

Chairman: Councillor Mr J Pugh
Councillors: Councillor Mr G Chater, Councillor Ms E Farrell, Councillor Mr C Harrison, Councillor Mrs M Lawrence, Councillor Dr H Price, Councillor Mr P Robinson, Councillor Dr J Walmsley
Apologies: Councillor M Lawrence & Councillor P Robinson
Interim Clerk: Mrs J Flanders
Attendance: Councillor P Cooper & Councillor A Bond from Buckinghamshire Council
Parishioners: 10

1. Apologies for absences

Councillor Mr P Robinson and Councillor M Lawrence sent in their apologies. There were no other apologies were received.

2. Disclosure of interest on items in agenda

No Councillors present needed to disclose for any item on the agenda other than Councillor Chater for items 12, 14.4

3. Reports from Buckinghamshire Council Councillor and the Police

Councillor Peter Cooper reported on several items:

3.1 that the Millway Barn site was supposed to have been cleared of all building materials including the Klargester, rubbish and fencing. There are apparently still items left on the site and these should be removed. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a letter to Enforcement requesting them to visit the site and chase the owner to remedy this.

3.2 He had been contacted by James Henderson of Leighton Road regarding the number of deer being knocked down and the Clerk confirmed that she had made contact with TfB who refused Deer Signs on the basis they did not consider it necessary nor did they wish there to be a clutter of signs along the road. In order to ask them to reconsider it was agreed the Clerk would write formally to Councillor Cooper who could then try to take the matter further.

3.3 He clarified why WWRPC had been asked to comment on the proposed solar farm in Hulcott (Item 5 below) because the PC had commented previously and the solar farm would be visible from Wingrave. He confirmed that the Countryside Trust were not opposed to the application but wanted better access along the footpaths for disabled/wheelchairs and to improve the bridges.

3.4 The current Boundary Review is taking place and wants to alter the boundaries of wards and to reduce Council members from 147 to 98. Councillor Cooper would like WWRPC to consider where it should belong and fit in. Clerk and Councillors to consider and report to Councillor Cooper.

3.5 Hollies Farm Tring Road. Councillor Walmsley asked Councillor Cooper if he had received any feedback following contact with Enforcement. Councillor Cooper confirmed he had not but identified that the planning consents were confusing as to what exactly is permitted. He did confirm he had tried to have a look at the site and there did seem to be more development than he remembered and was concerned there was no planning consent for certain of the works. The Clerk agreed to keep a check on the situation.

Councillor Ashley Bond confirmed that there were four new Enforcement officers who were currently working through a backlog and that might be why the PC has not received a response.

Councillor Bond also confirmed that the Community Board budget was nearly spent and agreed with Councillor Walmsley that the process of receiving the actual funds was difficult and they were working towards trying to simplify the procedure. A new budget would be issued in April 2022.

4. Sign off Parish Council Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved as an accurate account of the meeting held on 14 December 2021 and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Planning:

20/00779/APP – HULCOTT Hale Farm Hulcott Buckinghamshire HP22 5AX

Ground mounted solar farm with DNO substation, point of connection, ancillary infrastructure and associated works, landscape planting and access tracks

Councillor Pugh outlined the proposed development of the solar farm and that this Council had been asked to give an opinion. The Clerk confirmed that she had received a copy letter from a resident and that a copy had been forwarded to the Councillors to consider. She outlined the content of the letter and stated that the resident strongly objected to the proposed development due to its visibility from the Conservation Area and Wingrave itself. Councillor Harrison stated it was big solar farm in comparison to the other solar farms within the valley and that there is currently a nice view across the farmland and this view would change for ever and perhaps there was one too many solar farms here. Councillor Dr Price put forward that climate change was a big issue and saving a view for the sake of biodiversity gain was not acceptable. Councillor Chater understood both sides of the argument but stated there will be an energy crisis in the future and solar farms would be needed. It was also raised that sometimes the solar farms would make a grant package to surrounding affected Parishes to help local causes and this might be possible. Councillor Pugh reminded everyone that they had the right to put their own point of view to the Planning Department and that the public should if they felt strongly about the proposed development. Whilst it was agreed that WWRPC was not directly involved Councillor Pugh put it to the vote as to whether the comment put forward should support the application or oppose it. It was RESOLVED to support the application by four Councillors to two.

6. **Devolution Agreement** – The Clerk confirmed she had received the annual renewal of the Devolution Agreement which deals with the Parish Council maintaining the verges and certain open space areas within the Parish and Buckinghamshire Council make a contribution towards these costs. It was AGREED and RESOLVED that this should be continued by a unanimous vote.

7. Grant Applications for 2022/23

7.1 Heritage Association. Grant for £650 was unanimously approved.

7.2 WCA. Grant for £5000 for building maintenance and the Communique was unanimously approved.

7.3 URC. Grant for £350 for maintenance of the churchyard was unanimously approved.

8. Budget approval (available on the website)

The Clerk confirmed that the proposed Budget had been available on the website and the figure for the precept was £56777 which was an increase from the previous/current precept but it had been discussed that there were rising costs in most areas and the draft Budget showed an increase of £4 per Band D household.

The Council **RESOLVED** to accept the Budget and to submit a precept request to Buckinghamshire Council to a value of £56777.

9. Hedgelaying – Wingrave Park

Councillor Walmsley confirmed she had contacted Paul Blissett who lives in the village and he had sent a quotation to carry out a stretch of hedgelaying at The Park. Councillor Walmsley stated that layering the hedge would contribute towards biodiversity and improve the boundary hedge albeit for the time being the electric fence would have to remain on the field side. She confirmed that the Parish Council would need to obtain written consent from the adjoining landowner/tenant and she would send the appropriate letters once they were approved by Paul Blissett. Work would be proposed by end of March 2022. Councillor Walmsley asked the Council to agree to fund this and Councillor Chater confirmed that WWRPC would meet half the costs which was thought to be very generous. There would be a need for volunteers to help with clearing debris from the hedge line and removing the debris afterwards which would need a chipper. (see Councillor Walmsley report – Appendix A)

The Council RESOLVED to appoint Paul Blissett to carry out hedgelaying at The Park and to cover the costs jointly with WWRSA and it was agreed unanimously

10 Public Consultation Review & Pavilion & Bowls Clubhouse Update

Following the Public Consultation it was agreed that there were mixed reviews on both projects and proposed usage but this was only an initial thoughts and that Councillor Walmsley would collate all comments and views on all projects from the Public Consultation and this would be reported in more detail at a later meeting. It was agreed that all findings and information would be put on the Website to ensure transparency. Discussion took place on the two main projects and with regards the Pavilion its location and orientation and the impact on the Grade II listed properties around the Recreation Ground. It was agreed that an initial Heritage Report should be sought with a maximum fee of upto £500. A member of the public thought the idea of green dots to show individuals liked a project was good but thought there was no method of showing a dislike to a proposed project although it was conceded that a written note was available for everyone anonymously. There was also a question raised as to which Pavilion project was to be adopted A or B and the overall size of the Pavilion. The Councillors agreed these comments were to be considered along with the consultation notes and a final decision would be made but it was important not to delay applying for planning permission as this in turn delays match funding which would be needed to build either or both projects if they are to proceed. Once grants/match funding are in place the Parish Council would consider seeking final approval from the village to go ahead with either or both projects.

11 WILD

Councillor Walmsley confirmed she had been looking into improving the small wood known as Jubilee Anniversary Wood which was established in 1991 to celebrate the Queens 40th wedding anniversary. The woodland has been neglected and become overgrown and Councillor Walmsley proposed that a retired Ranger could carry out a woodland report and make recommendations as to its sustainability to the environment and improve the woodland. He would be able to produce a management plan which could be implemented on a volunteer basis. The Spinney in Wing is a good example of his work. The cost for the report would be £120. It was RESOLVED to agree to a Management/Woodland Report unanimously

12 WWRSA – Cricket Pitch

Councillor Chater confirmed there is now a new cricket team following the division away from the Wing and Wingrave Team. In order to progress this Club it is necessary to prepare a new pitch and Elite Turf have estimated the cost to be £3015 plus VAT to put it in order and it could be in use for this season. The Cricket Club have agreed to maintain it in the future. Councillor Chater wished to draw down the remainder of the insurance monies received last year to carry out these works and to replace the practice nets. It was RESOLVED to agree to meet the costs of a new pitch from the insurance monies unanimously.

13. Development Updates

13.1 Twelve Leys Update – Councillor Walmsley confirmed there would be a meeting on Thursday where issues would be discussed such as lights on in empty buildings, etc. She understood the building works would continue for a further six months.

13.2 Wickham Fields (Leighton Road) – Councillor Harrison visited the Sales Office & Foreman for an update and understood the whip hedging was planted on the eastern side and more was planned together with a mature tree (12ft high) was to be planted where the original tree had been cut down. A fence would be erected along the agreed boundary marked by white bricks and it would be black. There is a proposal that a management company would be set up by the residents to look after all common areas within the estate.

13.3 Elm Leys – Councillor Pugh proposed to chase the developer as some of their trees were dead and needed to be replaced and ask them to finish the landscaping works as per the planning consent. The Residents Group who will take on the management of the areas would welcome help from WILD.

13.4 eCom – Councillor Chater confirmed work was on-going and believed Castle Street was next. He also confirmed that there was to be an extension to the time for the Government grant for those who had signed up to the scheme.

14. Finance

12.1 Varsity Invoice for planning consultation work - approved

12.2 Elite Turf invoice for white lining – not approved and the Clerk to establish who ordered this.

12.3 Andy Muskett invoice for repair of street light - approved

12.4 WWRSSAL grass cutting for 2021 – approved.

12.4 Update on Scribe. The Clerk confirmed that Scribe was working well and hoped to be able to share certain reports and to allow members of the public access to read only.

12.5 Balance of accounts. The Clerk apologised but did not have the latest figures to hand but would ensure that these would be available at the next meeting together with a schedule of payments.

Meeting closed at 2100 hours.

APPENDIX A (Item 9)

Proposal to lay part of the field boundary at The Park

Paul Blissett, local hedge layer, has quoted for this below. This is 40 metres, only a part of the length of the boundary, roughly from the hard standing the bowlers use, to the poo bin near the oak tree in the hedge.

Paul has costed this at £500 – 4 day's work. In addition we would need to manage the brash. I defer to the expertise of others here, but my proposal would be to line up some volunteers to

1. Burn bramble etc on the bare ground
2. Shred larger twigs using a hired petrol powered shredder (approx. £150 for a weekend hire) and use the shredded bark on local footpaths to soak up some of the mud.

This is subject to agreement that the Park can cope with a few days of disruption – obviously keeping any debris away from the pitches.

Additional cost of whips would be modest – maybe £100 – for autumn planting.

The Parish Council is therefore asked to approve the expenditure of approximately £750.

General Assessment

A fairly typical field boundary hedge of hawthorn with some elm and with clusters of (usually) multi-stemmed ash dotted fairly liberally along the length of the hedge. There is a single oak standard of good appearance and size at the end of Section 2a which is the section I propose to lay first if you wish to proceed. The hedge does not show much sign of recent management and is now too gappy to be functional as a barrier to stock. The number of old metal gates and other metalwork that has been put into the hedge in the past attests to this also. Sometimes these can be quite consuming to remove. Fortunately Section 2a is largely free of such impediments. There is no scope for volunteers to assist with the actual laying of the hedge but there could be with various aspects of clearing out the hedge and also with gapping up with new whips once the hedge has been laid.

It is clear that at one time at least Section 1 was in fact a double hedge with a shallow ditch between and furthermore that each section has been managed by laying in the past. Double hedges typically come about when both sides were in separate ownership and each party want their own boundary hedge. Whilst most of the current hedge is on 'your' side, much of Section 1 is actually on the farmer's side and if the whole hedge were laid there would be a slight wiggle where crosses from one side to the other. Although it doesn't apply to Section 2a, in Section 1 you would most likely coppice any hedge remnant on your side and lay the far side.

There is a distressed stock netting fence along much of the hedge to the farmer's side and at least some of this may need to be removed to enable the hedge to be laid and/or for health and safety. More recently, the farmer has installed an electric fence just beyond the stock netting.

Pricing

1.	Labour to clear out, prepare, lay stake and bind 40 metres hedge (Section 2a)
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VAT does not apply to this quote.

Unforeseen additional work or delays

Where additional clearing out of the hedge is readily identifiable this has already been taken into account in the quote. In rare instances there may be additional work required which cannot be identified until work commences.

Examples are :

1. Where the extent of preparation required before laying can start is masked by ivy.
2. Piles of earth in the hedge which in practice can contain anything, such as large lumps of concrete or metal deeply embedded in the ground which may take considerable time and effort to extricate from a hedge.
3. Where it becomes necessary to drag large quantities of brush cut from the hedge a significant distance from the hedge unless agreed in advance.

In such instances, I reserve the right to charge for additional effort required at the rate of £20 per hour. Note that this will only be applied in unforeseeable circumstances such as those outlined above and will expressly not be applied in respect of my labour to lay the hedge which is a fixed price item as quoted.

I also reserve the right to impose a surcharge similarly where the site is significantly different from when viewed, for example if any obstructions have subsequently appeared which delay hedgelaying or cause its postponement where I have not been informed of such matters prior to turning up on site to commence work.

Payment

Labour and travel will be billed on completion of the work and will include materials and delivery if these have not already been invoiced. Payment by electronic transfer is preferred.

Interim invoices for work done to date may be issued where working on long hedges.

Depending on my workload I may lay your hedge in conjunction with my assistants, who will invoice separately for their proportion of the charge(s) quoted above. The overall price will remain as quoted above.

I reserve the right to apply a 5% surcharge to invoices outstanding after 30 days.

Clearing up

Labour does not include clearing away or disposal of excess material cut from the hedge (THERE IS ALWAYS MORE OF THIS THAN PEOPLE THINK - YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED) or the remains of any fences or wire to be removed which will all be left in separate piles and are all your responsibility. Any surplus material suitable for logs will be piled separately. See Special Condition 1 below.

Special Conditions & Considerations

1. I have to know in advance which side of the hedge any surplus material should be left. I will not move it subsequently, nor will I drag it any further from the hedge than is necessary to allow safe working on the hedge. Unless you have other options, the easiest way to dispose of it is usually with the brush laid out at 90 degrees to the hedge on the farmer's side so it can easily be moved by a tele-handler for burning, but this presupposes that the farmer is happy to do this for you.
2. The farmer is going to need to move or take down the electric fence so that it cannot get damaged whilst the hedge is being worked on. If it is not taken down it should be moved back so that it cannot be hit by anything falling from the hedge to the farmer's side, even if the brush is not being laid on his side.
3. Unless you tell me otherwise, I will assume that there are no stock in the field presently nor whilst work is in progress.
4. I will not guarantee the hedge will be stock proof once laid and, as stated previously, may have to remove at least some of the stock netting fence currently running close in to the hedge on the farmer's side to be able to lay the hedge.
5. Although laying the hedge will close off pretty much all gaps, I recommend that you plant up the hedge with whips after it has been laid where there are big gaps between the stumps. I strongly recommend any planting is done in the autumn to give new plants the best chance to get established. This would be a suitable volunteer activity.
6. The oak tree will be retained, as will a single ash tree close to the oak.
7. There are two multi-stemmed ash groups which will also be retained as far as possible as is, with some tidying up and thinning to allow the hedge to be laid into them.
8. The verge on your side of the hedge will be tidied as necessary for the work to take place. Additional trees that have been planted on the verge, notably a birch, 2 * horse chestnut and a cherry tree will be left but will be tidied to remove protruding low branches, as will some naturally regenerating elm behind the green metal seat.
9. If you intend to burn excess material cut out of the hedge, I would ask that this is not done whilst I am on site.
10. I would like to take away some firewood if that is OK. This may have to wait until ground conditions permit.

11. I may need to add some dead stakes at the end of the hedge near the oak tree where the hedge is thinner as a result of being shaded by the tree. There will be no charge for this.
12. I may wish to put up an A3 advertising sign on the hedge if you are OK with this.

Additional Information

1. I make as much use as possible of my electric battery powered chainsaw in preference to a petrol chainsaw. It is much quieter, making about the same amount of noise as an electric drill.
2. I use a biodegradable vegetable based chain oil.

Commencement and timescales

I generally undertake jobs in the same sequence orders are placed. You will be advised of my proposed commencement date before work begins. Timescales are subject to weather and ground conditions.

I do not consider Section 2a of any great interest to nesting birds as it stands presently, but if you consider it possible you may want more hedge laying this season, I will look to lay Section 2a in January to give you time to decide if you want more doing this season. I am going to be very busy hedgelaying in February.

Weather permitting, I usually work Thursday - Monday including weekends during the hedgelaying season which runs from October to early April.