. CL stated that it would depend on the details of the emergency plan, noting that there is funding available, but that it isn't being well utilised.

One Member of the Public felt that the issue lacked co-ordination along the length of the river and would need a Central Government solution rather than a series of local ones. CL noted that the EA focus on the Thames, but Bisham Parish also suffers from Groundwater Flooding. GW felt that the source of flooding shouldn't matter, and that a response should be holistic.

One Member of the Public wondered if the flooding was managed in a way that allowed some areas to flood to protect others, noting that the EA has stated that mitigation measures such as the Jubilee River are running at capacity. DO felt that the flow of water over the weir at Marlow was less immediately prior to the flood. One Member of the Public stated that the Jubilee River was visibly not at capacity.

AK stated that he was supportive of a local initiative, and that it was beneficial to have JC and CL on the Council. AK also thanked two local residents for their help during the flooding.

One Member of the Public reported that they had written to RBWM to report that parked cars displaced from Quarry Wood Road were now parking on Bisham Road, very close to the junction. It had been reported to Cllr. Brar by a resident that traffic-calming measures had not progressed in two years and that blocked gullies had not been cleared. GW noted that the Quarry Wood Road restrictions would have impact elsewhere. CL noted that RBWM had said that it would need issues reporting to flag up issues. AK stated that RBWM had been pressured to install the restrictions by local residents, despite their reservations.

One Member of the Public stated that they would like to see Marlow Bridge lit and painted; as well as being aesthetically pleasing, it would also be safer for residents. AK reported that there is a scheme to install decorative lighting, but that BPC objected to it. AK also noted that the period lanterns are not working. The Resident asked how it would be possible to move forward with repairing the lanterns as a solution. AK stated that this would require liaison with Marlow Town Council and Bucks Council as the bridge is their responsibility. JC agreed to raise the issue at the approaching Marlow Society meeting.

One Member of the Public highlighted a report that stated that Cookham Bridge would be fitted with ANPR, but this wouldn't be happening on Marlow Bridge. AK felt that the situation was frustrating as this would be a perfect solution, but the official position was that ANPR cameras were

not legal in that situation. One Member of the Public noted that an ANPR system can identify the ownership of a vehicle, but not necessarily the weight.

One Member of the Public noted that the width-restriction bollards have likely been tampered with, as removed parts are still on site.

One Member of the Public noted that some local residents were compounding blocked gullies but not clearing green waste in the autumn and believes that BPC should contact the residents proactively.

One Member of the Public noted that she had received planning to raise her property by 12 inches, but following the recent flooding, has decided that this won't be enough. A report had recommended it be raised by a further 12 inches, which would cause some difficulties as her husband has mobility issues, and they have been told that they can't have a ramp due to the location within the conservation area. The Resident asked for Council support for a future application. AK stated that BPC can't comment on future applications, but it helped for Cllrs to understand the issues. GW suggested that there would be a third-party agency that could provide advice and support.

Part One

118. Apologies for absence

Cllr Brar
Cllr Howard

119. Declarations of Interest

None

120. Minutes of Meeting 18th December 2023

DO had sent out amendments on the day of the meeting, but Cllrs had not had time to review. AK proposed to review by next meeting.

121. Matters Arising

BM noted that items would be covered in the agenda.

122. Planning

Appn. Date: 5th December 2023 Appn No.: 23/03013

Type: Full

Proposal: New front entrance canopy, single storey side/rear extension, replacement of the front

and rear dormers, a flat-floored valley and raising of chimney stack and alterations to the external finish and fenestration following the demolition of the single storey rear elements.

Location: Penrose Glebe Henley Road Maidenhead SL6 6QW

Determination Date: 30 January 2024

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

Appn. Date: 6th December 2023 Appn No.: 23/03007

Type: Full

Proposal: Porch infill, first floor rear extension with terrace, replacement and alterations of all doors and windows.

Location: High Oaks East Paddock Cookham Maidenhead SL6 9UP

Determination Date: 31 January 2024

Cllrs Comments: The Cllrs objected to this application on the grounds that it is an incomplete submission, with insufficient information provided to make a decision.

Appn. Date: 14th December 2023 Appn No.: 23/03090

Type: Full

Proposal: Erection of a Green Waste Storage Compound.

Location: Compound At Stubbings Nursery Henley Road Maidenhead

Determination Date: 8 February 2024

Cllrs Comments: The Cllrs objected to this application, citing the following concerns:

- **That the proposed siting of the facility is on the wrong side of the A404, and should be closer to where the waste is generated to reduce an increase in traffic movements along Stubbings Lane.**
 - **That the proposed site is positioned close to neighbouring residential properties, and will constitute a significant nuisance with increased air-pollution and machinery noise.**
 - **That a condition be placed on the application that the facility only deal with waste generated on the estate and not brought in from other areas.**
 - **That a condition be placed on the application that the product of the green waste is reused where possible, and not exported off the site.**
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Appn. Date: 20th December 2023 Appn No.: 23/02967

Type: TPO

Proposal: (T1 and T2) Oak Trees - Reduce height leaving 15m. (T3) Oak tree - Reduce height leaving 8m. (T7, T8, T9, T10) Beech trees - Shorten lower branch to mid-crown branch tips by up to 8m (near historic pruning points). (010/1990/TPO)

Location: Compton Cottage 111 Marlow Road Pinkneys Green Maidenhead Marlow SL6 6NR

Determination Date: 14 February 2024

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

BM gave an update on correspondence with Adrien Waite regarding Temple Meadow, noting that there had been no reply or acknowledgement to several chasing emails. BM suggested giving a deadline to AW before escalating the issue. It was agreed that if no response from Adrien Waite had been received by 2 February, BM should escalate the matter by writing to the CEO and the Leader of the Council at RBWM.

DO noted that the Inspector reviewing the recent appeal case for Pound had given no specific direction regarding the particular trees to be used for restoring the hedge due to the absence of any information regarding the species in the original hedge.

123. Highways

CL reported that RBWM enforcement on Quarry Wood Road started on 4th January, and data would be collected for a period of time to gauge impact on the surrounding areas. BM to liaise with Cllr Howard and Cllr Brar regarding the testing phase, including information on the data gathering methodology.

CL reported to RBWM that the footpath diversion onto Temple Lane is not safe. Cllr Brar liaised with Traffic Officer who agreed, and felt that pedestrians should be discouraged, but was happy with the speed limit in place. CL stated that even a temporary limit, until the diversion is cleared, would help.

GW reported that there was an increase in on-road parking on Burchetts Green Road, possibly due to local construction. RBWM suggested calling 101 if the cars were causing an obstruction.

124. Parish Land

AK gave an update on the site meeting with M&J Trees, noting that they would start work on the listed tree works on Thursday. One member of the public asked if there was a plan to replace any felled trees with fruit trees. AK stated that there would be a programme of replanting, but not yet as there needed to be additional works undertaken.

DO noted that a number of the ash trees that had been flagged for removal would be more cost effective to be removed before they got bigger. AK noted that that was M&J's recommendation.

AK suggested asking the Contractor engaged to work on the brook to pollard the willow trees. One member of the Public reported that the contractor would begin work in February and suggested sourcing replacement trees through The Conservation Volunteers.

DO stated that the fruit trees looked like they had been planted as part of a scheme.

AK stated that it was doubtful that any replanting would take place in 24/25.

GW noted that BPC should advise RBWM about ongoing works and to secure any permission for the tree works that is required. BM gave an update on permissions and noted that he had sought the advice of the Tree Team. It was confirmed that works to dangerous trees did not require permission but that applications might be necessary for the planned works to the ash trees if they were not a danger

CL noted that the group attending the site meeting were unable to find the branch that had been reported as touching a conservatory. BM to speak to resident.

GW reported that he had asked Sarum Hardwood to produce a new quote based on a number of material economies including softwood decking, which would likely come in around £1,000 less than the previous quote of approximately £6,000.

JC asked about the lifespan of the softwood decking. GW responded that it was approximately 10 years.

GW proposed the Cllrs allow up to £6300 for the works.
CL seconded.
Cllrs agreed.

CL noted that the lane at The Green would be closed from 9th February for preparatory works on the culvert. Cllr Brar has reached out to the contractors to apprise them of the issues around flooding, and that it may be better to rearrange. BM to speak to Peter Lucie for an update.

125. Playground

BM to place a 'CLOSED' sign at the entrance to the Playground until the written confirmation had been received from Thames Water concerning the treatment it had carried out at the site to clean up the sewage.

AK asked if it was possible to get PlaySafety to conduct their inspection earlier than usual, in light of the recent flooding. BM to liaise with PlaySafety.

BM reported that Holfords will install the bins on 30 January and will inspect the roundabout on 12 February to advise on whether the work it proposed would be effective.

126. Flooding/Flood Recovery

CL highlighted the issue with the Flood Emergency phones, noting that the numbers had become obsolete due to not having been used. BM had spoken to Vodafone who stated that a text must be sent from each phone, ideally every 60 days, to keep the phone number active. Two new sim cards were on the way, and CL and BM would update the website and the leaflet. BM to place updated leaflets in the noticeboards.

CL proposed allowing £50 for leaflet printing.
AK seconded.
Cllrs agreed.

127. Finance

BM gave an update on the finances, noting that the Council had £14,124.51 as of the end of December.
DO asked that the financial statements be sent out via email prior to the meetings.

128. Budget 24/25

BM updated the Cllrs on the reworked budget.

DO asked that more detail be provided about items in the budget.

AK stated that it was not practical to get too granular. AK reminded Cllrs that the task was to approve the precept, not the budget.

DO stated that the amount allowed for tree works in the coming year was incorrect. BM noted that the figure was sent out in the reworked budget prior to the meeting with the Tree Surgeon, at which point the listed tree works were brought forward into the current financial year. DO stated that the figures were therefore incorrect. BM explained that the quoted figure of approximately £4,000 would move from the proposed expenditure of 24/25 and come out of the reserves of 23/24 instead, which would then be recouped in the reserves top-up calculation, meaning the precept figure is unchanged. AK asked if moving the figure into the current financial year had any effect on the bottom line. BM responded that it had no impact. It was agreed that the budgeted provision for tree works in 24/25 should be increased to £8,500.

DO asked if it would be useful to put an explanatory note on the website explaining why there was to be an increase in precept for 24/25. CL felt it was a good idea to increase the information available on the website. BM to draft a paragraph highlighting the future works in the Orchard and the Playground.

JC proposed setting the precept at £45,701.63.
GW seconded.
Cllrs agreed.

AK asked BM to provide a narrative on the budget.

CL asked if there was an insurance provision for volunteers. BM noted that volunteers were effectively classed as staff for insurance purposes, but that there needed to be a more formal volunteer recruitment process. CL suggested seeking advice from JEPU.

129. Council Vacancy

JC and CL were due to meet with a potential candidate and report back to the Cllrs.

130. Correspondence

BM updated on correspondence with Peter Lucie regarding the Preparatory works to the culvert project. Works would commence on 9th February, although this may be impacted by recent flooding issues

131. Information Reports

GW noted that the application for the Maidenhead Business Park had been rejected but was to be appealed.

GW reported that he had attended the Airfield Committee.

AK asked that Cllrs start to think about the Annual Parish Meeting. BM to speak to Flood Expert speaker who had been earmarked for the previous APM.

The next Meeting will be held on 19 February

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 22:47

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Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor