

BISHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Barry Malki

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Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15th April 2024 at 7:30pm at Bisham Abbey.

Attendees: Councillors: Jim Cooke (JC) (Chair), Alan Keene (AK), Ged Wylie (GW), Colin Lemmings (CL) Jo Kearsey (JK)

Ward Cllrs: Cllr Mandy Brar

Public Forum

Representatives of Bridge Hydro (BH) gave a presentation on their proposed energy generating initiative on the weir in Bisham. The energy generated would be sold to create a sustainability community-fund to support net-zero focused projects in Marlow and Bisham. The project is not-for-profit and is forecast to generate £50-£150k per year, depending on scale.

JC asked what the capital costs were, and how this would be raised. BH answered that they were working on the assumption of £2m, funded through trusts & foundations, philanthropic giving and ESG partnerships, noting that a similar project in Caversham raised £1.2m this way.

AK asked why the proposed position of the generating unit was not the same location as the current “drop” on the weir. BH noted that the contractor had developed the design to be as discreet as possible, but that different positions were being modelled.

AK asked what the legal structure of Bridge Hydro would be when the project was up and running. BH noted that they would likely be a Community Benefit Society or a Community Interest Company.

CL had concerns about the disruption that construction would bring to Bisham. BH reported that they will be using land provided by the Compleat Angler, but that detailed construction plans had not yet been addressed.

CL noted that local residents’ concerns were likely to be around flooding and would need to be convinced that anything placed there would be an improvement on the current situation. BH noted that modelling had shown that the flow in that area would be increased by 18 tonnes per second, and the addition of sluices would give the Environment Agency increased control.

GW would like to see further technical information regarding the flowrates and felt that the scheme could be scaled-up, but that this would be met with more resistance. BH suggested coming to a future public meeting to present more detailed information. GW asked if this scheme would prevent a larger, future scheme. BH responded that the financial projections would include a decommissioning fund.

GW asked if Compleat Angler would be purchasing the energy. BH stated that that was their preferred option as it was financially beneficial to sell to a single, local user, rather than transmitting through the grid.

GW asked about storage of energy. BH noted that if the system were over-producing at any time, the excess would be fed into the grid.

Part One

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Derek Oliver (DO)

2. Declarations of Interest

None

3. Minutes of Meeting 18th April 2024

The Council RESOLVED to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting of the Council held on 18th March 2024.

4. Matters Arising

BM gave an update on the matters arising, and the action list. The following points were raised:

- The council had received three quotes for defibrillator training. JC proposed accepting the Red Cross quote of £595 (+VAT) for up to 12 people. GW seconded. Cllrs agreed.
- GW to look at closure dates for comments on Maidenhead Office Park and send a summary of concerns.
- GW has identified two additional traffic surveys for Burchetts Green and believes that there is an “uncanny equivalence” in some of the data; that there were an increasing number of speed infringements over time, but that the salient point was the increased volume of traffic.
- JK has attempted to contact the local resident regarding the Oral History project but has yet to hear back.
- BM reported that he had been unable to contact the proposed guest speaker for the APM either by phone or email. CL suggested a representative of the National Flood Forum. BM also to invite Environment Agency representatives.
- Cllr Brar reported that she had a meeting arranged with the Bisham Court resident to look at the overhanging tree that has yet to be identified.
- Cllr Brar to organise a site meeting on Temple Lane to look at the Speed Limit issue.
- GW noted that Sovereign had looked at the roundabout regarding raising the ground level, but they did not believe that building up the ground is the right solution as it would affect the bearing. GW to write up a specification of work, but believes the roundabout is safe to use in the interim.
- CL reported that people had parked on the verge along The Green to use The Orchard.

5. Planning

Appn. Date: 11th March 2024 Appn No.: 24/00550

Type: Full

Proposal: Replacement dwelling

Location: The Stocks Stoney Ware Bisham Road Bisham Marlow SL7 1RN

Determination Date: 6 May 2024

Cllrs Comments: Cllrs object to this application citing the following concerns:

- That there is a lack of detail how the flooding requirements are to be met.
- That there is a lack of ecological report as the location is sensitive to bats.

- That there is no statement regarding the proposed occupancy of the property.

Appn. Date: 14th March 2024 Appn No.: 24/00651

Type: Variation Under Reg 73

Proposal: Variation (under Section 73) of Condition 13 to substitute those plans approved under 23/01696/FULL for a new dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings with amended plans.

Location: Pentangle East Paddock Cookham Maidenhead SL6 9UP

Determination Date: 9 May 2024

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

Appn. Date: 19th March 2024 Appn No.: 24/00687

Type: Discharge of Condition

Proposal: Details required by Condition 3 (Biodiversity Enhancements) of Planning Permission 22/00885/FULL to Remove existing boathouse, touring caravan, stores, hard-standing and fencing, repair river wall, erect replacement boathouse and jetty.

Location: 3 The Boathouse Temple Lane Bisham Marlow SL7 1RS

Determination Date: 14 May 2024

Cllrs Comments: Cllrs stated that they could not understand how the condition could be discharged when there appears to be no evidence available that the condition has been satisfied.

Appn. Date: 19th March 2024 Appn No.: 24/00677

Type: Cert of Lawfulness of Proposed Dev

Proposal: Certificate of lawfulness to determine whether the proposed new front porch and single storey rear extension is lawful.

Location: Tommerhytte Quarry Wood Bisham Marlow SL7 1RF

Determination Date: 14 May 2024

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

Appn. Date: 2nd April 2024 Appn No.: 24/00726

Type: Listed Building Consent

Proposal: Consent for the removal and replacement of existing roof tiles and battens, stripping and disposing of the felt roof to the flat roof of dormer, repair timbers where required and repair/upgrade fire break walls, cover roof and overhaul of rainwater goods.

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

Determination Date: 28 May 2024

Cllrs Comments: Cllrs were positive about this application and had no comments.

Appn. Date: 4th April 2024 Appn No.: 24/00811

Type: Works To Trees Covered by TPO

Proposal: Willow Tree - Pollard as shown. (074/2003/TPO)

Location: River Cottage Temple Lane Temple Marlow SL7 1SA

Determination Date: 30 May 2024

Cllrs Comments: Cllrs were neutral to this application and had no comments subject to Tree Officer approval.

Appn. Date: 4th April 2024 Appn No.: 24/00822

Type: Works To Trees Covered by TPO

Proposal: (T1) Beech - crown reduction as per photograph ; (T2) Sycamore - removal of any dead wood over 30 mm in diameter and to laterally reduce the lower canopy by up to 2.5 metres from the branch tips back to suitable growth points and raise the canopy to 4m from ground level by

removing the lowest limb back to where it originates; (G1) 2 x Silver birch - reduce to approximately 1.5m below the phone lines and the remaining canopy pruned to shape and (G2) 4 x Sycamore - fell.
Location: Little Stubbings Burchetts Green Lane Burchetts Green Maidenhead SL6 3QP
Determination Date: 15 May 2024

Cllrs Comments: Cllrs were neutral to this application and had no comments subject to Tree Officer approval.

6. Highways

AK reported that a number of streetlights were out on Burchetts Green Roundabout. BM to report to Highways.

CL reiterated that there would be a site visit to Temple Lane regarding the speed limit and reported that he had spoken to a resident who was hit by a vehicle whilst walking there.

AK suggested that there may be a possibility to reclassify the road as a Green Lane.

CL reported that there were due to be "Cyclists Dismount" signs placed on the bridge, noting that he had witnessed people injured by passing cyclists.

7. Parish Land

BM reported that he was having difficulty putting a specification together for Tree Works as the works had been unidentified. Unlike the general ground's maintenance, tree works were much less predictable, and the cost could vary hugely.

JC proposed putting onto a future agenda item to discuss.

8. Playground

GW gave an update on the confusion around Sovereign's price for undertaking the slide replacement, citing different discount values that had been communicated. He would continue to liaise with them to get a clear understanding of the final price, including discount.

9. Temple Footpath Consultation

The Cllrs discussed the proposal by the landowner to divert the footpath through Temple.

AK proposed objecting to the application due to the loss of amenity to local residents (i.e. the ability to view the slate fence which is a scheduled monument), but recommended that, if RBWM was minded to approve the change of route, that the footpath be constructed in a way that provides some wider benefit to local residents, such as including a cycleway.

JC Seconded

Cllrs Agreed

BM to submit comments to RBWM.

BM to write to the Conservation Officer regarding the time frame for the reinstatement of the slate fence.

10. Temple Meadow TPO

Cllrs discussed the response from Andrew Durrant regarding the enforcement of the Temple Lane TPO.

CL suggested escalating the issue. BM noted that the issue had already been escalated to the CEO and Leader of RBWM, so a further escalation would need to be to a higher authority.

AK recommended engaging Natural England.

CL recommended engaging with th EA due to the loss of transpiration as a flood mitigation.

AK suggested that the Council reply to RBWM expressing disappointment in their position, and that other avenues will be investigated.

11. APM

JC noted that he would be providing a Chair's Report for the APM and will be asking each member of the Council to present a short report.

12. Flooding

CL reported on the meeting with the EA but had doubts about the accuracy of the river level measurements as the gauges on the Marlow Lock are incorrect.

CL noted that the area was now out of flood alert status as of 11-04-24.

CL stated that the Council urgently needs to meet with RBWM regarding the recent flooding, as this will inform any changes to the Flood Emergency Plan.

CL noted that the information on the RBWM website is incorrect.

13. Finance

BM presented a new format for presenting financial information at meetings (see attached), which details performance against budget etc. Cllrs were positive about the new format so long as it was sustainable.

BM gave an update on the electronic banking noting that the Cllrs were still waiting for electronic card readers.

14. Correspondence

None

15. Information Reports

JC reported that he had attended a Marlow society meeting, noting the following items:

- That lighting on the bridge had been agreed, but the process had been held up by RBWM. There are some issues relating to access to the control box under the bridge, due to the proximity of the canoe club.
- That the bridge repairs would take place after the Cookham bridge repairs were completed.

- That there had been an uptick in vandalism in the area, but that local CCTV was not helpful as it was too low resolution.
- That there was a proposal to increase parking by creating a raised deck on the car park near Sainsburys.

16. News Items

Cllrs asked that the following items be put on the News Page during the next update:

- Welcome to Cllr Jo Kersey.
- Date for Defibrillator Training.
- Information about APM.
- Orchard Footbridge Works Complete.
- Slide replacement works complete.

Part 1 of the meeting closed at 22:53

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Date Agreed:

Signed:

Position: – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor